
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

I'm writing this from Hat Head where the nor 'easters are stopping me from fishing. So far four stingrays and a whiting. Thank goodness for Gladstone butcher. You'd think with warm ocean water we'd get some rain. But not too much !

Which brings me to last month when I mentioned Jones Island with over 6 m of rain and, of course, the Hannam Vale farmers pointed out they had over 7 m in the same three years. Always more rain in Hannam Vale.

Mastitis can be worse in summer when cows are concentrated in shade and around water. Mastitis bacteria are mostly defined as environmental or cow borne, but

there is probably a bit of cross-over. We have had a couple of strep. ag. cases cultured this month, which is spread by cups and hands. And some staphs, again always seen as cow to cow rather than environmental.

Theileria continues to be a problem in calves. In a recent case of calf pneumonia the calves also had Theileria. It's hard to be sure what role the Theileria had, but my assumption is the underlying Theileria infection weakens the calf for other infections. Ticks are just bad news. A vaccine would be good because we'll never beat ticks. If in tick prone areas, calving in autumn so the calves are bigger and stronger in spring is the best idea. Even "clean" paddocks where you don't expect infection can still be a risk in spring and summer. Otherwise chemicals and tick resistant breeds. And don't bring cattle from over the ranges here from Sept-Mar especially if pregnant.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

Theileria

calvings

prolapses, vaginal and uterine

huge vaginal haematoma, looked like a prolapse

lame cows and bulls

calves with tick paralysis

bull with peritonitis

And in the Horses.....

We had an Arab foal this month with neonatal isoerythrolysis, which is where the mare has developed antibodies to the foals' red cells, and when the foal drinks the colostrum, which is rich in these antibodies, the red cells are attacked and destroyed. The result is an anaemic, weak and jaundiced foal.

Mares that do this are known as a problem, so their foals are prevented from drinking and her colostrum stripped for a few days. In this case we had no history on this mare.

Some foals need transfusions and intense treatment, but the owner in this case had a pretty good idea when he saw the jaundice so with early treatment we had a good result.

Horse diseases of the month
Foal with Isoerythrolysis
Cuts, a bad one into the heel, another badly lacerated vulva
Colics
lamenesses
foot abscesses
itchy horses
hernia repairs
melanoma
necrotic tail after rubbing it and catching it on a fence
pregnant Cushings mare - this mare is on Pergolide and her cortisol levels are kept low.

RUN DATES FOR FEBRUARY

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| 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 |