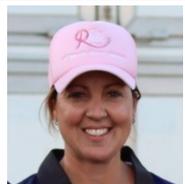


Our Board

<p><i>Jim Whitaker</i> STATES – QLD CHAIR</p>	
<p><i>Paula Byrne</i> STATES – QLD Secretary Judges Portfolio</p>	
<p><i>Julie Sain</i> STATES – QLD Treasurer Events Officer</p>	
<p><i>Teresa Russo</i> STATES - QLD Communications</p>	
<p><i>Pamela Nelson</i> STATES – WA</p>	
<p><i>Terri-Ann Dietzel</i> STATES – VIC</p>	

Our 8th edition is finally here..(even if it is a little late this time)

The WDA-Aus Board would firstly like to extend our Thanks and well wishes to long time board member Margaret Augerinos who has sadly left the WDA-Aus board due to family and work commitments. Margaret has been with WDA-Aus since the second ever board meeting back in 2014 and has done most of the documentation and record keeping as Secretary for the Association. We thank her for all of her hard work, time and dedication to our sport.

The 2019/2020 membership year officially ended on June 30th and the start of the new 2020/2021 season has begun (July 1st). If you have not already done so, remember to Renew your WDA-Aus membership via the emailed link to Nominate. All affiliates/branches are also required to Renew their membership at this time before they can proceed with their show season.

Whilst the country is now in various stages of government restrictions due to Covid 19, some states are able to continue on with their show season using the appropriate health and safety protocols. Sadly, Victoria is not in such a position. The WDA-Aus board and membership wish our fellow Victorian members all the best in these difficult times and look forward to seeing them back in the show pen as soon as possible. Stay safe and healthy everyone.

Links –

WDA website [http](http://www.westerndressage.com.au/)

[://www.westerndressage.com.au/](http://www.westerndressage.com.au/)

Rules [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d32836_daf71a45b5604de2aae206b139dbb694.pdf)

[d32836_daf71a45b5604de2aae206b139dbb694.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d32836_daf71a45b5604de2aae206b139dbb694.pdf)

Email: westerndressageaustralia@gmail.com

Any Newsletter articles please email

teresarusso@bigpond.com



Chloe Lough

Calendar of Events 2020

QLD

9th Aug	WD Show	WASeQLD	Caboolture
29th Aug	WD Show	NQQHA	Innisfail
5-6 Sept	WD Show	WDAQ	Maryborough
8-11 Oct	Fraser Coast WD Championships	WDAQ	Maryborough
25th Oct	WD Show	WDASeQLD	Caboolture
6th Dec	WD Show	BWBRAC	Bundeberg

WA

23rd Aug Farm	WD Winter Show	WDAWA	Foxwood
20th Sept Farm	WD Club Day	WDAWA	Foxwood
25th Oct Farm	WD Spring Show	WDAWA	Foxwood
22nd Nov Farm	WD Club Day	WDAWA	Foxwood



Chloe is a 12 year old rider from Maryborough, QLD. Chloe grew up living on a boat for the first 9 years of her life before moving North and discovering her love of horses and cattle. Chloe started riding horses 4 years ago at Pony Club before being introduced to team penning, cutting and Western Dressage. Western Dressage quickly became a favourite. She loves the skills you teach yourself and horse and the level of accuracy and control you require to move up levels. The skills of Western Dressage have also improved all aspects of her riding. Her horse "Shock" came off a property at Theadore Qld and was new to Western dressage.

Both Shock and Chloe began training for Western Dressage in earnest a year ago and with the support of some very talented local trainers and coaches began competing locally at Maryborough and Bundaberg. Under the instruction of Vivian Wearing, Chloe and Shock quickly improved and have just moved up from riding Intro level to Basic level. Chloe has been very successful locally and the two highlights of her Western Dressage riding to date was taking out Champion Rider for Basic level at the recent Burnett Wide Bay Regional Appaloosa Western Dressage competition held in conjunction with their State show and also placing first in all her ridden Intro and Basic tests for both Youth and Adult levels in March at Maryborough.

Chloe and Shock both enjoy Western Dressage and think the best part of Western dressage is the way you present your horse as well as the encouraging, friendly environment where you can improve your skills and relationship with your horse.

For all WDA-Aus COVID 19 directions regarding shows/training day approvals for affiliates/branches please refer to the WDA-Aus Pandemic Response (25th May) which was emailed to all .

For further clarification/questions please contact the WDA-Aus secretary

secretary@westerndressage.com.au



Vet Talk



CORNEAL ULCERS

My horse has a sore eye – now what?

