



Clydesdale NewZ, December 2020

A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

December 2020

Hi Members,

I hope the season is treating you all well.

It's been a very trying year with the COVID pandemic. It has stopped a lot of events from happening that involve our mighty Clydesdales.

The thing is we need to stay positive and move onwards and upwards. It was great to see the effort put in by the South Islanders supporting the Canterbury Show. Well done everyone. The photos I saw were amazing and the turnout was impeccable. I would have liked to have been there to see it all but was unable to as I had my own public outings on with my horses at the same time.

I do hope Spring has been good to you, especially those of you who have had mares in foal. I hope foaling has gone well for you all. I was fortunate to get a colt and a filly by Rosemarkie Chief's Jinx of Helen McKenzie & Warwick Pott's this year.

We need to keep breeding to get our Clydesdale numbers up and lead the majestic beasts into the future.

I would like to thank Gareth Pryce for all his time and effort as Secretary keeping this Society ticking over for all our members. Of course, I also have to thank the Councillors for doing their bit too where needed.

I would also like to thank Helen McKenzie for doing this Christmas newsletter or end of year newsletter whichever way you want to put it.

So, on that note I will say bye for now. Compliments of the season to you all and the very best for the New Year. Let's hope it is a better one.

I'm looking forward to catching up later in the New Year.

Kind regards,

Steve Muggeridge
President



FROM THE SECRETARY:

What a different year this has been!

We went to the last show before lockdown in Morrinsville and I was very pleased to be able to make it down to Christchurch last month to Canterbury which featured an impressive lineup of horses.

There have been several Clydesdales imported from Australia recently. Pauline Jackson imported two Clydesdales, a 2 year old filly, Valmont Mirage, who is by Valmont Daktari and out of Valmont Isadora, and a 4 year old mare, Valmont Radiance, by Hillside Lorton Legend (UK) out of Valmont Request.

Microchipping is proving to be popular with approximately 1/3 of registrations using this form of identification. A reminder that the registration amnesty ends on the 31st December 2020, so please get your registrations up to date by then.

Two common issues that keep arising are:

1. Borrowed horses (stallions and mares) being used for breeding without a lease agreement and the relationship between the horse owner and borrower souring. Remember that no signed stallion return or certificate of service = no registration, and only the foaling breeder can register a foal. The foaling breeder is the registered owner or registered lessee at the time of birth. The society has lease agreement templates, certificates of service and stallion returns on the website: <http://www.clydesdale.org.nz/forms.html>
2. Relationship property disputes are becoming more frequent and are stressful times for those involved. Unfortunately, as we are all very passionate about our beloved Clydesdales, these are often used as emotional leverage. Partners either want a percentage of horses as relationship property or refusing registration and or change of ownership. I implore everyone to put their Clydesdales first in these situations and do what is best for the breed. Before embarking on a new long-term relationship, seek legal advice and get a relationship agreement. It is not the society's role to sort out relationship property disputes.

Hopefully Covid remains under control and vaccines work, as Hillary Milne and Co. have a fantastic AGM and field days planned for 11th-13th June 2021 in Palmerston North.

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

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.)

REGISTRATIONS

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 Secretary and he will post you the relevant forms.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual members your **SUBS WERE DUE OCTOBER 1, 2020.**

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.

NZ CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY AGM & FIELD DAYS

11th-13th June 2021 in Palmerston North.

Further details to follow later in the New Year

Agenda Items – accepted by Secretary from now on



Society President, Steve Muggeridge's, colt foal by
Rosemarkie Chief's Jinx out of Taungatara Jess

CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY OF NZ – HARNESS JUDGING DAY 2020

Report By Jaime Winter



In 2019 a Judging Clinic was held in Canterbury concentrating on the conformation and in hand aspects of judging Clydesdales, with a touch of sledging at the end. It was open to all Society members, Canterbury Clydesdale Club members and RAS Judges. It was a huge success and we had wonderful feedback from those who attended. At the end of the clinic we asked for feedback and spoke about hosting another clinic in 2020 based around harness.

Due to COVID it was a juggling act finding a suitable date and venue so we took the chance with the weather and held it at the Clydesdale yards at the Canterbury A&P show grounds in level 2. The typical Christchurch easterly was a pain but the sun was shining and we found shelter for a lunch spot!

Murray Lang and Erewhon were each kind enough to bring a team in wagons to show the variety and have something for everyone to judge. We then went onto sledges and a sledge course after lunch and a lot of people had a go at driving as well. Differences were discussed, harness fitting and types of harness, what judges may expect and look for, Different wagons, sledges and carts were also talked about and of course safety was discussed and well demonstrated by the wonderful drivers.

