

# THE WATERFORD TIMES

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

July 2012

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter, which we have changed to a monthly instead of weekly publication. We hope you enjoyed the first newsletter last month and that the wait for this one hasn't been too long! As always life at Waterford has been busy – even during 'quiet' times of the year things are always happening and there is never a dull moment.

We have now finished weaning all our foals, and just in time for the new foals that are already starting to arrive! We have had two babies born this last week, a chestnut Arab colt and a black Shire X Thoroughbred filly, which both arrived safe and sound.



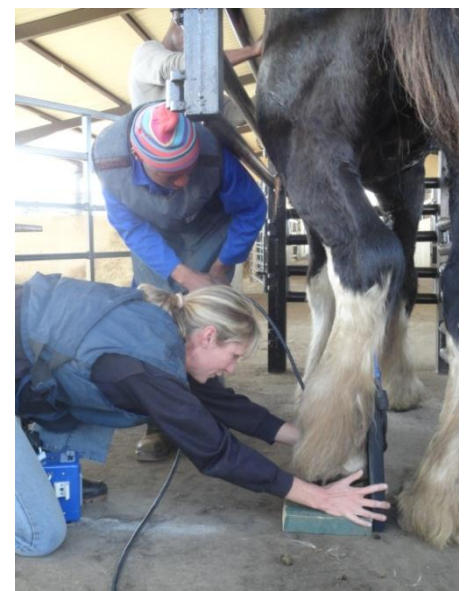
*Arab colt born 23 July 2012*



*Shire filly born 26 July 2012*

## VETERINARY MATTERS

A few weeks ago we were lucky to have Dr Helen Tiffin from Bosch Hoek Equine Hospital visit us to x-ray the foot of Ironman, one of our Shire stallions. Ironman hurt himself some time ago, and because of his massive size it has been difficult to accurately identify the cause of the problem. With Dr Tiffin's machine she was able to x-ray and get a clearer picture, and it seems that he has done some damage to his pastern joint. There doesn't seem to be much we can do for him at the moment but he is not in too much discomfort and we will continue to monitor his situation.



## WILDILIFE AT WATERFORD

During the week of the 9<sup>th</sup> July we had Sonja Kruger from Ezemvelo Wildlife, along with visiting researcher Carmen Contreras from Spain, staying at Waterford for several days to capture and tag some of our Bearded Vultures. This was part of an ongoing project that Ezemvelo has running with Waterford, which has successfully captured and put satellite transmitters on 15 of our Bearded Vultures over the last few years. Unfortunately this year, despite the large number of birds in the area, the team were unsuccessful in capturing any.



*Visiting Vulture researcher Carmen Conteras from Spain with Dr Pete Dommett, on a drive around the farm*



*Cape Vultures*



*Jackal and Vultures often compete for food, here we see the Jackal chasing the Vulture away*

## HAPPY HOMES

Several of our horses went off to new homes earlier this month. We said goodbye to Waterford Red and Waterford Chief, who are both on their way to Botswana to join the team of horses at Pitsani Game Reserve. Owner Bruce Petty has a number of Waterford horses and they are all doing fantastically up there, as their calm temperament makes them the perfect horse for going out into the bush to view game. They are quiet and sensible and much loved by their riders and owners. We look forward to seeing some pictures of their adventures.

Another two draught horses have also left us— Dynamite and Clyde went off to Gauteng and Bloemfontein respectively. Dynamite was fitted with his new working harness before departure, and we know that they will both do us proud in their new homes.





*Waterford Dynamite the day before departing for his new home in Bloemfontein*



*Waterford Clyde going happily into the box*



*Dynamite following close behind*



*2 in a 3-berth horsebox – a bit of a tight squeeze but they're in!*

We love to hear news of how our horses fare in their new homes, and a wonderful email was received from Sarah Hoal who purchased Waterford Abigail some time ago. Sarah and Abby are doing dressage and as you can see from the photos Abby is a natural! We encourage any of you who may own Waterford horses to please send us photos and news of how they are doing, so that we can share it on our website.



*Sarah Hoal and Waterford Abigail*

### GETTING CONNECTED

Waterford now has its very own Facebook page, which is updated on a daily basis with news and photos from around the farm. We have already reached Draught horse fans from all over the world, and encourage you to view our page and feel free to add comments of your own! The page can be found at [www.facebook.com/WaterfordFarmSA](http://www.facebook.com/WaterfordFarmSA).



We have also recently updated the website with new photos of colts for sale, as well as some other interesting additions such as contact details for the service providers we use, and the Stud and Breeder's Societies.

### AND FINALLY...

We wish Dr Pete Dommatt all the best as he travels to China and then Mongolia next week, to take part in the Mongol Derby, in the role of veterinarian. For those of you who have not heard of it before, the Mongol Derby is "the longest, toughest horse race in the world" in which participants cover a distance of 1000km across the Mongolian steppe, riding Mongolian horses owned and "trained" by local residents. Pete will be attending as one of several veterinarians, four of which are from South Africa. There are very strict veterinary controls in place in order to safeguard the well-being of all the horses, so Pete and his colleagues will have their work cut out for them ensuring that the horses are well-looked after before, during and after being ridden. We hope you have a wonderful time Pete, and come back safely!

Until next month,

From the Waterford Family