

Bendigo Pony Club
P.O. Box 2257
Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

February 2010

Pony Express



February

28th - Glenlyon PC Horse Trials

27th - Maryborough School Competition

March

14th - Bealiba Horse Trials @ Charlton P/C Grounds



Bendigo Pony Club Calendar 2010

BIRTHDAYS

January

Jacinta Morrissey - 29th



February

Tori Faull - 11th

Shannon Stone -
1st

Emma Lea - 11th

January 30th	Horse Trials Clinic with Allan Mitchell, Nina & Yona Lloy at Mandurang South pony club Grounds
January 31st	Show jumping clinic Allan Mitchell @ Mandurang Sth
February 7th	Rally
February 19th	"C" Certificate nominations close
March 7th	Rally
March 13th	"C" Certificate theory exam
March 27th	Allan Mitchell Show jumping clinic B.P.C grounds
April 3rd	"C" Certificate riding exam
April 4th	"Donaldson Day" Rally B.P.C grounds
April 5th	Eventing clinic with Allan Mitchell venue TBA
April 9th	Working Bee @ Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
April 10th & 11th	Bendigo Pony Club Interschools Equestrian Team Challenge@ Bendigo Show Grounds
May 2nd	Rally
June 6th	Rally
June 19th	Show jumping clinic with Allan Mitchell BPC grounds
July 4th	Rally
July 10th	Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
July 11th	BPC Combined Training & Dressage Competition@ Bendigo Show grounds
July 16th	"C" Certificate nominations close
July 17th	Show jumping with Allan Mitchell, Dressage with? @ Bendigo Pony Club grounds
July 31st	"C" certificate theory examination
August 1st	Rally
August 15th	Eventing clinic with Allan Mitchell venue TBA
August 21st & 22nd	"C" certificate riding exam
September 4th	Show jumping clinic with Allan Mitchell
September 5th	Rally
September 11th	Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds
September 12th	Bendigo Pony club EV affiliated Open Show
October 3rd	Rally
November 6th & 7th	Pony club camp & rally @ Bealiba Pony Club grounds
December 5th	Rally Christmas Break Up

D.Cs message February 2010

Hi Everyone,

Welcome back to Bendigo Pony Club for 2010. The horsey year started early for those of our members who represented our club on Pony Club day at this year's Melbourne Summer Royal Horse Show. Georgia Welch, Jaclyn Long, Samantha McIntyre, Shaleah Bray, Shannon Stone and the 3 Maud girls, Maddison, Morgan Rose and Montanna all rode beautifully and were so well presented. Your club is very proud of you.

It is a great effort to compete at Summer Royal amongst stiff competition and whilst a ribbon is the icing on the cake, just to take part is a major achievement. Well done to the support crews also, although Lisa & Daryl Maud get my 'Dedicated Parents' award as they had 3 daughters competing!

The Bendigo Pony Club 2010 calendar is in this month's newsletter. Please put the dates of all our competitions and working bees in your diaries. The dates for our Interschools competition this year are April 10th and 11th. The working bee is on April 9th. To ensure the success of the Interschools it is a requirement of Bendigo Pony Club membership that each family help out for a minimum of 4 hours over the Interschool weekend. If this commitment is difficult for you due to your child riding at the competition it is fine for you to organise another person to help in your place.

Emma Lea and Samuel Nielsen were chosen as emergency riders for the Midland Zone for the PCAV State Dressage and Show jumping Championships to be held next weekend in Sale. Samuel learned this week that he will be required to compete so we wish him the very best of luck and a safe trip.

The Stu Timms fund raising clinic run by our club at Mandurang South Pony Club grounds last weekend was a huge success in both fund raising and participant enjoyment. I was so grateful for the support from our fantastic club members who helped out by donating food and/or their time. We raised just over \$1500 to donate to Stu. Well done to everyone who helped with this worthy cause.

