

# Wanganui Vet Services - Equine Newsletter – July 2018

My first three months at Wanganui Vet Services have been very eventful! To those clients whom I haven't had a chance to talk to yet, I'd love to meet you if you have time to stop by the clinic and say 'hi' ☺

Thank you to everyone who came along to our first equine evening on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. It was great to meet some of you in person and catch up with what has been happening in the equine community in our area. Notes from the presentations are now on our website for those that are interested.....[www.wgvets.co.nz](http://www.wgvets.co.nz)

In response to feedback from breeders in our area, Wanganui Vets will be having another talk, this time on caring for pregnant brood mares, the foaling process, and caring for foals in their first days of life.

It will held on the **18<sup>th</sup> of July at 7pm**, again upstairs at the Somme Parade clinic. Please indicate your interest by ringing the clinic on 06 3490155 before the 17<sup>th</sup> of July if you'd like to come.



## Tetanus!!! Are you 100% certain all your horses are fully vaccinated?

Horses and ponies change ownership frequently, particularly in their early years. Vaccination records are often lost in the process, leaving new owners unsure as to the vaccination status of their new horse.

There is also a lot of confusion about the difference between a tetanus anti-toxin (TAT) and an actual tetanus vaccination. A TAT binds up any tetanus toxin that is already in the horse's system, and is routinely administered at the initial vet exam for an injury. However, TAT only covers against tetanus for about 2 to 4 weeks, and serious wounds take a lot longer than this to heal. A TAT does not provide lasting immunity. Vaccination, on the other hand, trains the horse's immune system to recognise tetanus toxin and eliminate it by itself, making the horse immune.

Horses are more susceptible to tetanus than any other domestic species, and affected animals almost invariably die. They can get it from any wound, hoof abscess or even minor tissue injury or bruising, and the disease can strike some time after the initial injury occurred. This means that your horse could get tetanus from a wound that has almost healed, months after the injury occurred, even if it was given a TAT at the time that the wound was first examined by a vet.

The correct way to vaccinate a horse against tetanus is by two vaccinations, one month apart, and then a booster vaccination every year. You may like to have this done at the same time as your horse's annual dental check-up.

If you are unsure about your horse or pony's vaccination status, please err on the side of caution and have them vaccinated regardless. The safest thing to do is to have them fully vaccinated (initially, two vaccinations, one month apart, and then a booster vaccination every year), just to be sure. You cannot do harm by vaccinating them if they were previously vaccinated. There is also no chance that your horse will contract tetanus from the vaccination.

## Ours services

Dental care

Emergency care

Skin, eye, respiratory, etc

Scoping and Xray services

## Contact details

Phone 06 349 0155

0800 PETVET



WANGANUI VETERINARY SERVICES

## "Preventative Healthcare in Mares & Foals"

Equine Evening No 2 With Wilna

With foaling season approaching, we think now is the time to focus on Preventative Healthcare in Mares and Foals.

Wilna's talk will include :

- What to watch for in late pregnancy
- Late pregnancy vaccinations
- Normal foaling vs foaling emergencies
- What's important in the first hours of a foals life
- Post foaling care for your mare

There will be an opportunity for questions and answers at the end.

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

@ 7.00pm

Upstairs @ Wanganui Vet Services

35 Somme Parade

Wanganui

(Entrance off Plymouth Street)

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided

*We look forward to seeing you there*



RSVP: Please by Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Via phone : 3490155 or

Email : rh@wgvets.co.nz

