

TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL JANUARY NEWSLETTER

47 Chatham Avenue, Taree, NSW, 2430
P: (02) 6552 2633 F: (02) 6551 0631
E: tarvet@tpgi.com.au

Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar
Renate Barrier Sarah Jones Bree Moloney
Damian Smith

The new year has started with welcome rain and not so welcome scorching heat. And some mud crabs. Although I suspect there's been a bit of share farming crabs in the Lansdowne. And the next newsletter will come from Hat Head!

In previous years I have written plenty about heat stress in cows, and its relationship to temperature and humidity, across Jan/Feb/Mar. It also applies to bulls and semen quality. Morning AIs have better conception rates, and one of the reasons is cows are cooler. Many yards have shade cloth and sprinklers to help.

We will also see lots of biting insects, potentially carrying 3 Day Sickness, Akabane and pinkeye, and include buffalo fly. So stock up on Arrest or chemical back ropes.

In the latest cattle vet journal there's a good article on mineral deficiency, particularly phosphorus and the hind limb weakness and knuckling we sometimes see locally. The farm was similar to here, and they saw up to half a dozen cows knuckling at any one time, mostly in cows 80-120d in milk. They were being fed 9 kg of concentrates with a small amount (1 kg) of limestone and 2.8 g of magnesium oxide, plus a buffer and salt, per day.

Blood testing for phosphorus deficiency can be affected by many factors making it not always accurate. Dietary analysis was done and at 22 l/d there was an excess of dietary P, at 40 l/d 97% of the requirement was met, but at 45 l/d it dropped to 91%. A similar drop in calcium also occurred. They increased dietary salt, calcium and phosphorus and in the 8 months since haven't had a case, and the affected cows resolved within days of the new ration.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
eye cancers
prolapses
lamenesses
bull with laceration to sheath
so far. We are concerned the growth plate is affected and the limb will heal, but grow with a deviation, so we won't know for a while.

Horse Diseases of the Month

colics

corneal ulcers

cuts

big head - young horse, 3 yo, on setaria

and kikuyu, with no calcium

supplementation.

cellulitis

laminitis !

tooth root abscess

scanned a twin in the one vesicle. Normally

twins will be from two ovulations. At the

initial 18d scan it was noted the vesicle

measured larger than expected, but the

mare had been served on several

occasions. When she was scanned at 33d

there was one vesicle with two foetuses,

with heart beats. One measured smaller

than the other and it will probably resorb.

And in the Horses.....

We have had two cases of ulcers

recently. One in an endurance horse and

the other in a pony, not the usual racing

thoroughbred on a high concentrate feed. It

can be a hard condition to diagnose,

through blood tests, and then gastroscopy.

When the ulcers are obvious it's easy, but

they can occur outside of the stomach.

Failure to thrive despite being on good

feed, over a long period, is the usual

problem. Sometimes there's a low grade

colic.

Treatment is usually with

gastroprotectants for several weeks and is

very successful.

Biting insects also affect horses,

causing allergic skin reactions,

Habronemiasis and Ross River Fever.

Habronema is a fly larva that's laid most

commonly in the inside corner of the eye

and on the penis. You get a small skin ulcer

that only resolves with repeated worming

with 'mectin type drenches, and fly

repellents.

Every year see a few cases likely to be

Ross River fever, where the horse will be

stiff legged, respond well to

antiinflammatories and be antibody positive

to RRF.

Brute, Arrest and Permethrin are the best

repellents.

RUN DATES FOR JANUARY

LANDOWNE.....THURS 4TH

OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....TUES 9TH

HANNAM VALE.....THURS 11TH

DYER'S CROSSING.....TUES 16TH

WINGHAM.....THURS 18TH

LORNE/COMBOYNE.....TUES 23RD

COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH.....THURS 25TH