
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Thank goodness it's rained. A few weeks ago we were getting desperate and now we are making silage. Who'd have thought of bloat a month ago.

During the drought we twice diagnosed liver fluke. You'd normally think of fluke in wet areas and conditions, but in both cases the stock were forced to water at specific spots, so there was an increased stock density. The first case was a bull with weight loss, no diarrhoea. In the second case it was a cow affected. She was thinner than the rest of the herd and had chronic diarrhoea. She was positive on

faecal and blood testing. Faecal testing is not very accurate but the blood test is. Neither property is swampy, and I think liver fluke is more widespread than we think.

Joint infections in calves can be very hard to cure, because antibiotics don't penetrate pus or joints well. They can be caused by rubbing on concrete, or spread via blood supply to the joint if the calf has scours, or an infected navel. The trick is to treat early with antibiotics when lameness or swelling is first seen. If you have a calf with multiple swollen joints keep in mind it could be an Akabane calf at this time of year, not bacterial infections, as the deformed calves are the result of infection back in summer.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
calvings
eye cancers
down cows, phosphorus deficiency
lamenesses
blackleg
liver fluke
left displaced abomasum
theileria

tick paralysis in calves - if calves are in a tick infested area you can put Easy Dose on them down to day old, and it will give nearly a month's tick prevention.

Spring is the time to vaccinate for 5 or 7 in 1, and 3 Day, Pink Eye, and to start thinking about fly prevention. Buffalo fly has been spotted already!

Tri-Solfen is a pain relief gel spray developed for mulesing and tail docking in sheep. It is now registered as an open seller for castration and dehorning in calves, and contains local anaesthetic, adrenalin and antiseptic. Along with Bucalgesic its use improves calf welfare.

And in the Horses.....

As the stud season rolls on we have been doing some semen collections, which always involves tricky transport logistics. Research by Newcastle Uni and Scone Equine Group hopefully will change this in the near future. A technique and medium to transport sperm at room temperature for 7 days is being developed, which will simplify transport and insemination programmes. And so far results are amazingly good, with no bacterial growth and sperm motility maintained.

Rectovaginal tears or fistulas can occur at foaling, and we've had one serious one this season. They are usually not able to be stitched at the time because of the amount of tissue trauma and contamination. When healed 3 months later they can be assessed for repair, especially if future foals are planned. Mostly they need to be referred for specialist surgery and can take a few procedures to fix.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts and Colics

eye ulcers

eye squamous cell carcinoma removal

lamenesses

Foaling

sarcoid

foal with a broken elbow - kicked by its own mother, an undisplaced fracture that should heal with box rest

thyroid adenoma - this horse had a mass slowly develop at the corner of its jaw, where there is a lymph node, a salivary gland and the thyroid.

foals born with angular limb deformities - these mostly respond to confinement, then hoof trimming, and later on surgery.

RUN DATES FOR NOVEMBER	
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