
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

MARCH NEWSLETTER

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Well it sure did rain. Flooded in for a day here at Moto in fact. And the black beetles and mozzies ! Forget the mandarin comp, we should have a summer mozzie competition. So far I think Kundle Kundle has the biggest and most numerous and is impossible to beat. Or have a highest price for cattle competition ! It will be interesting to see if we get some 3 Day and Akabane in cattle and Ross River fever in horses after this.

There have been cases the LLS has seen of kikuyu and pig weed (nitrate) toxicity following the rain and rapid growth

of grass and weeds. The risk is always greater in unadapted cattle. Probably now the risk of kikuyu poisoning from this rain is over as the grass matures. High nitrates and potassium in fresh kikuyu, resulting in a rumenitis and an inability to absorb fluid, are factors in how the grass becomes toxic. But there must be something else, such as a fungal toxin, to account for the fact that not all kikuyu or pasture becomes toxic. This is the subject of ongoing research.

If you want a good break from cows calving over Xmas don't AI between 12/3 and 1/4.

Off label use of antibiotics is not that unusual and is permissible if there is acceptable scientific data behind it. However, with intramammaries there is no leeway in usage because milk is destined for human consumption, and there is little to no data on withholding periods outside those that are on the label. One farmer this month used some LC in a cow to be dried off because he knew she was going to calve soon, too soon for normal dry cow to be effective and out of the system and udder. You'd think the lactating intramammary, being short acting, would break down quickly. The antibiotic is also normally removed quickly in the milk, so when it is left in an udder it behaves unpredictably. Also, new antibiotic residue testing technology is more sensitive.

Double dosing with intramuscular injections also changes the meat withholding period.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
prolapses , vaginal
eye cancers
navel infection

And in the Horses.....

The case of Swamp Cancer - Pithyosis - that I described last month is going really well, with the mass reducing dramatically after the first two vaccines. The only side effect has been a strong local vaccine reaction on the neck. We're hoping for full resolution of the Pithyosis infection so that surgery won't be necessary.

Ethmoid haematomas are a type of tumour in the nose that causes intermittent and sometimes spectacular nosebleeds. They are treatable and sometimes curable by injecting formalin into the mass via tubing passed along the endoscope. We have one this month and it will have several treatments in the next few months.

This month we had two broken legs in adult horses, both probably from kicks. One of these horses however was on a diet of setaria and kikuyu without any calcium supplementation, so it is possible this horse had fragile bones. There are all sorts of calcium and phosphorus supplements available ranging from dolomite to lick blocks.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts and Colics
choke
eye ulcer
foot abscess
rock implanted in sole - very lame horse !
Ethmoid haematoma - type of tumour in the nose
broken legs
sarcoïd removal
weight loss

RUN DATES FOR MARCH

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 5TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 10TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 12TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 17TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 19TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 24TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 26TH