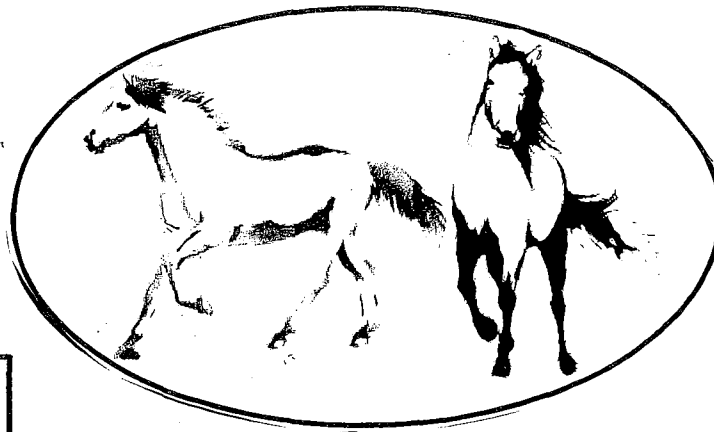


**MAY**

**2018**



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This publication is the official Newsletter of the

**Australian Thoroughbred Breeders  
Club Ltd.**

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**Hunter Valley Bus Trip June 2018  
Update**

The June long weekend (9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>  
and 11<sup>th</sup>) bus trip to the Hunter Valley  
will include, *Arrowfield, Coolmore,  
Newgate, Widden and Yarraman  
studs.*

*Only one single/double room left.*

*Phone Di Lanham ASAP.*

*0478 705 435*

*Stallion Tender Scheme. We hope to  
have Books out in June.*

*The club has a number of events in the  
planning stage with times and dates  
to be finalised, keep an eye out for  
further information.*

**Next Meeting:**

The next Committee meeting  
will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018  
at 6.30 pm. At the A.T.B.C  
building Clarendon.



George says to Fred, "I put  
\$100 on a horse last week  
and it came in at twenty  
five to one." Wow!" said  
Fred, "you must be  
loaded". "Not really," said  
George, "the rest of the  
field came in at twelve  
thirty."

The Committee of the A.T.B.C  
would like to warmly welcome a  
new members Camille  
Alexander to the club.

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again many thanks to  
members who have  
contributed to the Newsletter  
so far. We have all enjoyed  
sharing your input, personal  
experiences, and feedback.

**Vale**

Members will be sorry to hear of the  
passing of long time member Don  
Story after a long illness.

Don supported the Club by donating  
nominations to our Stallion Tender  
Scheme over a number of years.

Our sympathy goes out to Don's  
family and friends. He will be missed.

A race at Canterbury has been  
named after him.

All members are invited to  
contribute to the newsletter  
via a story, a letter, a joke  
or an article please phone  
the secretary.

## **WEANING FOALS**

This may at the outset sound a very simple and straightforward procedure, nothing to it you might say. Not so, I believe weaning to be a very stressful time for foals and all too often for their handlers. Not enough thought and preparation goes into the whole operation. As a result one sees many serious injuries occurring year after year, and, just as importantly, too many foals suffer "bad experiences" which they never forget. As a result they can become problem horses. They may have been potentially difficult horses anyway, which is why these foals in particular require skillful handling at weaning.

### **At what age are foals weaned?**

Usually from six months of age and older. On the one hand there is no real hurry to wean, as frequently many mares will tend to partly wean older foals anyway in the paddock, and this goes hand in glove with the foal's increasing independence. The problem, if there is one, arises because of the relatively large numbers of foals resident on public studs, and a start has to be made so as to get the job done.

### **Is there a set time by which weaning should be completed?**

One assumes that as winter approaches it is advisable to have weaning completed, then the foal's diet can be adjusted independently of its mother, remembering that as previously stated one does not want mares, whether in foal or not, to get too

heavy/fat. Conversely, some older mares "lighten off" i.e. lose weight, when suckling a big foal and these foals should be the first to be weaned.

Another very important factor is that invariably foals develop autumn colds, caused by an upper respiratory tract virus often with a profuse nasal discharge, and when there are large numbers of foals involved, these coughs and colds can become a major problem and a strangles outbreak may occur concurrently. It follows that weaning (stressing) foals at this time is very contra-indicated, consequently one of the great advantages of starting to wean somewhat on the early side is that when the virus strikes them, as it surely will, your foals are all back out in the paddocks in settled groups eating well.

