

## **NEW OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS MARE EXAMINATION**

OH and S Guidelines have caused Tatura Veterinary Clinics to adopt a new policy for mare examination, which reads as follows:

**“All reproductive ultrasound examinations on mares must take place in a suitably designed and secure examination crush. No examination, rectal or otherwise, should be performed if the individual veterinarian feels himself or herself to be at risk.”**

There is an obligation on both Tatura Veterinary clinic and horse owners to provide a safe workplace. This policy will mean that owners will have to **provide a suitable facility, or transport the mare to the clinic**. Installing a crush is a relatively straightforward process, and will pay dividends in terms of convenience, piece of mind, and quality of work. It is important to consider a few key points before installing a crush. We would be happy to offer advice or help.

- The crush should be safe and secure, and of the correct dimensions.
- Ultrasound examination must be performed in subdued light, preferably inside a building
- The crush should have clear access from the rear, and preferably both sides at the back.
- Power and cold water should be on hand.
- Walk-through crushes work best

The standard mare crushes at Tatura and Campaspe have served us well.

The measurements are listed below:

**Height at sides: 1200 mm**  
**Height of rear gate: 950 mm**  
**Width: 700 mm (internal)**  
**Length: 1800 mm (internal)**

A stud breeding predominantly large mares might increase the front and side walls, but this rear gate height has worked well for mares of all sizes, and should NOT be increased.

If you require help, Mr Greg Smith of C. and N. Trading, (02) 4571 1944, 0418 643765, has assisted some of our clients, and would be happy to take your call

**Crush prices from \$550.00** and his freight charges are very reasonable.

