

Dunedin Group RDA Newsletter

JUNE 2010

★ Welcome to the 2nd 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 THIS MONTH

Horses moving to winter grazing – Larnack St, Mosgiel <i>(until late September)</i>	***WHEN - FIRST TWO WEEKS IN JUNE Please Contact Lyn 021 110 9644 for the confirmed date
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HORSE CARE ROSTER FOR WINTER GRAZING

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
AM	Lyn Charlie	Lyn	Murray	Nicky Denise	Carole	Charlie	Lynda
PM	Vanya Lyn	Nicky Lynda	Ash	??	Pip	??	Ash

Can you help fill in the gaps? If so, please contact Lyn 021 110 9644

Meet a Human

Name: Lyn Evans

What is your role: I am the Horse Manager and I also run the Monday riding session.

What does your job involve: General care of the horses, organizing vet and farrier visits, worming, checking paddocks and keeping the horses sound. I am there most days.

How long have you been at RDA: About 5 years

How did you get involved: I rang up Volunteering Otago and they put me in touch with RDA.

What is your favourite part of RDA: Seeing the improvement of the children riding and the effort they put into it.

Something we don't know about you: I have done the cavalcade twice on my two horses. Most of the RDA horses come to my place when they are retired.



Meet a Horse

Honey – by name and nature.

Honey has “been there done that”.

She has taught many children to ride and been to lots of shows and pony club.

Height 10.3 hh

Age 22 years +

Sex Mare

Colour Silver dapple + snip

Fact – Honey used to be brought over to RDA by her owners on Saturdays for us to use, but has been owned by RDA since June 2008.



Important Phone Numbers

Maree (Vice President) (03) 4811 343 or 027 494 9878 , Lyn (Horse Manager) 021 110 9644

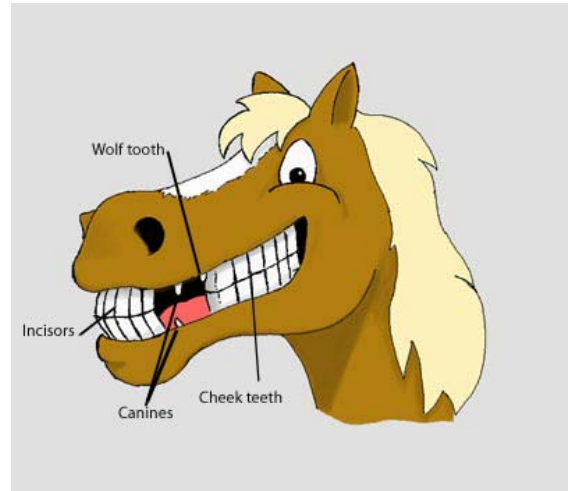
Sarah 027 4245 160. Denise (Volunteer Coordinator) 021 822 966. Saturday Cancellation Line 474 8425

www.dunedinrda.co.nz

Equine Dentistry: On the 4th of June, our vet Donald Murray came to rasp Honey, Utu and Billy's teeth. First he sedated them, then when they were sleepy he put the gag on their head. Then he used a variety of different files to remove sharp points from their teeth.

Facts:

- Horses may have 5 different types of teeth; incisors, canines, wolf teeth, premolars and molars (cheek teeth).
- All male horses have 4 canine teeth, and about 30% of mares do as well. In the wild, stallions use their canines when they are fighting each other.
- Wolf teeth are small and sensitive and usually in the upper jaw, and are often removed.
- Foals develop 'milk teeth' from birth to 1 week of age, and start losing these at 2 1/2 years. The horse will have all its 36-44 adult teeth by 5 years of age.
- The wear patterns on the teeth and the type of teeth present can be used to estimate the age of the horse, but this also depends on the diet of the horse ie horses kept on short stalky grass will wear their teeth down faster so will appear older.
- If a horse has lots of sharp points on his teeth he will often have trouble eating and drop food (called quidding), and may throw his head about when ridden or not want his bridle on.
- Horses' top jaws are wider than their bottom jaws, so they often develop sharp points on the outside of the top cheek teeth and the inside of the bottom cheek teeth.
- Horses are designed to eat rough grasses in a circular motion which wear their teeth evenly. But when eating soft lush grasses and hard feed, horses chew in a more up-and-down motion, which is why they develop sharp points and need to see an Equine Dentist, usually every year.
- Horses grind away about 2mm of their teeth every year just by chewing, so their teeth are continuously erupting from their jaw. As horses get older they may start to run out of tooth and so their teeth may fall out.
- The gag keeps the horse's mouth open so you can safely put your hand in and feel right up inside to the back of their mouth to check for sharp points on the teeth.



The inside of a horse's mouth, showing the upper cheek teeth.



Billy did his best to wake up enough to eat his hay, but only succeeded in grabbing a mouthful before he fell asleep again with the hay hanging out of his mouth!

AND to finish

One day a man passed by a farm and saw a beautiful horse. Hoping to buy the animal, he said to the farmer: "I think your horse looks pretty good, so I'll give you \$500 for him." "He doesn't look so good, and he's not for sale," the farmer said. The man insisted, "I think he looks just fine and I'll up the price to \$1,000." "He doesn't look so good," the farmer said, "but if you want him that much, he's yours." The next day the man came back raging mad. He went up to the farmer and screamed, "You sold me a blind horse. You cheated me!" The farmer calmly replied, "I told you he didn't look so good, didn't I?"

☺ HAVE A GREAT JUNE EVERYONE ☺