TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

This year has been the worst year for mandarins since the start of the mandarin competition way back when. I suppose it was the drought, or flood, or lack of cold weather, or Covid, or all of the above. There will be a prize but it might have an asterix next to it like the AFL and NRL seasons. More importantly milk prices are good as are cattle prices.

We occasionally see left displaced abomasums in dairy cows. The abomasum normally lies on the right side and can slip up the left side of the rumen. This causes poor digestion, then a drop in milk production over a month and can be corrected surgically. However, right displaced abomasums are less common, and involve the abomasum twisting, so are usually more acute and severe. We had one this month that was successfully derotated surgically and sutured in place to prevent recurrence.

We had two milk fever cases this month, one was on rye grass and the other lead fed on dairy meal. Springer pellets or anionic salts are the best dry cow preventative for milk fever. However, some of our farmers have their own ideas on this, such as adding calcium chloride to the springers' water troughs, which works well.

After the last few days summer seems very close. Piligard, the Pinkeye vaccine, should be given late spring. It is very effective, along with insecticidal pour ons. 5 or 7 in 1 vaccine is also best given in spring to protect against Blackleg and pulpy kidney among others. Then 3 Day Sickness vaccine in December. All these vaccines are very cost effective.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

milk fever

interdigital fibroma - removed from between a bull's toes. Often recur.

right displaced abomasum

calvings

prolapses , vaginal and uterine

eye cancers

lame cows

teat pea removal

corkscrew penis - this bull two years ago had 20% empty, then last year none in calf.

When the electroejaculator was applied his penis deviated and corkscrewed to the right.

And in the Horses......

Two foalings this month were red bag deliveries. This is where the placenta separates from the uterus and precedes the foal being delivered. This means the foal is receiving reduced or no blood supply from the mare, so it will try to breathe while still in the uterus. Often these foals have problems because of this hypoxia, depending on how promptly the foal was delivered and if the placenta was partially or wholly separated. Placentitis can be a cause but mostly the cause is unknown.

This sort of delivery is an emergency. The placenta must be ruptured and the foal assisted out immediately. Of the two this month both were delivered quickly, one died a day later and the other is normal.

We are expecting delays in interstate semen deliveries due to reduced overnight freight. This will make AI this season difficult for some. The semen extender that keeps sperm alive for a week will possibly be available commercially this season which would be a huge help.

Worms are a problem in horses because they can cause gut damage, poor health and colic. The worm burden depends mainly on stocking density and paddock rotation, as well as age of horses - the young ones have less immunity. If you want to know the worm burden we can do a faecal float at time of worming. If it is significant, we do another one two weeks

later, when it is too soon for reinfection to be producing eggs seen in a faecal exam. If there are still lots of eggs you either have wormed using an inadequate dose, or you have parasite resistance.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts
Colics
foot abscesses
locking patella surgery
hives - allergic reaction
worms
gelding with abdominal testis, successfully retrieved

RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

LANSDOWNE…………..………….THURS 3RD

OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS………………..TUES 8TH

HANNAM VALE……….….…………THURS 10TH

DYER'S CROSSING…..……………..TUES 15TH

WINGHAM…………………..……..THURS 17TH

LORNE/COMBOYNE…………………TUES 22ND

COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH….THURS 24TH