

SUMMER 2023-2024

Jo's Jabber

After a rough August, September saw Adam and I and the kids take a much-anticipated 2 week holiday to Italy and Austria. We only damaged our hire car once, caught up with almost all the Austrian vet students that we have hosted over the last 6 years (see photo), Josh investigated alternative travel options home, I had to wait for the return flight to watch the last 8 minutes of a movie trilogy, Oliver began planning his move to Dubai (we didn't leave the airport...), Clare is planning her next visit to Austria to work on her German language skills and Nutella was everywhere! And so much more...

My poor sister looked after the place for us and only had one cat incident, one foal get stuck upside down in a fence and the water system to all the paddocks stop working. Our wine supply was significantly reduced by the time we got home...

Adam went on for a further 2 weeks to watch some of the Rugby World Cup in France... Good to see our cricketers fare better!!

It was an amazing trip, and we are so grateful to be able to experience something like that while our fgnamus team look after everything at home!

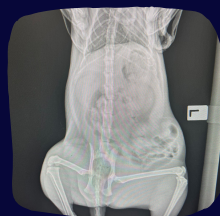
Meanwhile, our renovations continue in the back half of the clinic and we are hoping for a completion before Christmas... We'll keep you posted!

Enjoy your Summer!



Case of the Quarter

Lilly the cat got into a bit of trouble when she escaped through the window a few weeks ago. When her Mum and Dad found her, she was in a bad way, and they suspected she had been hit by a car. Further investigation at the clinic confirmed significant wounds including several nasty skin wounds, a dislocated hip, and a tear through her abdomen resulting in a hernia. Lilly's hip was positioned back into place and she began a combination of medications to reduce pain and prevent infection. After stabilising Lilly overnight she was taken to surgery to return everything to its normal place and repair the tear in her abdomen. 3 weeks on from surgery and Lilly has made a full recovery! An amazing outcome for Lilly and her owners.



Snake Bites

Snake bites are seen all too commonly during the warmer months with brown, tiger and black snakes being the usual offenders here in the North East. Snake bites are potentially fatal and are a true emergency. A false alarm is much better than the death of an animal that potentially could have been saved. Often animals are seen chasing or even attacking the snake however sometimes the confrontation may not be seen. Bite marks may help diagnostically however, they are rarely found due to the difficulty in locating them through fur.

PRESENTING SIGNS

An unexplained yelp, collapse, vomiting, increased respiratory rate, salivation, urination and defecation, dilated pupils, paralysis (starting in the hind limbs and progressing forward, trouble breathing and swallowing), blood in urine (later in presentation).

The presentation of snake bite varies between animals. Not all the above signs will be seen in every case and the time between a bite and clinical signs will vary. Some dogs may show vomiting and salivation and then appear to recover – this scenario is often fatal if not addressed immediately.

Animals may show clinical signs from minutes to hours after being envenomated. In cats clinical signs are often seen up to twelve to twenty four hours after exposure.

WHAT TO DO

If you are suspicious or certain of a snake bite to your dog or cat you should contact the clinic immediately (during or after hours). Do not waste time trying to bandage limbs or trying to identify or catch the snake as this will not change the treatment plan significantly. Time is often the crucial factor for survival.

Amazing Amy!

If you could only choose one song to play every time you walked into a room for the rest of your life, what would it be? I Wanna Dance with Somebody - Whitney Houston

If you were an animal, what kind of animal would you be and why? My Golden Retriever "Oriel" because she's very spoilt.

Where is home? Melbourne

What keeps you out of trouble? Long distance running

What would your best friend say is your best quality? I like to listen

Pets at home: Oriel the Golden Retriever & Toby the cat

Favourite Lolly: Raspberry bullets

Favourite Vegetable: Potato

Favourite Singer/Band: Loving The Dreggs at the moment

Favourite Movie: The Greatest Showman



Barber's Pole Worm - Sheep & Goats

DR EMILY FOSS

Barber's pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) is a blood sucking parasite that can affect sheep and goats. The worm gets its name from its unique appearance in which their blood-filled gastrointestinal tract spirals around it's paler reproductive tract.

Barber's pole worm requires warmth and moisture - exactly the weather conditions we are experiencing at the moment in North East Victoria.

Effected sheep and goats can display signs of lethargy, weakness, pale gums (anaemia), breaks in wool, swelling under the jaw (bottle jaw) and ill thrift. Sudden death may be noted. Weaners are particularly susceptible. These signs contribute to significant production losses.

With the current cattle and sheep prices, now is not the time to be wasting money by administering unnecessary drenches. To determine if your flock has a worm burden that requires drenching, have a FEC performed. Faecal egg counts are an indication of worm burden and involves your veterinarian examining faeces under the microscope to assess the number of worm eggs present. Faecal egg counts can also be performed 14 days post drenching to assess if your drench has worked effectively or if there is resistance developing to the drench you are using.

If you would like to enquire about FEC's or need help making decisions about drenching, please contact the clinic.

Our veterinarian Dr Emily Foss has recently completed the Paraboss certificate in sheep parasite management.



ANIMAL RIDDLE

I am an animal named after the animal that I eat.
An anteater!

EYE ROLLER

What do you call a sleeping bull?
A Bull-Dozer

FUN FACT

The collective noun for porcupines is a prickle.