
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

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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 (11g) 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

bull calf with a broken leg, cast successfully 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.

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. Habronaema 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.

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.

RUN DATES FOR JANUARY

LANSDOWNE.....	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