We finished off the day going back over some conformation as a refresher for those who attended in 2019 and for those who couldn't attend we went through a bit more in depth.

It was a great day and we had wonderful feedback from those who attended especially the RAS judges.

We are now on a mission to figure out what to do for our next clinic 2021/22



FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH.

By Alan Vliet Vlieland EQDT

This time I will talk about capping. Most of you who have had a younger horse are probably familiar with the term “capping” or “Caps”. It basically means that the young horse is changing his baby teeth or sometimes called “milk teeth”. They are dropped and replaced by permanent teeth.

Horses do this between the age of 2.5 and 4.5 years. They change in total 24 teeth. All the incisors and the first three molars in each row of molars. That is why they are technically called premolars. They are the last three from each row (arcade) and are simply called molars. They are not replaced and come through at the age of 1, 2, and 4. The “Caps” are called “Caps” because when the horse is losing the baby tooth it sits as a cap over the new adult tooth. This differs from the human tooth. When we were changing our milk teeth for mature teeth, we are losing them with root and all. The equine, being an herbivore, needs his teeth relatively quick so he can process low value food (grass and plant material) and extract more goodness out of it, and have the energy to keep up with the herd.

It is not totally clear how the equine dissolves the root of the baby teeth. Some studies suggest that the new tooth is putting some acid in front of itself and that way dissolves the old tooth. Other studies say it is the mechanical friction between the old tooth and the baby tooth that wears the baby tooth root down. Most of the times the horse owner doesn't realise that the capping process has happened. The cap at some stage gets loose and is spat out by the horse. You will find them in the paddock or more often in their feeding trough.

There are some signs that a horse is struggling with the capping process.

Here are some of them: -

- Slow eating. (Chewing process is pushing cap edge into the gum.)
- Losing weight (don't forget the young animal is growing)
- Disliking the bit. (Bit is pushing against loose cap and pushing it in to the gum.)
- Smelly breath (feed particles stuck between cap and new tooth.)
- Not happy, looks depressed. (The mouth hurts and food particles are stuck between several caps. The fermenting or rotting process produces toxin and that makes the horse slightly sick.)

The equine dentist will notice these problems during a routine visit, or when called in by the owner who has observed the signs above. The dentist can remove those caps relatively easy. They will carry an instrument called a cap remover “but basically is special shaped pliers.

Normally no sedation is required.

It will take several months for the new tooth to be fully in work. After the cap has gone, the tooth will further erupt to come in contact with the opposite tooth.

Sometimes the new incisor (front tooth) misses the older milk tooth and doesn't remove it. This manifests itself by the new teeth coming through the gum, behind the milk tooth. This requires a little bit of surgery but is usually highly successful.

Your job as the horse owner is to observe your young horse eating a few times a week. If you notice some of the behaviour mentioned above, contact your equine dentist.

In the ideal world the horse should be visited by the dentist every six months till the age of six, and then an annual visit should be fine.

If you have any questions or would like an article about a specific equine dental problem in the next newsletter, please let me know.

Regards,

Alan



Alan working on their 2 year old colt “Goldenlane George”.

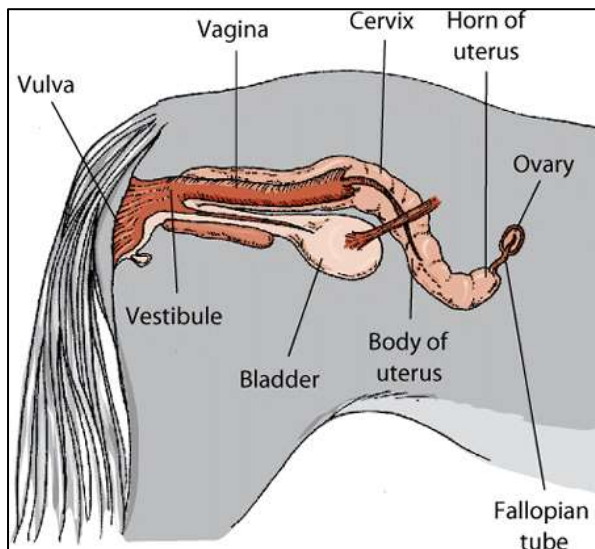
A brief overview of the mare's reproductive anatomy and physiology

By Jacqueline Pryce BVSc

A fundamental understanding of the mare's reproductive anatomy and physiology is essential for any horse breeder wanting to maximise reproductive performance.

