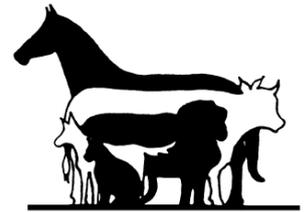


Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic



334 Main Creek Rd
Main Ridge, Vic.
3928

Phone (03) 5989 6232
Fax (03) 5989 6366

Dr Tim White BVSc
Dr Kristin Wolfe B.Ag.Sc, BVSc (Hons.)
Dr Colin Trott BVSc MANZCVS (Sm. Animal Surgery)
Dr Ben McCubbin BVSc (Hons.) MANZCVS (Eq. Surgery)
Dr Jade Morris BVSc
Dr. Annabelle Paffett BSc DVM
Veterinary Surgeons

September 2018 - Premature foal “Ziggy”

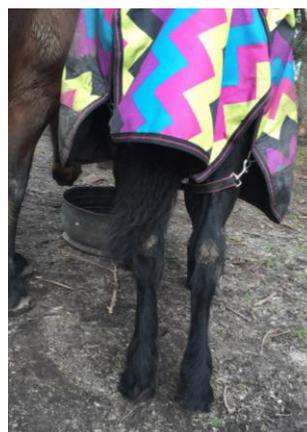
This is Ziggy.



Ziggy is a happy and healthy 9month old Friesian colt. He had a bit of a rough start however, because he was born 3 weeks premature. That might not sound like much when you consider how long a mare’s gestation is, but it can be very significant!

Foals can have some serious complications when they are premature. One complication is “dummy foal syndrome” which can result from a lack of oxygen during the birthing process or from an underdeveloped brain. This can result in many symptoms, one of which is the inability to drink or suckle from the mare.

Another serious complication is underdeveloped bones, particularly in the small or “cuboidal” bones of joints such as the carpus (knee) or tarsus (hock). The cartilage building blocks for the bones are present, however they have varying degrees of ossification or hardness. This means they can easily be squashed or damaged, resulting in malformations and limb deformities.

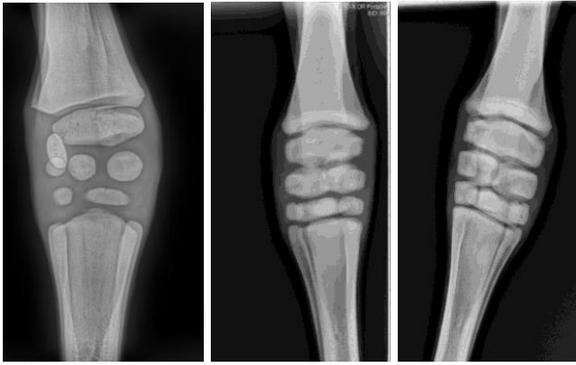


Ziggy suffered from both of these conditions at birth.

This meant he was hospitalised for several weeks, with a feeding tube initially, until he learnt to feed for himself. He also had his legs and underdeveloped bones protected with casts and splints. These splints were

Left to right; Ziggy in hospital, leg splint, hindlegs after treatment

regularly changed and monitored, and his legs re-x-rayed to monitor his progress weekly.



Carpus (knee) (Left image; week 1, middle; week 3, right week 4)

In the pictures above and below you can see the change over several weeks from weak legs with underdeveloped bones and angular limb deformation, to greatly improved ossification of bones and beautiful straight legs.



Tarsus (hock) (Images from left to right; week 1, week 2, week 3, week 4)

With good management and early intervention, Ziggy is now a beautiful and athletic young gelding.

If you have any questions about Ziggy, premature foals or any other veterinary queries, please contact the Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic.