
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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This newsletter comes from sunny Hat Head and it's even dry here. Unless you have jagged a storm it is very dry, especially in the western areas of our practice, with some farms running out of water. The rain has only been very coastal. Some areas are in drought and others are making silage.

The hot weather has been influencing conception rates, and when you do the numbers in summer per cycle rates can drop to 25%. ET flushes are never much fun in January, but we did get some good results in beef cattle, but also had a lot of

unfertilised eggs, even with two AIs. Very frustrating.

Morning only AIs when it's cooler, and the use of high fertility bulls may help increase conception rates. Or don't mate cows at all in the hot, humid months. Hold some heifers back to fill the anticipated lack of cows calving and have bulls mating heifers now. Or change to batch mating/calving to avoid this time of year. This is not easy but we have several clients who have been doing it successfully for a long time. And use cheaper straws when it's hot and conception rates are low.

Running bulls with the cows or putting in season cows into a bull paddock is also a possibility, but bull fertility can suffer in summer and services must be recorded and returns monitored.

Castration in the summer is always a problem. Cutting, applying a ring or burdizzo are the usual methods. Cutting has less long term pain than rings, but there's a risk of bleeding and death, especially when Theileria is an issue. Rings cause the most long term pain but nothing bleeds or gets infected. Burdizzo castration, where the cord is crushed and the testis shrinks, has the most operator error and is not 100% effective as are the other methods. Some farmers are using meloxicam, an anti-inflammatory, for pain relief, and fly pour-ons to help recovery and improve weight gain.

I've not heard any reports of 3 Day from further north, but some buffalo fly have been seen here.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

- calvings
- eye cancers and pink eye
- prolapses
- blood wart on a pastern
- lamenesses
- bull with laceration to sheath, causing a nasty twist

And in the Horses.....

I saw a foal last month with both forelimbs bent outwards from the knee down. This is fairly common in young foals, particularly in thoroughbreds and warmbloods, and as the tendons stretch and the legs bear weight they soon correct themselves. However, this foal is a stock horse and is a little older now. The deviation can come from the growth plate or bones in the knee can be malformed. X-rays are needed for diagnosis, and if the growth plate is the problem surgery can be done to fix it while still growing.

Now is also the time to fix umbilical hernias in foals. The size of the hernia is roughly measured by the number of fingers you can push into it. One to two finger hernias mostly don't need fixing, but three and four finger ones do.

Had two horses this month with weight loss, despite good appetites and diet. Protein has to go somewhere and in these cases it can be lost in the gastrointestinal tract, out through the kidneys, into the chest, or other causes such as tumours,

worms etc. The first step in investigating these cases is blood tests, faecal tests and sometimes ultrasound, then possible referral.

One of the horses has chronic cow pat diarrhoea, so presumably that's where he is losing his protein from. This can be treated, and cured ! The other horse has had her diet improved and then she will be reassessed.

Horse Diseases of the Month

- colics
- haematoma
- cuts
- Habronema, lesions on penis and eyes
- foal with deviated fore limbs
- Old itch
- tooth root abscess
- lamenesses

RUN DATES FOR FEBRUARY	
LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 1ST
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 6TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 8TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 13TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 15TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 20TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 22ND