



# Clydesdale NewZ, December 2019

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## A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

December 2019

Hi members,

I hope the season is treating you all well.

I was very sorry to learn of Ian Gould's passing. I found him a very knowledgeable Clydesdale breeder who was willing advise and assist anyone who was keen to learn. The Southern Canterbury members will miss him and the Society will miss his breeding of numerous Clydesdales. Our sympathies go out to his family.

Big thanks to all of you who have supported the shows. I am well aware of the cost involved, and the time it takes to be an exhibitor and in getting your Clydesdales exposed to the public.

Hillary Milne has done a good job and organized breed classes for the Horowhenua Show at Levin after many years of no Clydesdale classes being there; so please support it in January you North Islanders, and South Islanders too if you want to come up.

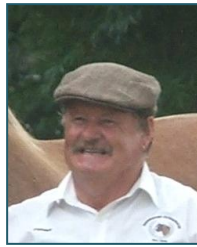
I hope the foaling season has gone well for you all. Ours has been a bit disappointing unfortunately. I have heard of a couple of other losses, which is disappointing for the breed as I realise a lot more mares went to the stallion last season.

Let's all be positive and keep breeding, so the Clydesdale horse moves strongly into the future.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I'm looking forward to catching up later in the New Year.

Kind regards,

*Steve Muggeridge*  
**President**



## SECRETARY'S SAY:

It has been fantastic to see the effort our members have been making to support shows and promote our wonderful breed to the public. I have been fortunate to catch up with Clydesdale enthusiasts in the North, South and Western Island (Australia) over the past year at shows and other events. The presentation of horses has been of a very high standard and is a real credit to the breed.

Following on from the last edition, Athol Fenton has been fortunate to have three filly foals to date, with one more mare due this month. Two of the foals have been the result of embryo transfer by Aarunga Kuba, out of Aarunga Maddison (by Aarunga Mastermind, out of Aarunga Imogen) into recipient mares. This news brings exciting opportunities to keep our rare breed progressing.

**Don't forget to keep the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020 available for the Palmerston North AGM.**

If you have any agenda items for next year's AGM, please start sending them through to me.

A friendly reminder that members have 6 months to get their registration paperwork tidied up. At the AGM in Cromwell this year, the society passed some new rules and gave a 12 month amnesty for members to get their registrations up to date before the rules are enacted.

**Under the new rules, to register a horse** people must:

- be a financial member of the society to register a horse
- have a unique prefix registered with the society
- have a stallion return completed by the stallion owner and returned to the society by **30 April** prior to foaling
- have their foals registration forms sent in by the **31 July** after foaling

- if above is not completed by the required dates then parentage is to be determined by three way DNA identification (including progeny, sire and dam). All associated costs shall be borne by the applicant.
- If above is not completed within 36 months post foaling, then an animal shall be ineligible for registration unless meeting the requirements above and approved by council.

All forms can be found on the Society's website <http://www.clydesdale.org.nz/forms.html> , or if you do not have internet access, please contact me and I can post you the relevant forms.

Please send me your local show entry forms, results, and photos.

I hope to see you all at some of our upcoming events and if I can be of any assistance feel free to contact me.

Hope you have a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Gareth Pryce**

**Secretary,**

Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

4016 Mokau Road,

RD 48, Urenui 4378

Phone: 027 272 5644

Annual members your **SUBS WERE DUE OCTOBER 1, 2019.**

Subscription remains at \$50

**Direct bank account details as per below: -**

#### **ON LINE PAYMENTS**

Please ensure that all payments quote your membership name (first name initial and last name) and the payment category eg subs, registration, change owner, stud book etc.

**Payee - Clydesdale Horse Society**

**Bank – ANZ**

**Account number – 06 0317 0817588 00**

NO receipts provided.

Volume 40 of the studbook is still available at \$60 including postage. The society is still running a special for a Volume 39 and 40 combo at \$100 including postage, so get your orders in now to the Sec.

