



Welcome to Pacific Vetcare Equine Surgery

We are extremely proud of our purpose built and architecturally designed equine facilities here at Pacific Vetcare which enable us to provide horse owners with the opportunity to receive expert treatment from specialist surgeons and our own veterinarians. The equine procedures we perform here at Pacific Vetcare range from x-rays and ultrasounds to arthroscopies and eye surgeries. In order to ensure you and your horse are fully prepared for your visit we have put together a guide which we trust will be of assistance to you.

BEFORE SURGERY DAY

The following is a list of pre-operative/procedure requirements we have for you as owners;

- Where your horse will be requiring a general anaesthetic please ensure you remove all shoes from your horse.
- Ideally racehorses should be off the track for at least 3 weeks prior to a surgery (unless emergency) and should not be on a high grain diet.
- If possible please wash your horse the day before surgery/procedure to remove excess dirt and/or mud.
- Please do not feed any hay the night before surgery/procedure.
- Your horse should be fed no later than 7pm the night before surgery/procedure and no other food is to be given after this time including hay.
- Please take water away as early as possible the morning of the surgery/procedure.
- If your horse is staying in our care post surgery, feed will be provided. There is no need to bring your own unless your horse is a fussy eater.
- If your foal is coming in for surgery or a procedure the mare can be fed as usual.

SURGERY DAY

- Due to a limited number of stables and to ensure efficient coordination of surgeries and/or procedures throughout the day please arrive at our clinic at the specified time you have been given.
- On arrival at the clinic **do not** unload your horse until you have reported to reception. After you have checked in at reception a nurse will then help you unload your horse and allocate a stable for it.
- Once your horse is in a stable a nurse or veterinarian will give you a surgery/procedure consent form to read and complete. Please ensure you read this form carefully and don't hesitate to ask the nurse or veterinarian if you have any questions or concerns.
- If your horse is currently on any medication please inform a nurse or the veterinarian as soon as possible. Please also ensure you make a nurse or the vet aware of your horse's tetanus status.
- Please advise nurse/vet if you have brought x-rays
- A veterinarian will speak to you post surgery to explain how the surgery went and also any ongoing medications and the after care routine.

- After the surgery or procedure, please **do not** load your horse back on to the truck or float without the assistance of a nurse or veterinarian.
- If your horse is required to stay for post operative treatment they will not be staying on our premises unless otherwise arranged. We have stables at the Coffs Harbour Racetrack for this purpose. Once your horse has satisfactorily recovered from the anaesthetic you will be required to transport your horse to the racetrack. It is approximately 5 minutes drive from our clinic.
- We appreciate surgery/procedure days can be stressful for owners as well as their horses. We also find that owners are naturally curious of what is being done to their horse so to alleviate some of this stress and satisfy curiosity we have an “open door” policy so owners can view some surgeries or procedures at the discretion of the treating veterinarian. However, we ask that numbers be kept to a strict minimum (maximum two owners per horse).
- To occupy you whilst your horse is undergoing surgery or being treated there is a small shopping complex called the Promenade which is located across the main road from our clinic. It has a selection of shops as well as our recommendation for refreshments, Mangroves Jacks which is great for coffee and/or lunch.

POST SURGERY

- If required you will need to transport your horse to the race track where we have an allocated number of stables. A nurse will also drive to the race track, show you the way to the stable block and will assist you with unloading and stabling.
- Whilst being stabled at the racetrack feed will be provided for your horse during the post-operative treatment phase.
- Your horse will be checked by a Veterinarian or Nurse before the close of business on the surgery day (if required).
- Medications and/or bandaging will be done by a vet and/or nurse team twice daily until discharge (dependant upon each case).
- You will be updated on your horse’s progress daily.
- Discharge instructions and medications will be given accordingly along with surgeon’s plan for recovery.
- After discharge if there any problems or questions please call us immediately e.g. suture breakdown, excessive oozing from wound, swelling, bandages slipping.
- We appreciate hearing how your horse has recovered and passing on this feedback to the specialist surgeons so please keep us informed of progress.