
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Still the wet weather continues, and I swear the mozzies are biggest on Moto. Must be big to carry 3 Day, Akabane, Bluetongue, Ross River and Kunjin virus all at once ! Maybe that will be a new competition - biggest mozzie ! I had a mostly fine week at Hat Head, played golf, caught waves and some yellowfin tuna. And dodged Covid. Covid has been very disruptive to staffing, and we expect it to be worse now that school has returned. Negative RATests have made it a bit easier to get back to work.

In staff news, Sophie is now doing more large animal work, calvings, cuts and colics

etc, and after hours. And Sarah Jones has had her second baby boy.

There has been a bit of cow covid, better known as 3 Day Sickness, here and up the coast and also starting in mid January in the lower Hunter moving up to Gloucester. It is quite likely that 3 Day overwinters in the lower Hunter. The vaccine also arrived, better late than never. We have a small amount left but we cannot get more. We are all experts on vaccination now so no need to elaborate further.

Last month I mentioned that care needed to be taken when grazing pasture fertilised by chicken litter due to the risk of botulism. It has always been accepted knowledge that a three week interval was enough time to wait until grazing. Six years ago we had nine heifers lost on pasture dressed four weeks previously, but it hadn't rained. So I always recommend six weeks, including some rain in it. This month we had cows graze litter fertilised pasture only two weeks after application. It had rained in those two weeks. Cows had acute diarrhoea, fatal in one case, presumably from ingesting lots of chook shit, but no botulism.

We have had a fair bit of environmental mastitis in dairy cows, not surprising considering the rain and humidity, with cows standing in shade and at water.

Cattle Diseases of the Month
calvings, some fat cows
prolapses, one with a ruptured uterus
eye cancers
eye removals
lame cows and bulls

down cow
Theileria
worms
reports of Green Cestrum poisoning

And in the Horses.....

There have been cases of the Kunjin strain of West Nile Virus detected in NSW. This is a mosquito borne virus, and waterbirds are its natural host. It causes clinical signs ranging from depression, colic and neurological signs. The horse may have a temperature. So it is similar to Hendra in appearance but is only fatal in about 10% of cases. Care must be taken if you have a horse with these symptoms. It is a notifiable disease, so if it is suspected bloods must be taken for diagnosis and to make sure it's not Hendra. Treatment is just supportive and a full recovery is expected. There is no preventative vaccine, just use lots of insect repellents. People can't catch it.

We had a foal develop acute diarrhoea out of the blue this month. It was referred for specialist treatment and support, diagnosed with Salmonella, and has survived, but has infections in one hoof and its hock as a result. Hopefully these will respond to antibiotics.

The stud season is over now and it was one of the most difficult for fresh Als due to courier problems. Hopefully next season we will have the new extender that keeps sperm alive for up to a week. It should be commercially available this year.

For live cover stallions we have had one of the best seasons ever.

RUN DATES FOR FEBRUARY

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

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts
Colics
lamenesses
Cushings disease
mare with twins in the one vesicle