**2020 AGM** will be held in Palmerston North on the 12th June 2020, North Island, with the AGM & Councillors' Meetings on **Friday, June the 12th.**

Gareth Pryce  
Secretary



▲ **Dunedin Airport, Mosgiel.** (Info from Dunedin Airport website)

The plaque says:-

*Proudly celebrating the grit, big heart and "work hard, play hard" attitude of the south, the Southern Man sculpture can be found outside the main entrance. South Island artist Sam Mahon welded together 50 bronze sections to create the work, which was a generous millennium gift from legendary local brewery Speight's.*

# CLYDESDALE AGM & TOUR 2019, CROMWELL

Report & photos By Helen McKenzie



Most of the Councillors and partners arrived at The Gate Motel in Barry Avenue, Cromwell, (population 5160 in June 2018) on the Thursday prior to the Friday meetings as we had an 8am start for the Council meeting. The weather was a bit crisp with a nasty little breeze at times. Although a nice motel, there were renovations underway in one block and some of us were accommodated next to there. At one stage there was 5 hours without water on the Friday morning which was an inconvenience for partners who did not have to rise early for the Council meeting. When refurbished it will be a nice play to stay again. Good restaurant/ bar and meeting/conference facilities.

I won't mention the meetings as that was recorded in the minutes, other than to congratulate Stephen Mugeridge on becoming the new NZ Clydesdale Horse Society President.

The Annual Dinner on the Friday was well supported. A good buffet dinner, and good company.

Thanks to Jim Morris for organising our great bus trip the Saturday after the AGM.

All managed to be on the bus by 8.30am (driver John) – that was a good start. Central Otago turned on perfect weather for the outing too. Unfortunately most of the autumn colour that Central Otago is famous for had gone with the leaves mainly off the trees.

Those of us lucky enough to be in the front of the bus could listen to Jim's words on the local scenery. Pisa Range (locals pronounce it Pyza) was on our left. Most of the ranges within view had a good dusting of snow. As we drove out of town we passed recently established cherry orchards – all with netting covers to protect from the local bird population. Across the river was Morven Hills station. We passed Lowburn where

the ferry over the Clyde used to be situated. The original bridge crossing was flooded with the advent of Lake Dunstan.

Further along we saw Bendigo Station across the river; home of the internationally renowned sheep, Shrek. The station now has 400 hectares of its once comparatively non-productive land occupied by 16 different vineyards.

In the distance Jim pointed out Grandview Peak named by John Thomson (1821-1884), the Otago surveyor. The peak looks out over Lake Wanaka and the Clutha River amongst other panoramic views. According to Jim, prior to formal roads being established in the wider area, the only road access was via the Lindis Pass and Omarama. He said the Cromwell Gorge road was built in the late 1800's.

More snow covered mountains. As we passed through Luggate there was a statue of a wagon and a pair of Clydesdales – didn't have time to get a photo unfortunately – the bus did not even slow down! I since found out they were made in 2014 by Deane Weastell. The wagon behind them is a restored wagon originally used in the area.

Our first stop was at Warbirds Wanaka. A good display of a few planes, including a RNZAF Skyhawk and some vintage cars. In a special display area there were 2 Duesenbergs, a Packard and an Auburn on display; very expensive cars when new, and virtually priceless now; in pristine condition.



▲The sign on the truck says "horse teams available for off road work" Warbirds Museum

After a coffee and shared muffin (in my and Warwick's case – bearing in mind Jim's warning of a slap up lunch!) we left for Allan Dippie's vintage tractor collection. This collection, although of old tractors, has only been put together in the last couple of years. Allan is a local entrepreneur, having made his

money in the landscaping business and is now into creating new subdivisions. He said that the drier Central Otago climate is good for keeping no longer used old machinery outdoors. The collection has been put together from other collections that have been dispersed and several purchases from the USA and Australia and other countries around the world. Allan's objective has been to create a display that can be used for a "Wheels And Tracks" pageant in the alternate years to Warbirds Over Wanaka that will assist in bringing tourists to the area and help support the local economy. The first one was held this year to much acclaim.