ANATOMY

The mare's reproductive tract starts at the vulva and extends horizontally to the vagina, cervix, uterus fallopian tubes and ovaries, and is situated within the pelvic and abdominal cavity.



The vulva is the external opening to the reproductive tract and its main function is to exclude air and foreign materials. Poor conformation can lead to “windsucking” with resultant drying and infections.

The vagina, an elastic muscular tube connecting the vulva to the cervix.

Abnormalities include adhesions from previous trauma, infection or pooling of urine.

The cervix is a powerful muscular ring serving as the portal to the uterus.

It is under the influence of hormones, with oestrogen stimulating it to relax and produce thin watery mucous during oestrous (heat) thus aiding the mating process. During pregnancy, under the control of progesterone, it is tightly closed and covered with thick tacky mucous, forming an effective barrier against contamination and infection.

Trauma to the cervix during breeding or foaling can lead to constrictions and fibrosis (loss of elasticity), which in turn can result in uterine infections, abortions and foaling problems.

The uterus is a “Y” shaped hollow muscular structure, suspended from the roof of the abdominal cavity by two ligaments. With its complex multi-layered structure, its main function is to protect, nourish and ultimately expel the foetus.

Sagging of the ligaments due to age, trauma or just multiple pregnancies can alter the orientation, resulting in pooling of fluid or mucous, adversely affecting fertility.

The oviducts connect the tip of the uterus to the ovaries, and this is where fertilisation takes place.

The ovaries are kidney bean shaped and the size of a tennis ball during the breeding season.

During the breeding season, multiple follicles start to mature simultaneously, under the influence of different hormones. At each cycle, one follicle becomes the dominant, thus suppressing all others, while it matures and ultimately ruptures, releasing the ovum (ovulation).

These follicles are easily detected using Ultrasound. Being able to measure their size, knowing daily growth rates and pre-ovulatory size, allow for an accurate prediction of ovulation.

It is worth noting that, Clydesdales have much larger follicles than Thoroughbreds and light horses, in some cases up to twice the size. Whereas Thoroughbreds generally ovulate at 35-40mm, most Clydesdales don't start displaying behavioural oestrous and stand for the stallion until their follicle have reached 50mm in diameter.

In a good conditioned mare, follicles grow roughly 5mm per day from 50 up to 60mm and 10mm/day until ovulation at about 70-80mm.



Immature follicles

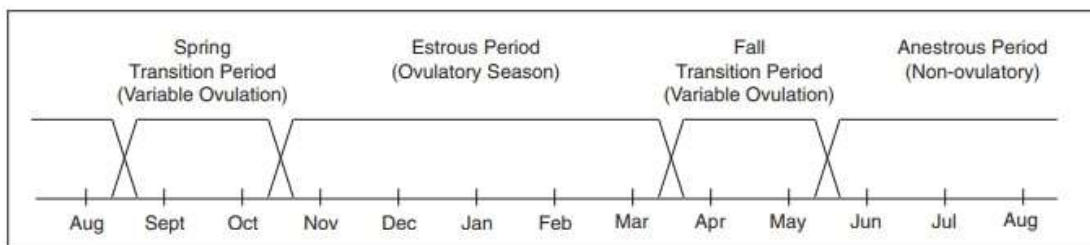


Pre-ovulatory follicle

Reproductive Physiology.

Mares are 'long day breeders'. Seasonal oestrous activity is stimulated by increasing day light hours, gradually transitioning from being anoestrous (inactive) during the winter to normal ovarian activity over about 60-80 days, typically once day light hours reach >12hrs. This transition period is often associated with erratic oestrous behaviour and infertile heats. Similarly, towards the end of the breeding season as days shorten to < 12hrs, ovarian activity gradually decreases.

Thoroughbred studs commonly use exposure to artificial light to hasten the onset of the breeding season.



Other factors affecting onset of ovarian activity include climate, age, body condition and nutrition.

Typical oestrous behaviour in the mare is under the influence of oestrogen secreted by the dominant follicle and includes seeking out the stallion, squatting, raising the tail, urinating small amounts frequently and 'winking' of the vulva. This behaviour ceases within 24-48 hours after ovulation as the mare enters the next phase (dioestrous) of the cycle, which is marked by the formation of a corpus luteum (CL) in place of the

follicle. Progesterone secreted by the CL, in turn alters behavioural signs when exposed to a stallion, now resulting in tail swishing, ears back, squealing, striking, kicking and biting.