Remember to check the calendar for upcoming clinics as these training days are invaluable for those of you wanting to get out and compete at horse trials. The first competition for this year is at Glenlyon and I have heard on the grapevine that Hannah Mika and Rhylan O'Toole will be competing. Good luck girls... I will be there to cheer you on!

Any rider wanting to sit for their C certificate needs to let me know by February 18th. Riders need to be 12 or over and capable of jumping a maximum of 70cm. The rest of the C certificate criteria can be found at: http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/?Page=682&MenuID=Coaching-Education%2F10853%2Fo%2F%2CCertificates_and_Procedures%2F10838%2Fo%2F

Til next month,

HAPPY HORISING,

Sue

CLUBS THAT MAKE UP 'MIDLAND ZONE'

**Section A Hor-
sham, Stawell,
Ararat, Nhill,
Beaufort**

**Section B Charl-
ton, St Arnaud,
Donald, Hope-
toun**

**Section C
Bendigo, Neangar
Park, Spring
Gully, Mandurang
South**

**Section D
Bealiba, Mary-
borough, Castle-
maine, Harcourt,
Maldon, New-
stead**

Taking Care of Your Horse in Summer

- Thread a separate needle for each plait and fasten them in a row down the front of your shirt, you look like a pincushion but it makes the job much quicker, which also helps with a bored or awkward horse.
- Lightly coat blackened hoofs with hairspray for a better shine.
- A kitchen fork is good for removing the fluff from velcro.
- To get your stirrup leathers to wear evenly, swap them from left to right (and vice versa) every couple of weeks.
- Dental floss is great for making temporary repairs on rugs, halters etc.

Water

Water is top of the list for a very good reason, namely that a horse's body is made up of 70% water. One of the first things you probably learned as a horse owner is that horses need access to fresh, clean water at all times and this is especially important during summer.

Water is vital for fluid balance, tolerance for exercise and also helps digestion. Did you know studies have shown that restricting a horse's water intake for as little as two hours greatly increases the chance of colic?

Horses drink around 45 litres of water a day and this can increase by up to 40% during warm weather.

Excessive sweating or diarrhoea can cause your horse to become dehydrated, you can check for this by doing a pinch test. Pinch the skin in the middle of the horse's neck and pull it gently outwards, then release. If your horse isn't dehydrated, the skin will snap back into place straight away. Skin that takes 2-5 seconds to return to normal indicates mild dehydration, while skin that takes 10-15 seconds shows severe dehydration.

Other signs of dehydration or heat stress include sunken eyes, a tucked up appearance, heavy breathing and a rapid pulse. A horse's diet will also influence his water intake, hay requires more water to chew and swallow than grain, while grass (which has some water content) requires less.

When travelling, consider taking along some water from home in case your horse doesn't like to drink water that tastes different.

Shade

This is very close second to water when it comes to summer horse care. A lot of times you'll see horses grazing out in the blazing sun but they do have access to shade when they start getting too hot, or feel like a snooze. If there are no trees then you must provide some kind of shelter, the higher the roof the better air circulation will be. It can even have just a roof and no walls for optimum air flow. If you know a handyman, even a shade cloth with 80% sun block out would do, but it must be sturdy enough not to flap in the wind, otherwise your horse won't go near it. Trees with overhanging branches and thick foliage are ideal. Not so good are more upright growing trees like conifers, which may offer shade for only part of the day, depending on where the sun is. Your horse needs access to shade from dawn to dusk during summer.

Place some hay in the shade for him to eat if he wants as this helps his digestion moving along. It's also a good place to locate a salt and mineral lick.

Sunburn

Sunburn can be a big problem for horses, especially light coloured horses and anywhere the skin is pink underneath white markings. Common sunburn areas are the muzzle, eyes, ears, dock and sheath. You can use human sunscreen but it should be SPF 30+50 and applied regularly throughout the day for maximum protection.

Even zinc cream is okay to use, florescent zinc is good because you can tell at a glance how much has been rubbed off. Any cream can be tricky to keep on a horse's muzzle as it tends to get brushed off on grass. To overcome this problem you can use a muzzle protector which is a piece of material that attaches to the headstall and falls over the horse's nose.