A couple of the walls in Allan's vast display shed were hung with photos of abandoned tractors, trucks and buildings, taken in the USA. Apparently the photographer finds these items using Google maps and then goes to their location and takes the photos at night time using long exposure to get the effect he wants. They would make great postcards!



▲ Bruce Holden's partner, Faye, checking out one of the vehicles

As there is currently no charge to view this collection (only open to groups by prior arrangement at this stage) Jim had bought a couple of bottles of good local wines as a thank you gift on our behalf.



▲ Jim Morris (left) thanks Allan Dippie (right)

From there it was a return to the bus and travel to Lake Hawea township for the promised lunch. Getting into the parking around the back of the hotel in the bus was slightly problematic but we made it. It was a very good spread indeed. Three courses including a generous prawn cocktail starter; a choice of beef or ham off the bone with roast veges and/ or salads. There were Yorkshire puddings – home made, not shop bought - to accompany the beef as well as the usual condiments. Dessert was fruit salad, meringues/pavlova, apple crumble etc – all with lashings of cream if you wanted it. The view looking out over Lake Hawea were amazing. The sunshine was almost too bright in places.



L-R Alan & Margot Vliet Vlieland at the Lake Hawea Hotel, Lake Hawea in background

After lunch it was back on the bus to continue our tour along the road to Haast Pass. On the right as we left the restaurant was the Hunter River Valley – according to the DOC website it is 42km from the main divide of the Southern Alps to the head of Lake Hawea. Jim pointed out the back part of the station he used to own - visible in the distance. He said his house was at 2,600 feet above sea level. Lake Wanaka is 900 feet.

We went across the "neck" of land between Lake Wanaka and Lake Hawea and travelled downhill to

Wharf Creek. A lot of native timber was transported out of there in the felling heyday. The Haast Pass (Tiori Pātea) road, initially a rough track, was finished about 1966 and sealed from start to finish by 1995.

We stopped short of the pass at the DOC centre of Makarora. As the old saying goes, ‘Never let a chance go by’ so most took advantage of the loos and the views!



▲ *View from DoC centre at Makarora*

On the way out from there I noticed the poisonous tutu aplenty as well as a few scattered hebes alongside the road. Jim gave a general talk on the High Country, saying that with the Land Tenure Review causing the retirement of a lot of the high tops the big merino wether flocks have shrunk significantly. Ewes (post lambing) were run in the high country from December to February and the wethers used to run through to April or May depending on the long range weather forecasts. He also said the hills were made up of schist and unlike further north in Canterbury, where the hills are greywacke based, they are not prone to shingle slides.

As we neared Cromwell again we travelled down the far side of Lake Dunstan. Several groups of fattening cattle, vineyards (on Bendigo Station) and winter feed crops. Jim surmised that some of this extensive area of flat land between the road and the lake may be earmarked for a future airport to complement Queenstown airport which is renowned for being difficult (narrower, shorter than desirable, plus weather closures).

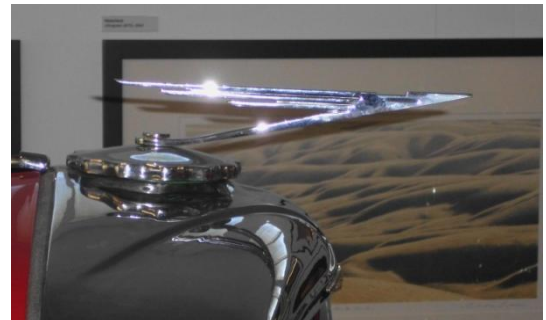
Back to the hotel at Cromwell in time for a second buffet dinner – a bit of a disappointment this one – no where near as comprehensive in choices as the one the night before, yet still the same price. A big let down after the superb lunch at Lake Hawea Hotel.

