

Dunedin Group RDA Newsletter

JULY 2010

★ Welcome to the 3rd edition of our newsletter! ★

Feel free to pass it on to family and friends, and if you have any suggestions for content or feedback please contact Sue jmarsha2000@xtra.co.nz or Sarah esdee_23@yahoo.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING - FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM for Dunedin Branch of RDA

The AGM for 2010 will be held on Wed 18 August at 7:30pm at the RDA grounds, Flower St, Fairfield

We invite you to attend this meeting.

Training day for Volunteers

We are organising a training day for all Volunteers in September - before the start of the new season.

Although you may have been helping at RDA sessions in previous seasons we need to have a 'refresher' so that all procedures are standardised. i.e. from handling the horses to assisting the instructors with the riders.

The date for this will be notified to you soon.

Pony Rides

In September on each Saturday, if possible RDA will be offering pony rides as a fundraiser at Wallis Nursery in Mosgiel. Any volunteers that would like to help with this email Maree or let Lyn Evans know.

Open Day

Sunday 10 October 11am-2pm (time to be confirmed) to be held at the RDA grounds.

Would anyone like to help to bag horse manure, so this could be sold on the day. Email Maree: mareeandneil@xtra.co.nz if you can help.

We will need the assistance of volunteers and some riders to run this day.

Please put this date in your diary. More details nearer the time!



Please note the first day of the RDA season is **Mon 11 October**

Update on the horses at Mosgiel:

The horses are all enjoying their time at Lanark St. Barney and Billy were together in a paddock for a few weeks and had great fun playing together but became too boisterous so have now been separated again. Chanty is enjoying flirting with all the boys. Utu, Clyde, Chanty and Barney have been riding at Ocean View Beach which they all enjoyed. Here are some photos of the horses:



Horses and food:

Horses have evolved to eat almost constantly (at least 18 hrs per day). This keeps the gut healthy and the digestive system functioning. The equine digestive system is very long, the stomach very small, and the digestive process relatively slow. To avoid constipation and other gastric problems, horses need large amounts of fibre.

There are many different types of horse feed. Here is some more information about what we feed our RDA horses:

Oaten Chaff: usually made from chopped straw with oats added. Straw is the dry stalks of cereal plants. A good source of fibre and roughage, also bulks out the feed and makes the horse eat slower so lessens chance of colic.

Gumnuts: a complete balanced feed formulated especially for older horses. Steam-extruded this makes it more digestible. Turns to mash when water added, so easy to eat for horses with teeth problems. Contains

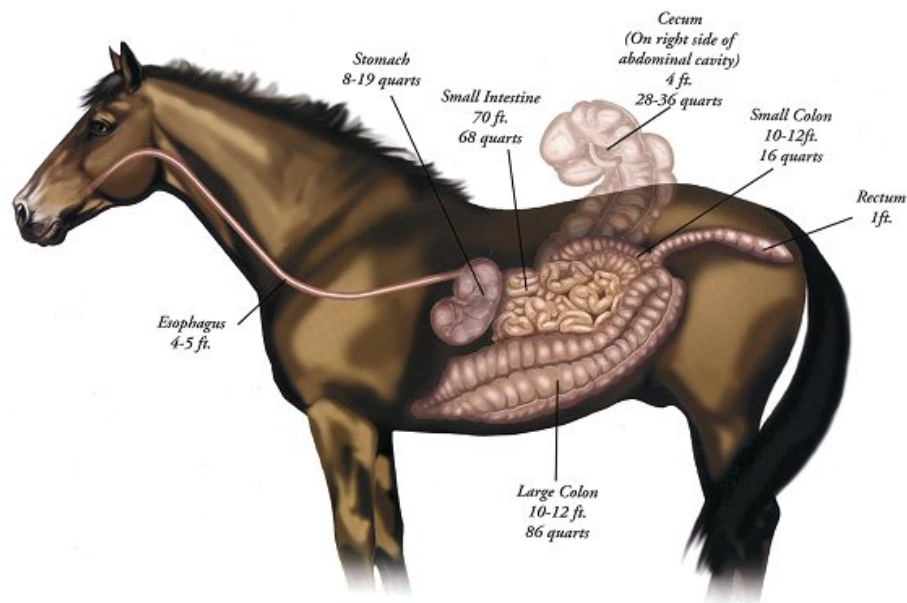
grains including barley, legumes, vegetable oils, salt, vitamins and minerals and increased levels of many of the necessary nutrients required by older horses including vitamins E and C (enhance immune function), selenium and protexin (a probiotic to improve gut health).

Oil: a good source of energy, good for weight-gain and also great for a shiny coat.

Molasses: looks like dark golden syrup and is the syrup that is left over from the sugar production out of sugar beet. Molasses is very sweet so increases the palatability of horse feeds. Is also a good source of energy. But as it is 50% sugar, overuse will rot horses teeth!

Barley: quite high in energy, good for weight-gain. Needs be crushed/rolled or cooked before feeding as it is very hard, so this makes it more digestible.

Hay: high in fibre, which is essential for healthy digestion. Also eating hay can help keep horses warm in winter. Often given to horses on restricted grass, as contains less sugar so it has less nutritional value than grass.



Important Phone Numbers

Maree (Vice President) (03) 4811 343 or 027 494 9878 , Lyn (Horse Manager) 021 110 9644
Sarah 027 4245 160. Denise (Volunteer Coordinator) 021 822 966. Saturday Cancellation Line 474 8425
www.dunedinrda.co.nz

☺ HAVE A GREAT JULY EVERYONE ☺