Dr Brianna Clark BVSc (Hons) MANZCVS

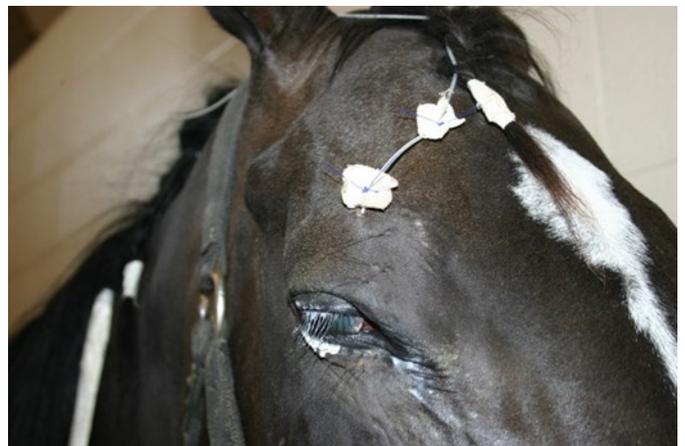
Horses are very prone to damaging their eye. The eye position of horses; located on the side of the head and protruding, along with their inquisitive nature make them quite susceptible to eye injury. Sore eyes are true emergencies and it is important to assess eye conditions quickly and appropriately treat.

Corneal ulcers are the most common cause of a painful eye in horses. The cornea is the outer-most layer of the eye and is only 8-10 cells thick. This layer is an important protective barrier for preventing infection of the eye and is crucial for vision. It is not only the damage to the cornea which is the issue; but the infection and consequent overzealous immune response in horses which can make the ulcers much worse and can threaten vision long term. The infection is mainly caused by either bacteria or fungi. In Queensland fungal infections are common.

Corneal ulcers can range from small and superficial to large, deep or melting. The term melting ulcer is when the cornea is very soft and appears to be melting off the surface of the eye. See picture below. Melting ulcers are caused by severe bacterial infection and uncontrolled inflammation. They can lead to ruptured eyes very quickly and need attention ASAP. It is not uncommon to have foreign objects lacerating or penetrating the cornea. These can have disastrous effects also.

The term stromal abscess, refers to a localised infection in the deeper layer of the cornea. In the same mechanism as an abscess anywhere else in the body it is when a bacterial infection is walled off. A stromal abscess is often caused by an initial break in the surface of the cornea, bacteria then gain entry, and the small ulcer on the surface of the cornea heals over. This traps the bacteria under the surface, they then proliferate and cause inflammation. Fungi can also cause stromal abscesses. Stromal abscesses have a characteristic cream cotton-bud-like appearance and are often associated with intense pain. See picture below.

A unique feature to corneal damage in horses is the consequent uveitis. Uveitis is a term to describe inflammation of the middle layer of tissue within the eye. It has characteristic signs in horses and if left uncontrolled will not only cause intense pain but can lead to blindness. Uveitis develops in horses because the layers of the cornea have many sensitive nerve endings. When these nerve endings are activated or damaged it results in reflex inflammation. Often this reflex inflammation is overzealous. Signs we see in horses with uveitis include a constricted pupil (see picture below), corneal oedema (blue haze to the cornea), squinting, tearing and swelling of the conjunctiva and around the eye. If severe, white cells and other inflammatory products such as fibrin, can accumulate in the front chamber of the eye (anterior chamber). Uveitis is very painful and if left untreated can lead to adhesions which can lead to blindness.

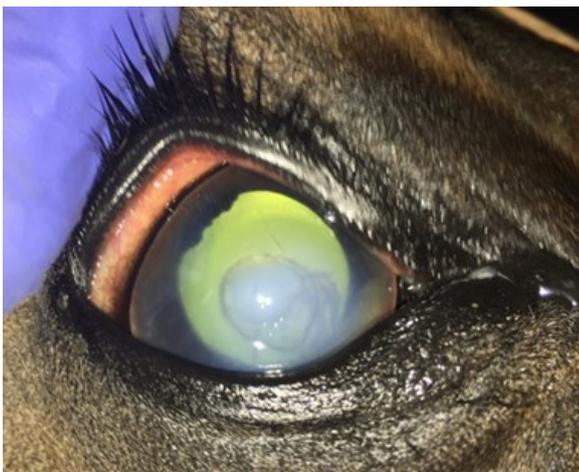


A subpalpebral system – the end of the tubing sits just under the eyelids to directly medicate the cornea. The other end is at the mane and is the area which medications enter.

Veterinary assessment is imperative in any horse with a sore eye. Horses have very strong eyelids and are great at avoiding having their eyelids pried open. In addition, what may seem like a small defect in the cornea can deteriorate very quickly. A veterinarian will be able to sedate the horse, do nerve blocks and stain the eye to assess the size, severity and depth of the corneal damage. Further tests, such as sampling of the cornea may identify the type of infection (bacteria or fungi) involved and tailor treatment. Sometimes a gentle debridement of the ulcer will also be done remove unhealthy tissue and help drugs penetrate.