If conception has failed the uterus will secrete prostaglandin, resulting in the regression of the CL, allowing another crop of follicles to grow. And so, it starts all over again.

However, if fertilisation is successful, the presence of an embryo in the uterus by day 14 signals the ovaries to stop oestrous activity and the corpus luteum remains to continue maintaining the pregnancy.

By day 35, a phenomenon unique to equines occurs, the formation of endometrial cups in placenta. These structures secrete a hormone to stimulate the growth of several accessory CL's which help maintain pregnancy through to about 120 days.

This is the reason why embryonic loss or the use of Prostaglandin after day 35 of pregnancy, will not result in the mare returning to oestrous.

This is an important fact to consider in the breeding management of horses.

Facts to consider for optimal reproductive performance of the mare

- *Selection of mares suitable for breeding* - i.e. good health and body condition, 3-14 years of age, from a line of horses with good fertility
- *Timing* - breeding during the day's closest to the longest day and avoiding the transition periods.
- *Physical examination* - A thorough examination of the reproductive tract well before planned start of breeding so any problems can be resolved well before the breeding season.
- *Oestrous detection* - accurate teasing with a stallion or ultrasound examination of the uterus and ovaries.
- *Mating strategy* - Breeding every 48 hours, starting on day three of the heat, ensuring the mare is bred at no less than 36 hours before the end of oestrus to ensure cover at the time of ovulation
- *Manipulation of the oestrous cycle* - the use of Prostaglandin is useful shortening the cycle or simply predicting the onset of the next cycle
- *Human chorionic Gonadotrophin* - useful when the exact ovulation time is unknown, given at the time of mating to stimulate ovulation within 48 hrs.
- *Pregnancy detection* - early scanning at 12-14 days not only allows confirmation of a pregnancy, thus optimising her management, but just as importantly enables the detection of unsuccessful mating's, allowing a well-planned approach for the second round. In addition, detection of twins before day 16, means one of the twins can be crushed or both can be aborted and the mare can be bred again. As the majority of twin pregnancies result in embryonic loss or abortion of both foeti, most undetected twin pregnancies result in an 'empty' mare for that season.
- *Stallion fertility* - Good body condition and health are vital for good semen production and male fertility. In an unproven stallion, it is advisable to check a semen sample to assess the quality. If the stallion is run with the mares, observation of the actual mating process is recommended, to make sure the stallion can complete the job.

For those who may have missed Gareth's email I put it in again here - Helen

Hi All,

I have just returned from a few days at Canterbury Show. It was great to catch up with some of our new members and old ones alike. I was very pleased to see the quality of young stock coming through and the high standard of presentation from exhibitors.

Congratulations to Colin Drummond & Erin Cassie who won Supreme Champion Clydesdale with their filly, Erewhon Grace. Also, congratulations to Alan & Margo Vliet Vlieland who won Champion Entire Clydesdale with their colt, Goldenlane George. Thank you to the Judge, Mrs Vivien Simmons, who came down from Te Aroha to judge large classes during very hot days. There were 27 Clydesdales entered in the best walking class. Results will be up on the website once I have them.



2021 CLYDESDALE CALENDAR

This year's theme is Clydesdales in wheeled vehicles.

Send your calendar orders to Fred – his email is fellbecknz@gmail.com

It was also great to see Pauline Jackson out with her two new imported Clydesdales from Australia. 2 year old filly, Valmont Mirage, who is by Valmont-Daktari and out of Valmont Isadora. 4 year old mare, Valmont Radianc, by Hillside Lorton Legend (UK) out of Valmont Request. It is great to have new bloodlines in New Zealand and appreciate the investment that members put into our breed.

Thank you to Kathy Cummings for sending through results and photo from Wairarapa A & P Show. Congratulations to Jen Scott winning Champion Clydesdale with her mare Camden Meghan, and Ian Cummings, winning Reserve Champion with his gelding Erewhon Logan.



Gareth

A friendly reminder to those with registrations outstanding, the society registration amnesty ends 31st December, so please get your completed and checked paperwork into me ASAP.

"Perhaps there is still a beauty about turned up earth and ploughmen working like weavers, designing delicate patterns in brown and green – colours symbolic of agriculture. But tractors in no way stir the imagination like the horse – tireless, indomitable, great hearts driving great muscles, ploughing forward through the days and the weeks and the months, while the sweat of their work salted the earth of the years."

Roy Bolitho