
TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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MARCH NEWSLETTER

Next month we should be in the new building which will be a big change for us. The new computer system has also been a change with lots of teething problems. The new accounts consist of the current monthly invoices combined with an aged statement. This should mean we don't have to print out lots of individual invoices.

We thought we would ask people to sign for drugs purchased on account, such as dry cow. This is OK if the staff aren't flat out and/or the client isn't in a hurry. We aim to streamline this further with a bar coded card system, where you have your own card which we scan when you make a purchase, which then automatically enters it into the system. These things will all be nussed out over the next few months, but it's not easy. We welcome feedback on the new accounts and on anything else really.

The new building is an investment for the practice's future. It exceeds our current needs in some ways, such as the data cabling throughout the place, and meets overdue needs such as space and better cages. The demands of our clients and young vets mean you must improve the quality of the service all the time.

The rain has been fantastic and at last the kikuyu is growing, even if the growing season is short, or maybe not. No two years or seasons are the same. It's hard to believe it's autumn as it's warmer now than much of summer. It's hard to get much milk out of kikuyu due to its low protein, even with good management. Protein drives palatability which in turn determines voluntary feed intake.

Quite often with DairyWin or just going through mating records you can find an AI bull that isn't performing. Let's say, 4 or 5 serves per conception. If these bulls are used solely on repeat breeders there may be nothing wrong with them. However, they can be the reason cows become repeat breeders.

This month one bull was found to have no successful inseminations after 31 AIs. This dairy uses Friesian semen for the first two AIs, then usually beef, with good results. They started to use a different breed because the semen was only \$5.50/straw and the calves are worth a bit. So the conception rate for the 3rd and more serves plummeted.

If semen is bought in 25 straw

lots, and it takes 6 weeks before preg testing, a lot of cows can be AI'd with costly results. So the solution is to reduce this risk of failure to conceive by either buying smaller amounts or using various bulls rather than one at a time. Or use established AI bulls.

In this case the problem was identified relatively quickly because the semen was used on nearly all repeat breeders, rather than being spread out over time with other breeds and bulls. So suspicions were raised.

DISEASES OF THE MONTH

Bull with blocked penis—made a new hole above the blockage as a salvage procedure

Pink eye

Prolapsed vagina

Eye cancers

Only a few vague cases of 3 Day, which may not eventuate this year...

And in the horses,

A small eye cancer, frozen with nitrogen

Knee chip and spur in a racehorse

Sarcoid on a pastern, cut off and Effudix cream used on the root.

Racehorse with a stick in its head, penetrating straight into its frontal sinus almost dead centre, just below eye level.

The hole is slowly getting smaller now the stick has been removed, but may need a graft yet.

With the rain and humidity, itchy horses that weren't are now. Queensland itch is an insect bite hypersensitivity that is difficult to prevent or lessen, particularly in horses from outside the area. Permaxin, Brute and moving to Dubbo are some of the remedies. Cortisone injections to reduce the immune response can be used, but not in pregnant mares. Like tick bite reactions, many horses become acclimatised and react less with time.

RUN DATES FOR MARCH

Lansdowne.....Thurs 18th

Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....Tues 6th

Hannam Vale.....Thurs 8th

Dyer's Crossing.....Tues 13th

Wingham.....Thurs 15th

Lorne/Comboyne.....Tues 20th

Coomba and the deep south..Thurs 22nd