
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

APRIL NEWSLETTER

49 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 Barnier Sarah Jones Tara Gillis

Things have certainly changed since the last newsletter due to Coronavirus. I know we have short memories and we'd all like things to get back to normal, but I think the effects of this will be profound.

Fortunately for us we can still remain open and operate the practice. In the UK and US practices have been made emergency only with large animal work exempted, as long as they follow the rules for contact. We have split the staff into two separate teams so if someone gets infected the other half can take over, and Stuart is on the road permanently.

In the last ACV journal there is a good article on heifer teat conditions in Australia. Teat seals were given to heifers 4-8 weeks prior to calving to reduce clinical and subclinical mastitis. Of over 10,000 heifers, 46 had mastitis in one quarter pre calving, and 178 heifers had blind quarters and 15 had more than one quarter blind. I think those last stats are quite high. There was no information on fly control use, time of year or breed.

There have been lots of 3 Day Sickness cases this month, not surprising considering the number of mozzies. Antiinflammatories are very similar for their analgesia but quite different in their length of activity and withholding periods. An example is Meloxicam treated cows' milk cannot be fed to calves, presumably because it may affect their kidneys. So Key - ketoprofen - is the preferred anti-inflammatory for beef or dairy cows, and meloxicam for bulls, steers and heifers.

Pink Eye has been severe since the rain. Piligard vaccine has again proved its worth. One farmer had three groups of calves totalling 120. Two groups of 40 were vaccinated, and there were 2 cases. The other group of 40 was not vaccinated and there were 20 cases. All calves were treated with Demize as well.

We have had several cases of Woody Tongue. This is an infection that we see on farms that have lots of flood country because the bacteria survive in wet conditions better. Drooling and weight loss are the symptoms, and the tongue is usually fibrous, inflexible and hard. It is

treatable with antibiotics but can be hard to cure.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
prolapses , vaginal and uterine
eye cancers
lame cows
vibrio

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts and Colics
eye ulcer
foot abscesses
Qld itch
gelding with abdominal testis
laminitis

To all our clients, there has never been a better time to be isolated on a farm. Just take care and stay positive and healthy.

And in the Horses.....

The wet weather has seen a huge number of foot abscesses. They occur when bacteria gain entry beneath the hoof through hoof wall or sole cracks. And hooves are a lot softer than they were two months ago.

Mostly these can either be drained through the solar wall or they burst out through the coronet. Antibiotics are mostly not necessary, unless the horse gets sick or the swelling goes up the leg. This month we had an unusual case of a horse with a bad foot abscess that became septicaemic and all four limbs swelled. This horse was treated with a combination of antibiotics as well as antiinflammatories.

Another unusual case is a pony with a fast growing mass in the corner of her eye. This was biopsied and still the diagnosis is uncertain, but most likely it's habronemiasis. This is a reaction to a fly larva that is laid under the skin. It should respond to worming with a 'mectin paste.

RUN DATES FOR APRIL

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 2ND
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 7TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 9TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 14TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 16TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 21ST
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 23RD