“The best colour on a horse is fat.”

Worming

No matter what the season, worming is very important. It's so tempting to skimp on worming your horse because you can't see the bad stuff they're doing to your horse's insides. Worm your horse regularly, ask your vet for advice if in doubt. Don't forget to worm for bots in late summer. Pick up manure in your horse's paddock daily if you can and don't introduce any new horses until they've been wormed first. Try to worm according to your horse's weight, under worming is about the same as not worming at all.

Sweat

When horses (and people) sweat, the moisture produced by sweat glands in the skin evaporates, which helps cooling although this effect is reduced in humid conditions? Sweat contains water and salts (electrolytes) but a horse's sweat has 10 times more potassium, chloride, magnesium and calcium and excessive loss of electrolytes can affect your horse's health and performance.

A horse's endurance time can decrease by 25% during hot weather and 50% in humid weather, so stick to cooler morning or evening hours to ride during summer. Learn to recognise signs of heat stroke on horses which can not only happen in horses being worked, but also ones kept in hot, poorly ventilated stables or floats. Signs include weakness, not eating, rapid breathing and pulse and even collapse. Do the pinch test to check for dehydration. To rapidly cool an overheated horse, move him into shade and continually sponge all over with cold water, which will evaporate, cool him down and lower his body temperature. To help this, you can also use fans. Give your horse small, regular drinks of water until he's cooled down and showing signs of recovery. If in doubt, call a vet to give intravenous fluid and generally monitor things. If you have access to ice, place ice packs over the legs, head and neck. It was once thought only warm water should be used to cool hot horses however research during the 1996 Atlanta Olympics (where it was very hot and humid) showed that cold water and ice was safe and effective.

Flies

Flies and other pesky summer insects are a never ending battle. All you can do is try to minimize their irritating attack on your horse. Flies are attracted to moisture, which they need to complete their life cycle; this means your horse's eyes, nose, mouth and rear. Bot flies are a particular hassle as they buzz around laying yellow eggs on your horse's legs in late summer. They look a lot like bees and drive some sensitive horses crazy. They're most active in bright light, so try to keep your horse in a shady paddock if you have one. Remove the eggs as soon as you spot them, don't be slack and leave them to be licked by your horse to hatch in his stomach, where they can do untold damage. Many fly species carry the stomach worm, whose larvae travels from the fly's proboscis to the horse as the fly is obtaining moisture from the horse's eyes or lips. From there the larvae migrate through the horse doing internal damage along the way and is passed via manure to start the cycle over. To help control flies, pick up manure on a regular basis as many flies depend on it for survival. Protect your horses's face with a fly veil, either string or mesh, but these will need to be checked daily in case they slip. Make sure you have a couple of spares on hand in case your horse loses one.

“Having a lion on your back is way worse than a monkey”



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Bots

Latin Name: Gasterophilus species

Bots are strictly speaking not worms, but insect larvae of horse bot flies. They are the most common parasite of the stomach. Depending on the species, and there are several different types, the eggs are laid on the legs or around the muzzle of your horse.

Female adult bot flies resemble bees and are often a considerable annoyance to the horse when laying eggs.



After hatching, the larvae get into the horses mouth and burrow into the base of the tongue and below the gum line. After approximately a month in the mouth, during which they double in size, the bot larvae move on and attach themselves to the stomach lining where they develop into the full grown bots.

Bots can give rise to ulcers in the stomach wall and can even penetrate the wall with fatal results. It has recently been discovered that they will also attach themselves in clumps to the first part of the intestines causing similar problems. This poses a special danger for small breeds and to young horses whose stomach and intestines are likely to be thinner and more easily damaged.

Left untreated bots remain inside the horse until the spring when they pass out in the droppings. They then pupate underground until the adult flies emerge in the summer months and begin to lay their eggs: and the whole cycle starts again.

The first hard frost kills off the adult flies, no re-infection will take place over the winter.

Bots can affect horses of any age.