Next morning those who hadn’t left the previous afternoon gathered for a good breakfast and farewells all round.

See you all next year!

**Note:** Clutha River and the district around it were initially named Molyneux by settlers. The Maori name for the Clutha from its source to the sea was Mata-au, meaning “surface current”.

Wanaka was originally called Pembroke by the settlers and only renamed in 1940.



*Hood ornaments from three of the very valuable cars at the Warbirds Museum*

# DOC HAMMILL WORKSHOP

ARTICLE AND PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY KINGI

I recently attended a one week intensive draft horse workshop in Montana, USA. The workshop of Doc Hammill & Cathy Greateorex is based on Doc's own philosophy of gentle horsemanship which he describes as a set of principles and ethical code of interacting with horses. Doc having been a vet prior to retirement and Cathy a teacher they bring a wealth of experience and knowledge which they share unconditionally with everyone. The emphasis of the course is about providing a safe environment to learn horse husbandry; harnessing, hitching, driving and any particular focus that the student may have, for example, using horse drawn tillage machinery of which there was no shortage.

The workshop takes a maximum of five individuals in order to give that one-on-one, ranging in experience from none, to a couple managing a tourist draft enterprise. A typical day would be split into theory and practice and last for 10 hours. Often weary bodies returned to the onsite accommodation after 8pm.



*Kingi with Norwegian Fjord & Suffolk (chestnut) horses*

The theory would reflect on the previous day's experience; what we had learnt, practical demonstrations and no question seemed too silly. Topics just kept pouring in and were fleshed out. At times I felt in over my head with the subject matter especially, concerning multiple hitch troubleshooting and at other times I came to realise that I did possess a tiny knowledgebase which I got to really expand on.

Doc went into great detail and depth about harness and collar fitting, how to make adjustments, different types of bits, blinkers, the relevance of draft conformation on load pulling and equine health, the importance of safety and comfort to the horse. We would look through Doc's vast library and critique pictures of horses wearing harness, it was amazing how we started to develop an awareness of malfitting harness something which was always pivotal in Doc's workshop was for the horse to be comfortable. I got a reality check when I heard it takes four generations to make one good teamster.

Doc's draft horses were a mixture of purebred Suffolk Punches and Norwegian Fjords, although Doc did have Clydies for forty years so we definitely had an underlying kinship. Our first practical consisted of working in pairs one acting as a blindfolded horse and the other as the driver to sensitise ourselves to how a horse moves to feel, we then spent every day trying to improve our ground driving skills with single & double horses. Eventually we transferred to a two horse hitch using Doc's line method, which is like a see-saw alternating line movement to maintain contact with the horse.



This is an intense workshop and suited to those folk that have a commitment and passion with the working draft horse. I was impressed with the versatility of what the horses could actually do and this was supported by a good setup with plenty of equipment. I had always believed in horsepower, it was a powerful experience for me to see Doc and his horses work seamlessly together and is something which I hope to achieve in this lifetime with Chief, my Clydie partner. My only disappointment was that I never got to do any plough work but then I had to reason that to plough I really needed to learn how to drive first. I came away from the workshop having met some wonderful

American people, that the working draft is surviving largely thanks to the Amish community who are also selling modern horse farming machinery and harness of good quality. I found the Clydie not as well represented as I thought; it seems Belgians and Percherons are more common place in the USA.

▼*Doc Hamill teaches the finer points of driving a pair*



▼*Some of the course participants*



I felt exhilarated by my experience and want to do it all over again but it would not be practical to repeat this venture regularly due to the distance and cost factor. The best setup would be to be an apprentice rather than try to cram everything into a week. Having said this Doc has a DVD series, does personalised video and telephone coaching. So where to from here. For me it was money well spent but I couldn't help wondering why isn't there a weeklong workshop

closer to home-so if there is anyone out there that's keen to take my horse and I on for a couple of weeks to teach the principles of ploughing, Chief and I are biting at the bit.

