

NEWSLETTER Edition 6 (Oct-Dec)

Our Board

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<i>Paula Byrne</i> STATES – QLD Judges Portfolio	
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<i>Teresa Russo</i> STATES - QLD Communications	
<i>Pamela Nelson</i> STATES – WA	
<i>Terri-Ann Dietzel</i> STATES – VIC	

Links –

WDA website <https://www.westerndressage.com.au/>

Rules https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d32836_daf71a45b5604de2aae206b139dbb694.pdf

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From the Board

Here is our 6th edition of our Quarterly Newsletter. Later than planned but we have been busy wrapping up another great year of Western Dressage in Australia and with our AGM done and dusted there's been a slight change in our Board. We thank our outgoing board members Stacey Locastro and Kim McLean for all their hard work and we welcome our new board members Teresa Russo (QLD) and Terri-Ann Dietzel (VIC).

Calendar of Events 2020

QLD

25-27 th Jan	WDAQ	Maryborough, QLD
1 st Feb	BWBRAC	Bundaberg, QLD
29 th Feb	SE QLD WD	Caboolture, QLD
7-8 th Mar	WDAQ	Maryborough, QLD
15 th Mar	NQQHA	Malanda, QLD
29 th Mar	WDSEQLD	Caboolture, QLD
4 th April	WDWD ARBC	Dalby, QLD

VIC

2 nd Feb	West Vic WD	Springfield, VIC
16 th Feb	WDAV	Clyde North, VIC
5 th April	West Vic WD	Lake Boga, VIC

WA

23 rd Feb	WDAWA	Perth, WA
22 nd Mar	WDAWA	Perth, WA
19 th April	WDAWA	Perth, WA

State News

FNQ State WD Team goes to MARYBOROUGH

The North QLD Quarter Horse Association sent 3 of its members plus a support crew to the QLD State Western Dressage Championships in Maryborough, QLD (Oct 4th-6th). The team left their respective homes in Innisfail and Yungaburra on Monday Sept 30th to travel the 2 day trip to Maryborough.

Team riders included Teresa Russo (Roanies Roc Star), Stacey Locastro (Ditto) & Innisfail youth rider Zoe Gravagna (Hollywood Chandel).

The competitors and their horses had qualified for the event by competing locally throughout the year at the Western Dressage competitions hosted by the NQQHA.

The Awesome Support Team included Paula Byrne, Kev Gleeson, Duane & Kyra Locastro and Joelene Gravagna.

At the State Championships they competed in Introductory, Basic Level and Level One tests and had multiple wins and placings and top ten finishes.

OVERALL High Point Awards for the State show for Team FNQ

Zoe Gravagna & Hollywood Chandel

Introductory Level RESERVE CHAMPIONS

Basic Level YOUTH CHAMPIONS

Teresa Russo & Roanies Roc Star

Basic Level overall 4th place

Level One overall 5th place



"All our riders achieved their personal goals and were very competitive against the southern competitors and should be extremely proud of themselves and their horses. This event was a great opportunity to meet and compete against other like-minded people from different areas of QLD and it was satisfying to know that our northern riders could mix it with the rest of the state" Teresa Russo (NQQHA President)

Whilst the main focus of the trip was to compete, there was also time for the team to explore some of the local attractions with time spent down at Hervey Bay on the waterfront, a quick zip around on the Go Karts and even a movie at the local cinema. Team spirit was strong and the whole group had a great experience. We look forward to bringing another FNQ team to the 2020 State Championships. :)

Major Sponsor of the WDAQ State Show

THANK YOU

DVL Saddlery & Equine

Damen Lowery & Veronica Wall

Proudly sponsored the Trophy Saddle for the

Highest Aggregate Percentage

- 1st** Tassawoods Ace & Vivian Wearing (Basic Level)
- 2nd** Tally S Optimized & Donna Lucas (Basic Level)



Photo Credit: Teresa Russo

Rider Profile – GLENN & DEB SCHELLS

This edition sees SEQ couple

Glenn and Deb Scells as our profiled riders. Their story is quite unique and goes a little like this....

They both grew up on the Gold Coast with Glenn being the typical surfer boy and Deb having a love for horses. Deb used to work at the stables to be able to spend time with horses and at the age of 17 she was able to buy her first horse, a sprint bred QH. They both spent a lot of time at the beaches of Currumbin and eventually Glenn decided if he wanted to impress Deb, he was going to have to learn to ride a horse.

Deb would put him on bareback and in his board shorts and send him across the flat. Even though he had quite a few falls, Glenn persisted and they started to learn together. Glenn even got an ex pacer for \$50 called Mick. Together they would keep up with Deb when she was loping along the beach—pacing flat out! Glenn describes it like riding a washing machine.

