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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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The rain has eased and warm weather started. Lots of silage has been made in the breaks between La Ninas.

A highlight this month was having two Polish vets come for large animal work before their practical exams so they can work here. They have passed the theory exams and are in small animal jobs in Qld, helping reduce the vet shortage. They were very motivated and smart. I now know more about Poland and can highly recommend Polish beer and sausages.

This month we have had some big calf calvings, including a caesarian and a few foetotomies. The good season has grown some huge late pregnancy foetuses. One

client had cattle from Victoria and another from Qld, maybe not used to our feed conditions. Most foetal growth is in the last third of pregnancy. Inducing calvings to get smaller calves is usually too late when you realise you have a problem. Induction needs to be a month off the due date to be of any help, and you will likely have a dead calf.

We had an unusual case this month. About nine yearling beef cattle had died over a three month period and for various reasons the farmer hadn't been able to organise any investigation, until we were called to do a post mortem. We were thinking Blackleg, clostridial infections, stomach fluke, theileria. The body was in good condition, and had lots of haemorrhages throughout and evidence of septicaemia. Not many things cause extensive bleeding, and she had been exposed to bracken fern and had lots of ticks on her. Samples were taken and it turns out bracken fern toxicity is the answer. Why they had been eating it is anyone's guess as there is plenty of good grass there. I had a case many years ago where the cattle were on rye grass and were eating bark and bracken for roughage.

### Cattle Diseases of the Month

Theileria

Bracken toxicity

calvings

prolapses, vaginal and uterine. one vaginal prolapse was caused by a CIDR left behind

eye cancers

eye removal

lame cows  
abortions  
calf born with cataracts and blindness

And in the Horses.....

I've been scanning mares for a long time, and this month had my first triplets in a thoroughbred mare. She now has one. With the use of ovulatory drugs we see more twins, but this was a first.

Overnight courier delivery of semen to Qld continues to be a problem as it stops at Brisbane ! Locally Tamex continue to excel in reliability.

We had two odd respiratory cases this month. One was a thoroughbred mare from Qld that developed pneumonia after being trucked down here. Fortunately she responded well to antibiotics. The other odd one was a mare with an innocuous cough and snotty nose, was treated with antibiotics, then developed respiratory distress. When we scoped her she had severe laryngeal inflammation and was not responding to antibiotics. We changed her treatment to steroids in desperation and had instant success.

Setaria's effects on horses are at their worst now, when the grass is lush and there's vigorous growth. Oxalates in Setaria bind to calcium, which can result in Big Head and lameness unless calcium and phosphorus are supplemented. There is no reliable test to measure and interpret calcium levels.

#### Horse diseases of the month

foalings  
Cuts  
Colics  
Ross River Fever  
lamenesses  
foot abscesses  
corneal ulcers  
retained membranes  
sarcoïd  
Cushings Disease

### **RUN DATES FOR NOVEMBER**

<b>LANSDOWNE.....</b>	<b>THURS 3RD</b>
<b>OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....</b>	<b>TUES 8TH</b>
<b>HANNAM VALE.....</b>	<b>THURS 10TH</b>
<b>DYER'S CROSSING.....</b>	<b>TUES 15TH</b>
<b>WINGHAM.....</b>	<b>THURS 17TH</b>
<b>LORNE/COMBOYNE.....</b>	<b>TUES 22ND</b>
<b>COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....</b>	<b>THURS 24TH</b>

