
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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DECEMBER

NEWSLETTER

Looking back on this year, it started out wet, then dry, then wet, then a pestilence of crickets at planting, then dry. Really dry. Then wet at the end with a few storms. Moto is not often dry in the winter, and this year dry was good here for grass.

It was my 30th anniversary here mid year. My elder son, Angus, congratulated me on the achievement, and longevity in one job. My younger son, James, a psychologist, said, "How do you feel about that, Dad ?".

In cattle this year we had the cow with two cervixes, Theileria, LDAs and an RDA.

FMD was close in Indonesia. Terrible cattle prices.

In horses we had a triplet scan, a neonatal isoerythrolysis, habronaema, a sequestrum, a punctured chest, bad laminitis, Ross River Fever. The most interesting case we had is of the horse negative PCR to Hendra, but positive antibody to vaccine and real virus ! Either the horse has been exposed or the test needs more validation.

Then, last weekend I broke my heel bone. Funny you can walk away from a car crash without a scratch, but trip over on the beach and break your foot. So no weight bearing for 6 weeks at least. This means Sophie will be doing the bulk of the horse work, especially the reproductive work.

Three Day Sickness (BEF) has been confirmed at Casino. It is always hard to predict the yearly arrival and prevalence of BEF. Natural exposure gives great protection, but for young stock, ET recipients and donors, bulls and high value animals, we recommend vaccination. Vaccine supply does get short though so order ahead. It comes in 10 dose vials. They need two doses, four weeks apart for immunity.

Every month in Diseases, calvings top the list. Low birthweight and short gestation bulls and genetic information is available to help ensure no calvings. Putting a limo bull over lowline heifers to increase progeny size is not acceptable. Just because a bull is young and still small doesn't mean he is right for heifers. We think in lots of cases that this is a welfare issue.

Cattle Diseases of the Month

calvings
prolapses, vaginal and uterine, and a ruptured uterus
eye cancers
tick paralysis

And in the Horses.....

This month we gelded two horses with abdominal testes. The first one was bought as a gelding, but his behaviour indicated otherwise ! We did a blood sample to confirm he had one or two internal testes, then anaesthetised him. He had a scar over where his left testis should have been and nothing on the right. This one was in his abdomen. The second one had been sold and bought as a rig, the owner saying as far as they knew he had never been done. Again, GA, a scar, and an abdominal right testis. In a few months we might do a blood test on him if he still shows male behavioural traits.

In mares that are being scanned for pregnancy we recommend one at 15-19 days, as this is the best time to abort a twin vesicle. Then the next one at 32-42 days, when heart beat, umbilicus and placenta can be seen. Some clients will opt for a 25-35 day scan too. High risk mares with a history of foetal loss are treated with al-trenogest orally for three months.

Horse Diseases this Month

Cuts , some big stitch ups

colics

Als, scans etc

lamenesses

foalings

two horses with an abdominal testis gelded. One was bought as a gelding, the other a rig

So Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We thank you all for your continued custom and friendship. We know large animal farming and vetting can be challenging but also very rewarding. Have a restful and safe festive season.

RUN DATES FOR DECEMBER

LANSDOWNE.....	THURS 7TH
OXLEY/MITCHELL'S IS.....	TUES 12TH
HANNAM VALE.....	THURS 14TH
DYER'S CROSSING.....	TUES 19TH
WINGHAM.....	THURS 21ST
LORNE/COMBOYNE.....	WED 27TH
COOMBA AND THE DEEP SOUTH....	THURS 28TH