



Equine Hospital Admission Information

Veterinary Clinical Centre

(02) 6933 2604

Welcome

Thank you for entrusting us with the care of your horse. Our team is committed to providing the highest standard of veterinary care while maintaining the health and safety of all horses within the hospital. Depending on your horse's clinical signs, additional diagnostic testing and infection control measures may be required. These protocols are designed to identify infectious diseases early, protect you, our team, and horses, and ensure your horse receives the most appropriate treatment.

Routine Infectious Disease Screening

Certain clinical signs indicate an increased risk of infectious disease. If your horse is admitted with any of the following signs, standard infectious disease protocols will be initiated:

- Pyrexia (fever)
- Diarrhoea
- Colic
- Nasal discharge from both nostrils
- Ill newborn foal
- Acute neurological disease
- Other signs considered clinically suspicious by the attending veterinarian

Faecal Testing Protocol: Salmonella

Faecal samples will routinely be collected from horses with diarrhoea, pyrexia and/or colic for Salmonella testing during hospitalisation. Salmonella is a contagious pathogen that can also infect humans. This schedule may be modified depending on your horse's condition, test results, or the attending veterinarian's clinical judgement. Additional testing may be recommended where appropriate.

Neonatal Foals and Mares

All sick neonatal foals admitted to the hospital, together with the mare, undergo testing for ***Chlamydia psittici***. Testing includes **three swab samples** collected from the foal, the mare and/or appropriate tissues, as determined by the attending veterinarian. *Chlamydia psittici* is an important infectious disease that can affect foals and has the potential to infect people (zoonotic disease).

Infection Control

Our hospital maintains strict infection control procedures to protect every horse in our care. Depending on your horse's condition, management under isolation or enhanced infection control protocols might be required. This may include:

- Dedicated equipment and people
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Restricted movement within the hospital
- Additional diagnostic testing

These measures are implemented to protect your horse, other horses, our team, and visitors.

Isolation and Intensive Care

Horses stabled in the **Equine Isolation Facility (EIF)** have additional restrictions.

- Horses with confirmed or suspected infectious diseases cannot be visited inside the stable without prior approval from the **Senior Veterinarian** (via reception).
- Entry into isolation areas requires compliance with all hospital procedures, including the use of PPE where required.
- Visits may be modified, delayed or declined if these interfere with horse care or pose a risk to infection control.
- All visits remain subject to veterinarian and/or nursing staff availability.

We appreciate your understanding that horse welfare and hospital infection control must always remain our highest priority.

Visiting Hours

We understand that owners wish to visit their horses during hospitalisation.

Routine visiting **MUST** be prearranged with reception. Hours are:

Monday to Friday
10:00 am – 4:30 pm

Visits outside these hours are generally not available unless specifically arranged with the treating veterinarian.

Communication During Hospitalisation

Our veterinarians are committed to keeping you informed throughout your horse's stay.

You can expect:

- **A minimum of one telephone update each day** from your horse's veterinarian.
- **A second daily update may be provided when clinical workload permits.**
- **On weekends and public holidays, one daily update should be expected which may come in the form of a text message.**

Please understand that our veterinarians spend much of their days treating critically ill horses, performing procedures and responding to emergencies. While we always aim to communicate as frequently as possible, patient care must remain our primary focus.

If there is any major change in your horse's condition, or an important decision regarding treatment needs to be made, we will contact you as soon as practicable.

Discharge Expectations

When your horse is ready for discharge, the treating veterinarian will discuss the discharge process and any ongoing care requirements with you. A discharge statement will be provided.

Discharge times are generally:

- **Monday to Friday: 10:00 am – 4:30 pm**
- Discharge outside these hours is not available unless specifically arranged with the treating veterinarian.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Your support of our hospital's infection control and communication protocols helps us provide safe, efficient and high-quality care for every horse entrusted to us.