
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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APRIL

NEWSLETTER

It has been very wet. Our practice covers a large area. An example of this is some clients to our west received only 45mm and here on Moto we had 210mm. The weather has affected winter feed planting with some paddocks under water for several days and still sodden, particularly on the islands. The cooler weather has seen a reduction in buffalo fly numbers at last.

We had a bloated cow this month that needed a trocar screwed in to her rumen to save her. This dairy had another in the previous week that didn't need treatment. It was a frothy, not a gaseous bloat, which

was interesting. Frothy bloat is usually from clover and/or lucerne. This cow was on kikuyu, corn and grain mix in the dairy. No Rumensin was added to her feed (this had been taken out of the mix by the mill due to the risk to horses, and now rectified).

We have had cases of footrot this month, which is not noteworthy until you get a farm with eight at once, which is unusual.

Footrot needs antibiotics to fix it, preferably long acting antibiotics (such as Alamyacin 300) in beef cows or ceftiofur in dairy cows.

We also had a steer with a broken leg, grazing setaria, treated for footrot. Setaria seems to affect them less when they're born and bred on it rather than introduced. It affects horses worse than cattle, but adult cows on setaria need calcium and phosphorus lick blocks to prevent them from going down. I know it's a good grass in a drought but I hate it!

Pregnancy rates from spring have been variable. Hind sight is easy when we have had drought conditions. If we had time over we could 1. hand feed so bulls had ready access to cows, 2. early wean calves, 3. extend joining period, 4. rotate bulls. Even AI results from spring was poor.

I was surprised yesterday by a client telling me some of his carcasses at the abs had hydatids, and this wasn't unusual. Hydatids are from dog tapeworm, so all dogs should be wormed with a product with praziquantel in it, at least every three months but better monthly. Wild dogs need a different treatment.

Cattle Call Outs of the Month
calvings, caesarians
prolapses, vaginal and uterine
eye cancers
footrot !
bloated cow

And in the Horses.....

This is our quieter time with horses, doing geldings, freeze branding, microchipping and lamenesses in this weather. We had a lame racehorse that had a swollen fetlock and a sore foot. Turns out the foot was nothing but he had a fractured sesamoid bone. The fracture is at the top of the sesamoid bone, at the back of the fetlock, and is not displaced, so it has a good prognosis compared to fractures at the base.

Two months ago I reported a horse with a large splenic tumour, then had another this month. This horse had been losing weight over six months, and curiously was positive to Ross River Fever and had lots of worms, despite being wormed three months ago. I think his immune system was compromised by the tumour, allowing RRF and parasites.

Horse Visits this Month

Cuts
colics
scans
choke
squamous cell carcinoma on sheath

eye ulcer
itch
lamenesses, mostly foot abscesses
laminitis
fungal mass on ear - this was in a grey pony and assumed to be a melanoma until we did a needle aspirate. There was no dark material so the sample was stained. The slide had odd cells confirmed by the lab as fungi. This will be removed.

RUN DATES FOR APRIL

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....	WED 24TH