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# TAREE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

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## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

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Hi folks. Hope all is well. The good news is that the rain keeps coming back every few weeks. We can't complain about that. The big news at TVH is that we've started building a new vet hospital on the corner block just up from the present hospital. We've well and truly outgrown the building we're in and the new hospital will be bigger, roomier and purpose built to suit our needs. We'll have more office space, more consultation rooms and facilities for large animal work. Hopefully we'll be in the new building by April / May 2007.

### **MORE DOWN COWS**

We're seeing a huge number of down cows at present both dairy and beef. Weather conditions and quality of feed available are major factors. Causes include hypocalcaemia (milk fever), hypomagnesaemia, hypophosphataemia, pregnancy toxaemia, starvation, worm infestations and plant poisonings. Cows which are in poor condition due to poor feed and or worm burdens succumb to the metabolic diseases more readily than cows in good condition. As mentioned in the last two newsletters—if unsure of a specific diagnosis in any down cow -

treatment with 2 or 3 bags of calcigol plus will be sufficient to treat and cure a fair number. This treatment will not compromise any animals suffering from other problems. In the last two months we've seen more pregnancy toxaemia cows (poor condition+late pregnant=down cow) than in the last ten years put together.

We've also seen large worm burdens in adults cows—mainly due to a mild winter with eggs and larvae surviving on pasture when normally they may have been killed by frosts.

When pasture is poor animals are tempted to eat plants they would not normally eat such as bracken fern, fireweed and lantana. We have one case this month where cows quickly died after eating green cestrum.

Now that the rye grass is finally getting away, how is it that you can get weight loss on rye grass? Well, cows require 17% dietary protein, and an excess, such as in 22% rye grass, must be detoxified, converted and excreted as ammonia at some energy cost to the cow. Thus the occasional ammonia smell in the dairy. Protein drives palatability, so

the cows eat more rye, which also has high energy compared to kikuyu.

**New Products...** we now have leg bands again for when intramammaries or antibiotics are used. At this stage they are a promotion so I'm not sure if they will always come with the tubes, like they used to.

**Clavet LC** is a new broad-spectrum intramammary with an 84 hour milk and 7 day meat withholding periods. It has a dual tip insertion, and comes with teat wipes.

**Elaclox Dry Cow** now comes in buckets of 250 tubes. We won't stock these but we'll order them in on request.

**Overnighter test kits** are milk culture kits that will show if a cow has a staph or strep infection. This can then give you an idea as to which treatment is appropriate e.g. maybe dry off if a staph. They are a bit limited in their use at the moment but the company is working on more comprehensive test kits.

The horse breeding season has started with foals starting to arrive. Often foals are born with their front legs sticking out at funny angles, and mostly these deviations, if from below the knee, come good by themselves. If they don't straighten there may be a problem with the bones in the knee. Xrays are indicated because in many of these cases something can be done, such as corrective shoeing.

Other things to look for in foals

are hernias (umbilical, scrotal), persistent urachus (peeing out of the umbilicus) and in colts especially, constipation.

### **DISEASES OF THE MONTH**

- 1) Down Cows
- 2) Calvings—large calves , twins , akabane affected deformed calves.
- 3) Worm infestations in calves and adult cattle.
- 4) Pneumonia in both calves and adult cattle.
- 5) Steer with ruptured bladder—on setaria which led to a build up of crystals in the urine which then formed stones that blocked the urethra....bladder ruptured when couldn't urinate.

### **RUN DATES FOR SEPTEMBER**

- Lansdowne.....Thurs 7th
- Oxley/Mitchell's Is.....Tues 12th
- Hannam Vale.....Thurs 14th
- Dyer's Crossing.....Tues 19th
- Wingham.....Thurs 21st
- Lorne/Comboyne.....Tues 26th
- Coomba and the deep south...Thurs 28th