

Vision testing in horses

Vision is one of the most important senses in horses. Their visual accuracy is higher than many land-based animals.

As horse owners we often require a high level of visual performance from our horses. They are asked to negotiate jumping courses, uneven terrain and often at high speeds, whilst carrying a rider.

Visual impairment in one or both eyes is a potential cause for bad behaviour, difficulties with training and/or poor performance in horses.

South Wairarapa Vet's Equine Team in conjunction with Dr Kellam Bayley (Registered specialist in Veterinary Ophthalmology) have developed a vision testing service suitable for all horses.

We use a variety of different assessment to identify visual issues along with any other eye abnormalities. The vision assessment testing includes but is not limited to:

- Gait assessment
- Maze testing using high and low contrast obstacles
- Light reflex testing with various coloured lights
- Retinoscopy (testing the eye's ability to focus)
- Microscopic examination for cataracts
- Examination of the retina and optic nerve

Following examination, a comprehensive certificate is provided detailing the findings along with photographic recording for future reference.

To make a booking or for further information please call SWVets on 063770461 or equine@swvets.co.nz.



Additional information about the referral services provided by Dr Kellam Bayley for companion animals and horses can be found at www.vosvet.co.nz.