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### A BIT OF HISTORY

Ashburton Guardian 18 September , 1913  
(National Library, Papers Past)

### HORSE PARADE.

#### CANTERBURY A. AND P. ASSOCIATION

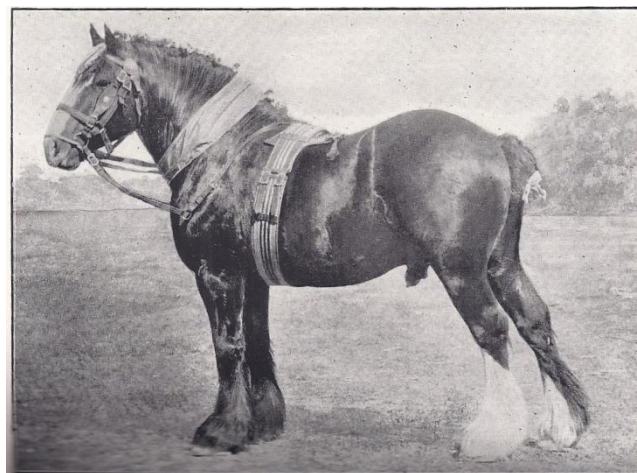
The annual Horse Parade, under the auspices of the Canterbury A. And P. Association, was held at the Addington Show Grounds yesterday in fine weather, and before a good attendance of the interested public. The entries totalled 47, of which 44 were paraded, made up of 38 draughts, 1 thoroughbred, 2 ponies, 6 trotters, carriage horses, and roadsters. There were 15 competitors in the open class for draught stallions, and eleven in the three-year-old class.

The 25-guinea Challenge Cup, presented by the President (Mr John Grigg, of Longbeach) was awarded to Baron Bold, owned by Mr Jas. Patrick, of Outram.

Among the horses paraded were the following from the Ashburton County: Draughts, - Mr J.S. Scott's (Rakaia) Prince Osiris; Mr J. McLauchlans's (Waterton) Royal Premier; Mr D.G. Wright's (Winslow) Windermere Baron, [Parorangi] Revelanta and Windermere Beau II.; Mr P Small's (Tinwald) Meadowbank Prince; Mr H Donaldson, jun.'s (Ashburton) Banks Footprints.

#### Below:

**Premier Pride, imp.(11,845\*) (68 [NZ #]) ; sire of DG Wright's Windermere Baron and Windermere Beau II**



## Steve Muggeridge, Clydesdale Clinic, Sept 2019

Early September, Steve flew to Canterbury to run a 10 Day Clinic for Mid Canterbury, South Canterbury and North Otago Clydesdale owners (unfortunately the Southland owner had to cancel).

The criteria for this Clinic were to instil confidence in new owners, to teach harness fitting, handling and to learn to drive a horse.

Ten people booked in and were allotted one hour each session and for those who think 1 hour isn't long enough to 'break in a horse', this wasn't the aim! The aim was to take a step at a time, to discuss what the owner required, to check harness and proceed from there. Little things like reins wrongly threaded, bit straps upside down, blinkers set to the correct height, collars the right size etc... all so important.

Plenty of helpers, the owner shown how to hold the reins, the correct pressure on the reins, suitable weight for the horse to pull and a safety 'trip' rope in case all turned to custard. Of course, this didn't happen with any of the horses because each step was taken carefully and safely.

The owners' aims varied; one wanted to teach her horse to pull 'K-lines' on a hill side, one wanted the horse to respect owners and listen more, another to teach the horse to pull a sledge and poles for showing and one wanted to put his team in a waggon. Three non-horse owners just wanted to learn to drive horses correctly.



▲Glen Diva, driven by Jodeen White - 1st day pulling

John Booth and Gaye Day provided their property as a base and it was the perfect venue. John loaned his more experienced horses for non-horse owners to drive, he provided harness and parts whenever

someone was short of something. His closed arena and round pen, followed by trips around his track were all used as necessary. Poles to pull, sledge and waggon were all available and used. The heater kept on in his tack shed for people and drying collars, and a covered veranda where the horses were harnessed, was much appreciated.

▲Charlotte Derosa (Omarama) learning to drive



Everyone learnt something, achieved something and the biggest success was John Booth's four horse team together in his new wagon, for the Spring Shows. These horses were worked in pairs, then put together, taught to move off together, to turn, leaders moved over and back in line, all backed up a little, all learned to stand in place for yoking in and out again. Then, the team was rearranged! Instead of the roans leading, they moved to the off side and bays on the near side. The roans are mother and daughter, the bays are brother and sister, all bred and trained by Dayboon Stud.



▲First day with John's team of horses

Because daily tutoring and miles of walking is very tiring, Steve had some time off to visit Peter Butterick for ploughing tuition. He also visited the local Fire

Brigade's Museum display at Tinwald, where he saw

$\frac{3}{4}$  size model horses harnessed to "The Pride of Ashburton" steam fire engine. The harness was made by Steve Smith (Master Harness maker) and adorned with brass fittings to match the fire engine.



▲ *Ashburton's Fire Brigade display, Tinwald, with the Steam Fire engine*

Steve also visited Oxford's Museum with a shed full of farming and horse drawn equipment ... a wonderful display. He visited the lady who makes Clydesdale Horse Society badges, the firm with the Clydesdale logo for clothing and caps and the Cook family at Oxford where we had a lovely, relaxing afternoon discussing horses, of course! Jim came down to the Clinic to support and help on the last day – much appreciated by all.

**Thanks to:** John Booth, Gaye Day, Sarah Kent, Jodeen White, Karen Derrek, Sarah Nesbitt, Charlotte Derosa, Natasha Hocken, Vicky Harrington, Marcus, Ange Protheroe, Rachel Edmonston, Emma Brockhurst and Sue Kent (organiser). Many members reading this, will never have heard of these new people but it simply proves, there is a need for a horseman like Steve, to run Clinics to help people to help themselves.

Several people have already rebooked for another Clinic with Steve Muggeridge, in April 2020.

'Content makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.'

*Benjamin Franklin*  
1706-1790

## IAN GOULD



Ian grew up on a steep and unforgiving farm at Hanging Rock (South Canterbury) where Clydesdales were used to do all the work from feeding out, cultivating through to harvesting. This kindled the passion that Ian had for the breed.

His father Richard had grown up with his horses and bred many foals, mainly as replacements for his six horse teams, and occasionally showed at the Timaru A&P Show. Richard retired to Timaru in 1993. Ian worked the team from a young age, so it was natural that he should purchase some of the horses and form his own stud "Ashstencroft" at Levels, just north of Timaru.

Ian had been a Clydesdale judge for over 20 years, imported 4 mares from Australia and bred 49 registered Clydesdale horses. He had been a mentor to many and was generous with his time.

He lived by a motto: "When you look back on one's life, helping others to achieve must surely be the greatest achievement of all."

After leaving school at 16, Ian completed an 8000 hour carpentry apprenticeship. He ran his own building business for 24 years, employing up to 8 builders. In 1984 he joined the Master Builders Association, shortly afterwards becoming the president of the South Canterbury branch and later a board member. Ian remained with Master Builders Association as Regional Service Manager until his passing, having completed 35 years of service.

Ian was also the Epilepsy Foundation board chairman, had a long association in the support of Epilepsy and spent many years advocating for Cystic Fibrosis New Zealand as a board member, taking on the welfare portfolio.

Ian was a devoted husband, soulmate and best friend of Margerie. Adored dad and best mate of Ashley, Steve, and Matt. Step-father to Hayden and Jess, and the late Nikolaas. "Opa" to precious Lucas, and Maiah. Special friend to Gay Gould.

## **Pertinent Horse Regulatory Policies Changes December 2019**

In December 2019, the Government approved the regulatory proposals. Commencement May 2020.

