

---

---

# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

49 Chatham Avenue, Taree, NSW, 2430

Phone (02) 6552 2633 Fax (02) 65510631 E: tarvet@tpgi.com.au

Stuart Knox Donald Hood Rob Brudar

## OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

---

---

Spring is here because silage is being cut and baled and paralysis ticks are on dogs.

Equine Influenza rolls on, entering a new phase of containment with vaccination and continued movement restrictions. The Taree area is an amber zone, but Great Lakes a red zone and Gloucester red, with the presence of infected horses in a restricted area. Vaccination buffer zones are being established around this restricted area.

As much as there are differences between Foot and Mouth and EI, there are similarities in how things are handled, particularly in communications and resources. The speed in which such diseases spread can make communications seem slow and they quickly outgrow resources. And the internet spreads fact and fiction with equal speed.

I'm not sure about the carbon credit thingy, but great forests are definitely being cut down to serve a disease bureaucracy and the paperwork that fuels it.

Anaemia and jaundice often go together and this month we've seen both.

Anaemia is usually caused by external blood loss, such as in parasites i.e. ticks, coccidia and worms, or bracken fern toxicity.

Jaundice means you've got a beast with yellow mucous membranes i.e. vulval, mouth and eyes. This means the liver isn't handling the disease. Toxic plants such as lantana will affect the liver's function. Hepatitis from systemic disease or abscesses will affect it.

And one we've seen this month is Theileria, the blood parasite carried by ticks that affects red cells and indirectly causes jaundice, as well as severe anaemia. Weakness is usually the first symptom. This is always in cattle not previously exposed to ticks, which is usually bought-in stock from down south or over the ranges, but occasionally in locally bred animals. It can be treated with a pour on to reduce tick numbers, and tetracyclines e.g. Engemycin, to kill the parasite. This gives the immune system time to build up immunity.

## DISEASES OF THE MONTH

Coccidiosis in calves nb some protozoa and viruses can be spread to humans through calf shit, so stay clean.

Worms

Eye cancers and removals

Calvings, including a Caesar on a shistosome calf—all its guts are on its outside.

Down cows

Grass tetany

Salmonella pneumonia in calves

Right displaced abomasum—always a disaster

Horse topics—there's very little breeding going on, compared to most years. However, foals are being born and here are a few pointers.

Foals need colostrum within the first 12-18 hours for their immune systems to be competent. Nearly all sick foals need their IgG tested. This is a blood test that can be done at the foal's side. The mare's milk can also be tested, especially if they've been dripping milk for some time. If the IgG is low it can be supplemented with Equiplas intravenously, or plasma.

There is however, one disease where the colostrum is toxic to the foal—Neonatal Isoerythrolysis. Some matings result in the mare's antibodies being activated against the foal's red cells. So when the immunoglobulins are absorbed from the colostrum they attack the foal's blood. If a foal dies from NI that mating must not be repeated. If

repeated, the foal must be transfused and/or given alternate colostrum, and must be prevented from drinking from the mare for 48 hours, while the immunoglobulins are stripped out of the mare, and the foal's gut becomes less able to absorb immunoglobulins.

## **RUN DATES FOR OCTOBER**

Lansdowne.....

Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....

Hannam Vale.....

Dyer's Crossing.....

Wingham.....

Lorne/Comboyne.....

Coomba and the deep south..