Vet Talk

The treatment regime prescribed by your veterinarian will depend on the severity of the corneal ulcer, type of suspected infection and patient compliance. All corneal ulcers require topical broad-spectrum antibiotics which come either in ointment or drop form. Ointments (eg/ Tricin) are easier to apply directly to the eye and last longer than drops. In some horses it is next to impossible to get medication in the eye because they often learn quickly what we are trying to do and often they are very painful. In these cases a nifty device called a subpalpebral lavage system, or SPL, is used. The devices are placed by a veterinarian and are essentially an extension set that deposits liquid medication onto the surface of the cornea without having to pry the eye open. See picture below



A melting ulcer – note the cornea looks gelatinous. Also note the dilated pupil.



A stromal abscess – see the cream cotton-bud looking area in the top left. Also note the constricted pupil.



In some cases, particularly if the eye is at risk of rupture, surgery is recommended to provide immediate structural support. This is called a conjunctival graft and will also bring blood vessels to the damaged area. If the deficit is large a conjunctival graft will also hasten healing.

In all cases of corneal damage, a veterinarian will also prescribe medication to manage the uveitis. This will involve topical atropine drops, which will dilate the pupil and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories such as phenylbutazone (Bute) or flunixin.

As owners treating eye conditions in horses it is crucial to administer medication as directed by your veterinarian and closely monitor the eye for any changes. As treatment is succeeding the horse should become more comfortable, be able to open their eye more, squint less and have less tearing or discharge. It is also important to monitor the corneal surface and pupil. The blue haze of the cornea should improve, and the pupil become dilated. If the treatments are not succeeding than the horse will remain painful or get worse, the corneal surface may change, and the pupil will remain constricted.

A simple, small, superficial corneal ulcer should heal with topical antibiotics within 5-7days. A deeper or larger ulcer may take much longer and your veterinarian may recommend surgery. In some cases, treatment may be months, especially with stromal abscesses.

There is no exact recipe to treat corneal disease in horses; it depends on the type, severity and individual horse. If your horse has a sore eye, it is very likely it has corneal damage and your veterinarian should be contacted immediately. If left untreated it can lead to severe pain and even blindness.



Rest Assured Cleaning Services

Jayne Leadbetter
 restassuredcleaningservices@westnet.com.au
 0417957138
 ABN 49667993664

Some positivity in amidst this Covid year

In Western Australia, the WDAWA were able to get back in the swing of things in June with an approved Training day held at Foxwood Farms. Local clinician and WD Judge, Vanessa Hancock provided much appreciated comments and feedback to all riders. Both the nervous and more confident riders were able to take away positive information from the day to help them improve their tests. The hardworking committee made sure the day ran smoothly and everyone helped to pull off a successful “Covid-Safe” event.

The WDAWA also held an AGM and a High Point Award Presentation in July and has a show scheduled for the end of August.

In Queensland, the WDSEQLD held a Training day at Caboolture in June with local Clinician and WD Judge, Sue Franks which was well supported with both new riders as well as some of the regular WD supporters. They then followed up early in August with an approved show with Lyn Robertson and Laurel Davis judging 40 tests for the day. Both the competitors and committee were glad to finally be able to hold an approved show as they haven’t been able to since August 2019 due to both inclement weather and Covid-19. By all accounts it was a success and has inspired riders to train harder and look forward to more events.

Also in Queensland, WDA-Aus Affiliate, Burnett Wide Bay Regional Appaloosa Club hosted an approved event during their Appaloosa State Show at the Maryborough Showgrounds in July. This event was judged by SE QLD Clinician and WD Judge Steve Thake.

In Far North Queensland, the WDA-Aus Affiliate, North QLD Quarter Horse Association held an approved show in July at the Innisfail Pony Club Grounds. This event was judged by local WD Judge, Stacey Locastro. This is an outdoor venue and as is often the case in Innisfail, the weather can be just a little bit “damp” at times. Please see the attached photo of WDA-Aus Board Member Paula Byrne proving that WD riders will not melt in the rain.

We would also like to acknowledge our fellow Victorian WD members that are unable to hold any events during these months of lockdowns. Hang in there...we look forward to welcoming you back when the situation has improved.

Rudd’s Horse Transport



WDA-WA Training Day



WDA-SEQLD Training Day



BWBRAC Appaloosa State show WD Event
Catherine Woodbridge & Rockin The Blues



NQQHA Approved Show
Paula Byrne & Strabbal Dunit on Deck