They moved to Mackay and after Glenn read an article on cutting in a QH magazine he decided it looked like fun so said to Deb he wanted to give it a go. They bought a stock horse x QH and had a friend who had goats that would teach and help with the cutting practise. Eventually they trained on cattle and Glenn won a beginner class at Dayboro Cutting Show.

About 20 years ago they formed a close friendship with the Wearing family and Viv became a good friend, mentor and help to both Deb and Glenn.

Deb took a solid Appaloosa to National level and did well particularly in Hunter Under Saddle. They both have been active Western Dressage riders since it began in Qld and just love the sport. Not only do they use it as the base of their training for everything else but they love the camaraderie and friendships that form with fellow horse lovers. Glenn still has a paddle on the board from time to time and Deb still has a laugh if he falls off... but together they are one of Qld's favourite couples in Western Dressage always showing support, being warm, welcoming and most of all lots of fun!



photo credit Viv Wearing

Horse Health

Knowing the Newborn Foal



Dr Brianna Clark BVSc MANZCVS

(Equine Medicine)

Your mare's impending foaling date is approaching; most of the time the foal arrives bright and active, and in no time is up running around. However, it doesn't go to plan all of the time. Knowing what is normal and what to expect is important as you can detect problems before they become serious. In this article we discuss the 'milestones' for a normal foaling and behaviour of the mare and foal post-foaling.

Stages of labour

There are three stages to labour. Stage one is when the uterus begins to contract and the foal gets into position. Signs of stage one labour are sweating, pacing, restlessness and getting up and down. It can take several hours and ends when the mare's 'water breaks'. Stage two labour is the birth of the foal. It should take no longer than 20-30 minutes after the mare's water breaks. Most mares lie down to give birth and you should see a white translucent membrane, the amniotic membrane, which contains the foal. One hoof with soles pointing down should be visible, then a second, then a nose and the foal should come out quickly after. If a 'red bag' appears first, call your veterinarian immediately and open the bag manually. The foal's umbilicus will break when the mare stands up.

It is crucial not to intervene too early and disrupt the normal process. However, if the mare shows signs of severe pain, haemorrhage, abnormal presentation or delayed delivery contact your veterinarian immediately as these are indicators of possible complications. The final stage of labour is passing of the placenta, which occurs within 30 minutes to three hours of foaling.

The newborn foal 1-2-3 rule

As soon as the foal is born check it's airway, breathing and circulation. Make sure the foal has clear nostrils, is breathing regularly and has a normal heart rate (> 60 bpm). Within 5 minutes the foal should sit in sternal. If all is going smoothly do not rush in straight away and let the mare bond with her foal.

The 1-2-3 rule describes the normal events post-foaling. The foal should be standing within 1 hour of birth, nursing within 2 hours and the mare passed her placenta within 3 hrs. Failure to reach these milestones may indicate problems with the foal and mare.



The foal's immune system isn't fully competent at birth. They are born without any antibodies. Antibodies (IgG) are acquired by ingesting the mare's colostrum which is rich in antibodies, electrolytes, glucose, minerals and fats. As a general rule the foal should ingest 1-2L of quality colostrum within four to six hours of birth. The foal's intestinal cells have a specialised function which allow absorption of antibodies from the gut into the bloodstream. Peak absorption occurs within six hours of birth, which steadily decreases until 18-24 hours of age when the gut can no longer absorb any more. Without these antibodies (IgG) the foal has a weak immune system in which it will not be able to fight infection. It is best to check the mare's colostrum at birth as it may be poor quality and not have enough antibodies. It is also vital to check the foal's IgG at 24hrs of birth. If the foal has a low IgG it may require plasma. The foal's umbilicus should also be treated with anti-septic solution every 6-12 hours in the first few days of life to prevent infection entering.

Once the mare passes her placenta it is important to have it checked to ensure it is intact with no pieces left in the mare. Failure to pass all of the placenta can result in serious, life-threatening complications for the mare. It is also vital to examine for any abnormalities of the placenta, which can be a sign of a compromised foal.

Meconium is the first faeces of the foal which are remnants of amniotic fluids digested in-utero. It is hard, dark and pelleted in nature. Meconium is usually passing within a few hours of birth and should be passed within 24 hrs. Normal yellow, soft faeces follows. Sometimes the foal can struggle to pass meconium and they may be tail flagging, straining or showing signs of colic.

Generally, it is best to schedule a check-up by your veterinarian of the foal at 24 hours of age. At this time the foal and mare will be thoroughly examined, an IgG performed, and the placenta checked.

Having a foal can be exciting but also stressful. Knowing what to expect and what a newborn foal should be doing is crucial to ensure a healthy foal and mare. Often time is of the essence and the newborn foal can become compromised very quickly. Do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian if you think things are not going to plan.

Thomas Arena
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