
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

49 Chatham Avenue, Taree, NSW, 2430

P: (02) 6552 2633 F: (02) 6551 0631

E: tvhreception@gmail.com

Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

Renate Barnier Sarah Jones

Sue Harvey Sophie Stanojevic

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Last month we had a Covid casual contact, which meant testing of staff and isolating until negative. Which was mildly disruptive. On the good side, all staff were negative and stayed that way. And all our staff are vaccinated. Now things have changed as the state has opened up and if we had a case at the clinic we would have to test but the clinic would remain open, unless there were multiple positives and there was a risk to the public. When NSW Health would step in. The continued relaxing of rules is a relief as isolating and rostering vets and staff is difficult. Which is a small problem compared to those

businesses that have had to close for long periods.

Two weeks ago I was buying oysters from Ian and Rose Crisp at Croki, who have always been looking at ways to improve production. They told me now there is genomic testing being done on oysters, and particular lines or families have been identified for production traits such as growth rate and fertility. It's early days for the oysters, a bit like cattle 10 years ago, which made for interesting discussion. Who'd have thought it ?

We have done a lot of preg testing this month owing to the record high cattle prices, and found a couple of mummified foetuses and freemartins. Foetal mummies occur when the foetus dies but the cervix remains closed, so it is still a sterile environment. The soft tissues slowly break down leaving a bag of bones, the size of which depends on when the foetus died. They are difficult to expel and the cow is usually culled.

Freemartins are heifers born co-twin to a bull, and less than 5% grow up to be fertile. 95 % of them end up at sale yards !

There are two types of fluke, liver and stomach. Liver fluke requires ingestion of a water snail as its intermediate host before causing disease, mainly weight loss and diarrhoea. Stomach fluke produces the same symptoms and has always been discounted as a major cause of disease. Turns out parasitologists have been misdiagnosing stomach fluke as liver fluke, because stomach fluke has a number of different types that are indistinguishable from the liver fluke eggs. So the best way

to diagnose liver fluke is with a very accurate blood test, not a faecal test.

My guess is liver fluke has probably been taking the rap for stomach fluke , which is far more of a problem than we thought, especially on flood country.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
prolapses
eye cancers
lame cows
pneumonia in calves

And in the Horses.....

This month has been mostly stud work, i.e. follicle testing, scanning for pregnancy, popped some twins, AIs, mares with retained meconium, IgG test, constipated foals. One lot of semen from Victoria came a day late due to courier problems, and one couldn't come from WA for the same reason. Not enough daily flights yet for urgent freight to be reliable. I spoke to a practice in Qld and they had had the same problems.

Overdue mares worry all expectant owners. The mare doesn't know she's overdue. As long as there is no problem we leave gestation length to nature, as inducing a foaling has too many potential complications. If the mare is losing colostrum we recommend an IgG test at around 24 hrs to see if enough immunity has been passed on to the foal.

Horse diseases of the month

Cuts, some bad ones
Colics
lamenesses
eye ulcers
retained membranes
retained meconium
tick paralysis in a foal
knee chip

RUN DATES FOR NOVEMBER

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 4TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 9TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 11TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 16TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 18TH
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	TUES 23RD
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 25TH