### **Can you vaccinate against this virus?**

No, there are no vaccines available. In any case foals/yearlings gradually build up their level of immunity by constant exposure to a range of these viruses so that by the time they are two-year-olds their immune status is sufficiently high to protect them from some of the more common stable coughs and colds. This process of exposure to viruses and the consequent boost to natural immunity is ongoing throughout a horse's lifetime.

I do think though that handling and teaching foals to lead before they are a week old does make weaning so much easier, bearing in mind that it is usually the big strong wild foal that gets injured.


If you only have a few foals to wean, it may pay to bring both mare and foal in daily and handle the foal; put a head collar on to build up its confidence in you before actually separating it permanently from its mother. This I am sure reduces stress, but it is time consuming.

Another excellent way to wean a small group of handled foals is to take away one mare at a time from the group over several days. If the last mare happens to be not in foal then she can be left as supervisor for say another month.

Some foals become claustrophobic when first confined to a box alone – why not give them a companion!

I cannot over emphasise the importance of ensuring that all foals are eating supplementary feed before weaning. If a foal is proving particularly difficult to handle don't go overboard. Turn him out, still only partially handled, with his group and note who becomes his preferred companion, then bring them *both* back in and quietly achieve your objective.

## How much stress is put on mares at weaning?

Surprisingly little really. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly they get over the enforced separation. About the only problem likely to arise is that some heavily lactating mares may require "milking" to prevent mastitis developing. Usually by day three their udders have stopped all secretion of milk. Weaning and handling is such an important period in a foal's life. Take time to do it as well as you possibly can. 

by J. Morgan Veterinarian

### An Interesting Trip

By John E. Horton

I thought it would be quite interesting when I was invited to help deliver an ex-racehorse with Ethne Potowski to a rehabilitation farm. At first I thought it was to rehabilitate the horse but later found out it was to help rehab. the inmates at Muswellbrook Correction Centre.

As a passenger I studied the rugged terrain along the Putty road and as we approached Broke, Nicki ( Ethne's strapper) took over guiding us on her mobile.

When we reached the property I noticed that most of the paddocks were eaten out. At a wild guess I would say there were at least fifty horses on the property and all were in good condition. Needless to say I wouldn't like to have their monthly feed bill.

The mobile unfortunately didn't point out the right office for us to go to. However a sign with "OFFICE" posted on a very un-office looking building caught our attention. Could this be it?

Regardless of being parked in the middle of the road I got out forgetting to close the car door. Just half way down the driveway a truck swung around the corner and we thought it was a horse float but it turned out to be a Paddy Wagon. The driver concerned with the criminal element or that we may be part of some escape plan, decided to overtake us via an embankment. We were horrified and thought it might turn over and the inmates would escape. If so should we chase and apprehend them or call the police even though it was lunch time!

Thankfully none of this happened and we reached the office only to find the officer in charge was on a lunch break. One of a group in green suggested we leave the horse in the paddock across the road.

While we were getting him off the float an officer came to assist us. He was a horse-lover himself and bred Pintos. He explained how the farm was run and turned out be an interesting fellow.

Because the road was fairly narrow I decided to drive on out of sight to do a U-turn only to come back to find two very irate ladies (Ethne and Nicki) who thought I had driven off without them.

On our way home we stopped by the side of the road under a tree for a romantic afternoon tea and biscuits.

If you are looking for an institute that dedicates itself to finding the right home for ex-race horses try this one. The person to contact is Carron Day.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Firstly, I find it intriguing to read your defence of animal protection groups when at the same time you appear to deride the animal protection credentials of "owners, trainers, riders, racing organisations etc" - in my experience all the aforementioned have always had the well being of the horse at the top of their priorities and to say otherwise is, in my view quite offensive.

Secondly, to say that "it takes Veterinary Pharmaceutical Companies" to point out various issues could be misleading as they have a vested interest in identifying such issues.

Thirdly, you should be wary in aligning yourself too strongly with animal protection groups as it is their ambition to totally eliminate the horse racing industry, galloping and trotting.

Peter Mansford

Dear Editor

I have spoken to a number of members recently who are most grateful that we once again have a monthly newsletter. In particular, the last couple of newsletters containing a lot of information on the causes of gastric ulcers in performance horses and the 'foal squeeze'. It's good to know this information is available for us all to act upon. Thank you to the HEVP and to our new Editor for making it accessible.

Barbara Robertson (Vice President)

### Winners Award

Name of member:-
Contact:-
Name of Horse:-
Sire:-
Dam:-
Where the horse won:-
Date of win:-
All Club Members who have bred a winning horse in the 2017-2018 Season are eligible for our breeders Award presented at the AGM in October.
Fill out this form and send it to PO Box 821 Windsor NSW 2756