### **27. All animals – prohibitions and restrictions on hot branding**

Description of proposal

Hot branding of horses, ponies, donkeys, and their hybrids

1. A person who hot brands a horse, pony, donkey, or a hybrid of those animals must:
  - a) be competent; and
  - b) use pain relief authorised by a veterinarian for the purpose of the procedure.
2. The owner or person in charge of a horse must not allow it be hot branded except in accordance with the clauses above.
3. This regulation will be revoked five years from the day it commences. At that point the prohibition on hot branding will extend to horses, donkeys, and their hybrids.

#### **Proposed offences and penalties**

Hot branding a horse, pony, donkey, or hybrid without pain relief

A prosecutable regulation offence. Can include a criminal conviction.

Maximum penalty fine of \$3,000 for an individual, \$15,000 for a body corporate.

### **28. Equids – restrictions on tail docking**

Description of the proposals

1. A person must not dock the tail of an equid.
2. The owner and every person in charge of an equid must not allow its tail to be docked.
3. A veterinarian may perform the procedure for therapeutic reasons and pain relief must be used at the time of the procedure.

'Equid' means any member of the equidae family, including any horse, pony, donkey, mule, other wild ass, zebra, and any of their hybrids

#### **Proposed offences and penalties**

Being a non-veterinarian who docks an equid's tail

A prosecutable regulation offence. Can include a criminal conviction.

Maximum penalty fine of \$3,000 for an individual, \$15,000 for a body corporate.

Being a veterinarian who docks an equid's tail for non-therapeutic reasons, or who fails to use pain relief A prosecutable regulation offence. Can include a criminal conviction.

Maximum penalty fine of \$3,000 for an individual, \$15,000 for a body corporate.

### **29. Equids – restrictions on rectal examination for any purpose**

Description of the proposals

1. Rectal examinations on equids must be performed by a veterinarian.
  2. The owner or person in charge of an equid must not allow a rectal examination to be performed on the animal except in accordance with the clause above.
- 'Rectal examination' includes entry into the rectum by the fingers/hand/arm, and/or the introduction of instruments, excluding rectal thermometers.
- 'Equid' means any member of the equidae family, including any horse, pony, donkey, mule, other wild ass, zebra, and any of their hybrids.

#### **Proposed offences and penalties**

Failing to be a veterinarian when performing a rectal examination on an equid

A prosecutable regulation offence. Can include a criminal conviction.

Maximum penalty fine of \$3,000 for an individual, \$15,000 for a body corporate.

To view full document see here: <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/dmsdocument/39068-significant-surgical-procedures-regulatory-policies>

# HORSE DENTISTRY

## Part Two

By Alan Vliet Vlieland, *Alan's Horse Dentistry Services*

In this second part about horse's teeth we will look at the "wolf teeth" in horses.

This is the first premolar commonly called a wolf tooth. In some older publications called "Eye tooth". It is a small and rudimentary tooth. Usually present on both sides of the upper jaw very close to the first cheek teeth. Very rarely we will find wolf teeth in the lower jaw. Also there is the "blind wolf tooth". This is the same type, but still under the gum line. Often these "blind" wolf teeth" will not erupt in the lifetime of the horse. Even more rare is the ectopic wolf tooth. This one can present itself anywhere around the lower jaw. This one can appear like a bony lump. This will most of the time cause no issue for the horse, other than to look ugly.

Not all horses will get wolf teeth. Some numbers from the U.S.A. talk about 65% of Standardbred and 60% of Thoroughbred horses will get them. In my experience they will show up before 2 to 2.5 years of age. Some bloodlines seem to get more wolf teeth than others. Clydesdales bred by our stud appear to score nearly 100% wolf teeth!

A lot of people confuse the Canine tooth (also called Tusk, Dog tooth or fang) for the wolf tooth. The canine tooth is situated much more forward. This tooth is a fighting tooth and appears nearly 100% in male horses and 10-12% in mares. Canine teeth are routinely shortened but not removed.

