



SUMMERVELD EQUINE HOSPITAL

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CHRISTMAS *Edition 2015*

CHRISTMAS *Greetings*



Christmas time makes us grateful to you, our clients for putting your trust in our veterinarians.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your loyalty and patronage over the years.

Best wishes for peaceful festive season. May you and your horses be healthy and injury free.



In this Edition



Christmas Greetings

Interesting Case

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BLOOD TRANSFUSION TO SAVE *The Life of a New Born Foal*



Neonatal Isoerythrolysis (NI)

This 4 day old Thoroughbred colt foal was referred to us as he had been diagnosed with "Neonatal Isoerythrolysis" and urgently required a blood transfusion. Neonatal erythrolysis (NI) is a condition in newborn foals which manifests itself in the first few days of life. It is as a result of a discrepancy between the mare's blood and that of the foal, whereby the mare develops antibodies against the foal's blood type (Aa/Qa). The first milk/colostrum of a mare is full of these antibodies and thus becomes a problem when the foal drinks. The mare's antibodies destroy the foal's red blood cells and causes a severe, life-threatening anaemia and other potential complications.

This condition occurs in roughly 1-2% of foals. For this condition to occur- the foal inherits its blood type from its sire and then the mare has to become sensitized to the foal's blood type.

This is thought to occur via trans-placental haemorrhage during a previous pregnancy or if the mare has had a previous whole blood transfusion. These events then lead to the mare developing the antibodies against her foal's specific blood type. If this condition is detected at less than 24 hours of age, the foal should be prevented from dinking the mare's milk and fed with an appropriate milk replacer. Prevention is better than cure. If you know that a mare has had a transfusion or has had a previous foal with NI, the foal should be prevented from nursing from the mare for the first 48 hours and colostrum given from a donor mare.

This foal was in the advanced stages of anaemia and unfortunately required a life-saving blood transfusion. He developed some secondary complications and was on long term strong antibiotics and intermittent fluid therapy to prevent dehydration. He eventually made a full recovery and returned back to the stud farm, hopefully to become a successful racehorse in a few years.



LUCKY *Wins*

Dr Ralph Katzwinkel is fortunate to be involved in a few horses in training in both the Summerveld and the Ashburton training establishments. His biggest thrill has been with the 3 year old filly, SAME JURISDICTION, trained by Duncan Howells. She was champion 2 year old filly in KZN in 2014 and champion 3 year old filly in KZN in 2015. Let's hope her racing season in the Cape this summer will be successful and she continues to win in her true champion style.

Wendy Whitehead's filly FREESTATE has won 2 out of 2 races – one to watch!



FREESTATE



TEXAN COWBOY

Ralph recently got involved in the Tony Rivalland trained colt, TEXAN COWBOY and he won a convincing race in November 2015.

STAFF DETAILS *and Contact Information*

Please keep these numbers handy should you need to communicate with us by phone, fax or email: Tel: 031 769 1256 | Fax: 031 769 1229 | Email: equinevet@savets.co.za | Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/summerveld.equine.hospital>

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As we look FORWARD TO THE FUTURE
we wish our clients a Merry Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year

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