
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MARCH NEWSLETTER

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Still, small showers is all the rain we've been getting. The areas that have been lucky enough to be under these look ok, but much of our region is very short of feed. Hopefully this will turn around soon.

Looking well ahead now, if you don't want to be calving cows over Christmas and New Year, don't mate between March 12th and April 1.

We have had several cases of grain poisoning this month. These cattle were on grain but through mechanical problems with the feeder they managed to eat an excess. There was also bicarb in the ration as a preventative. Once concentrates

exceed 50% of dry matter intake rumen acidosis can be a problem. With individual cows bicarb will aid in increasing the rumen pH, and paraffin oil will help reduce acid absorption. If available, hay or silage should also be fed.

We had a case of atresia ani in a dairy heifer calf this month. This is where they are born without an anus, and the atresia, or failure to develop, can extend to the colon. In this calf you could imagine a dot on the skin where the anus should be, and when it was straining to defaecate a bit of a bulge could be seen. So a new anus was made and dissected down to the rectum, which was attached to the skin. It will be a while before we know if adequate function will be there, or if it will break down due to infection. Sometimes these are as simple as puncturing a skin membrane, but this one was more involved.

Still on calves there have been some abnormal calves born this month, that we have put down to Akabane infection. Bloods will be taken from the mothers and we'll see if that is the cause.

There has been more environmental mastitis this month with the lab coming up with a few new bugs. Sometimes these are old ones renamed, just to confuse us, but also some are newly identified emerging mastitis pathogens.

In January I talked about heat stress on milkers. Heat stress in dry cows is also significant. In an experiment in the Journal of Dairy Science, one group of dry cows were cooled and the other not cooled in the last six weeks of pregnancy. The hot group calves were 5.7 kg lighter at birth, which

they caught up by first calving. Hot calves had a 20% higher mortality rate up to first calving, possibly due to less colostrum uptake and reduced immunity. Then, those hot heifers produced less milk in their first lactation.

There will be a burst of new knowledge in the newsletter next month as I am going to the Cattle Vets conference in March.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
eye cancers
pink eye
prolapses, only vaginal this month.
lame cows
steer dying, lymphoma diagnosed on post mortem

And in the Horses.....

Umbilical hernias are mostly genetic, but can sometimes be acquired. We normally measure them in number of fingers that you can poke into the abdomen when reducing the hernia. Small one or two finger hernias may not need repair, or can have the skin tightened over them. Larger hernias generally need repair under GA, preferably before 12 mths old. The hernia stays the same size, so a one finger hernia in a 100kg foal will be relatively smaller by the time it is 450 kg. Repair is mainly for cosmetic reasons except for the larger ones. If you have really big fingers the prognosis is better !

Horse diseases of the month
Cuts and Colics
lamenesses
foot abscesses !
sarcoids
Queensland itch
aural haematoma
Cut pastern, cutting in to the Superficial digital flexor tendon

We had a big warmblood mare possibly with gastric ulcers, so Ranvet the drug company set up their 3m scope for us. There were no ulcers and we needed all of the 3 metres length to get to the small intestine.

RUN DATES FOR MARCH

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 7TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 12TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 14TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 19TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 21ST
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 26TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 28TH