Why do we remove wolf teeth some times? In my opinion, based on my training and experience, the wolf teeth will cause problems with the bit in 50% of the

horses that have them. The smaller ones cause more problems than the larger ones. The larger ones have a larger root and re-sit the bit better. The smaller ones sometimes have a very shallow root and start to become a "splinter" in the gum and will cause pain or discomfort for the horse. "Blind" wolf teeth often cause more problems than not, maybe because of the mucus layer over the tooth.

My advice is to have the wolf teeth removed before the biting process starts. Also if there are any bit issues and there is a wolf tooth present, it is a good idea to remove them. The display of behaviour, when having issues with the wolf tooth, can be anything from shaking of the head, to the extreme of rearing over backwards, and anything in between. There is an old saying about wolf teeth; if in doubt take them out.

The removal is straight forward most of the time, but on occasions can be very difficult. Some will break a small part off and have to be removed separately or drilled out. The tooth will be elevated (cutting the gum loose around the tooth) and then pulled out. The "blind" wolf tooth needs a little cut in the mucus before being removed. This is all done under sedation, so most of the time a vet will be present. The horse will need a week to a fortnight off the bit, to help the healing process.

Maybe some of you know that, the Ministry Of Primary Industries maybe will decide from the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 2020, that the removal of the wolf teeth is only allowed to be done by the vet and not by an Equine Dental Technician. We will keep you posted on that rule.

*Please contact me if you have any questions.*

*Alan*

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## Does anyone have a caption for this photo?

Looks like the horse is having the last laugh here with Bruce Signal (right) and Jim Lowe at the Wairarapa A & P show early last November. They both look pretty serious.



# Clydesdale show dates throughout New Zealand

- Otago Taieri Agricultural & Pastoral Society 25th - 26th January 2020
- Gore Agricultural & Pastoral Association 1st February 2020
- Masterton Agricultural & Pastoral Association 14th - 16th February 2020
- Morrinsville Agricultural & Pastoral Society 7th March 2020
- Southland Agricultural & Pastoral Association 7th March 2020
- Temuka & Geraldine Agricultural & Pastoral Society 7th March 2020
- Palmerston & Waihemo Agricultural & Pastoral Society 8th February 2020
- Mayfield Agricultural & Pastoral Association 14th March 2020
- Methven Agricultural & Pastoral Association 21st March 2020
- Strath Taieri Agricultural & Pastoral Society 21st March 2020
- Malvern Agricultural & Pastoral Association 28th March 2020
- Oxford Agricultural & Pastoral Association 4th April 2020
- Mackenzie County Agricultural & Pastoral Society 13th April 2020
- Poverty Bay Agricultural & Pastoral Association 15th - 17th October 2020
- Ellesmere Agricultural & Pastoral Association 17th October 2020
- Hawkes Bay Royal Agricultural & Pastoral Society 21st - 23rd October 2020
- Northern Agricultural & Pastoral Association 23rd - 24th October 2020
- Ashburton Agricultural & Pastoral Association 30th - 31st October 2020
- Amberley Agricultural & Pastoral Association 31st October 2020
- Waikato Agricultural & Pastoral Association 30th October - 1st November 2020
- Wairarapa Agricultural & Pastoral Society 30th October - 1st November 2020
- Marlborough Agricultural & Pastoral Association 6th - 7th November 2020
- Southern Canterbury Agricultural & Pastoral Association 7th - 8th November 2020
- Canterbury Agricultural & Pastoral Association 11th - 13th November 2020
- West Otago Agricultural & Pastoral Society 21st November 2020
- Courtenay Agricultural & Pastoral Association 21st November 2020
- Nelson Agricultural & Pastoral Association 21st - 22nd November 2020
- Stratford Agricultural & Pastoral Association 27th - 29th November 2020
- Cambridge Agricultural & Pastoral Association 28th - 29th November 2020
- Tokomairiro Agricultural & Pastoral Society (Milton) 12th December 2020