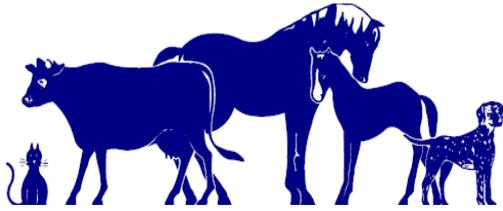


# Winter 2015



## Wangaratta Veterinary Clinic

Ph 03 5721 4000

*Friendly service and professional care for all.*

[www.wangarattavetclinic.com](http://www.wangarattavetclinic.com)

While we are all freezing our toes off spare a thought for poor poor Floss (and her Mum) who are currently in Sepilok (Borneo) volunteering at an Orangutan shelter... and complaining about the humidity. They have started working with the babies who are very cute wearing nappies, but are also very naughty – to the point where they have to put locks on everything to keep them out!

Sadly, that sounds a lot like our household, except for Oliver who asked me last week to speak to his Grade 1 teacher about his “learning difficulties”... Funnily enough his teacher doesn't have any concerns!

### IS YOUR PET UP TO DATE WITH VACCINATION?

#### Case of the newsletter - “Picked a winner!!!”



Pip (sporting a brace here after rupturing her Achilles tendon) presented to Jo for sudden onset sneezing. Little did Jo know when she anaesthetised Pip that she



would find a tongue worm (*Linguatula serrata*) in her nose!!! These can grow to 10-13cm long! The worm can also be passed to humans... I saw Jo blowing her nose a lot for a few days afterwards! Thanks to Karen and Chris for letting us show you Pip and her worm.

### SCOOTING DOG? HAVE YOU WORMED THEM? DO THEY NEED THEIR ANAL GLANDS CHECKED?

#### How often does your pet brush?!



Dental disease is THE MOST common condition occurring in domestic pets. After eating, bacteria, food particles and saliva form a film over the teeth called plaque. As most pets do not have their teeth brushed every day these plaque-forming bacteria multiply. The minerals in saliva subsequently harden the plaque into tartar. In addition the alkaline mouth of a dog promotes plaque formation.

Following the formation of plaque the body's immune system swings into action causing inflammation that we see as gingivitis or red, inflamed gums. Often the first sign owners will notice is the BAD BREATH!

Dental disease is entirely PREVENTABLE and left untreated can lead to multiple health issues not to mention the pain associated with it. As the bacteria load builds up it can spread

### ARTHRITIC DOGS ARE OFTEN STIFFER IN WINTER. DISCUSS THE TREATMENT OPTIONS WITH OUR STAFF.

via the blood stream to internal organs such as the heart and liver. This then becomes a more serious situation and puts your pets health at greater risk.



Grade I

Grade II

Grade III

Grade IV

During a dental exam your veterinarian or nurse will assess the health of the gum tissue – whether there is any reddening, recession or inflammation as well as grading the amount of plaque and tartar build up. Putting this information together we can then grade the disease from 1 to 4 (pictured above).

The changes in a grade 1 and 2 mouth are generally reversible. Grade 3 and 4 disease causes permanent changes and often leads to removal of teeth. It is better (and cheaper) to treat dental disease early.

The only way to treat periodontal disease is with a dental scale and polish. This requires a general anaesthetic under which we examine all the teeth and assess their health as well as clean away all the tartar and plaque.

It is extremely important after a dental procedure to commence PREVENTATIVE oral health care. This way we can hopefully avoid, or at least delay, the need for further dental cleans at the clinic.

Prevention comes in many forms and it is a matter of finding the option that is most suitable for your pet and their lifestyle. Options include VOHC approved water additives, VOHC dental chews, dental formulated dry foods, the feeding of raw bones and meat, tooth brushing or a combination of these options.

FREE DENTAL CHECKS with our nursing staff are available year round at the clinic. During this consult we can advise you on the grade of dental disease, if any, your pet has and the appropriate treatment and prevention options available to you.

*A human, brushing twice daily, cleans their teeth 730 times a year. What about your pet?*

If you would like to be shown how to clip your pet's nails or administer tablets please contact the clinic for a **FREE nurse consult.**

## LARGE ANIMALS

### **BVDV - Not only hard to say but hard to get your head around!!**

Pestivirus (Bovine viral diarrhoea virus) is one of the most economically significant diseases of the beef and dairy industries. It can be a difficult condition to recognise as calves that are poorly developed may be dismissed as a genetic problem. It may be more obvious when it has a larger impact on the herd such as increased abortion or still born rates.

Besides reduced calf survival and conception rates, BVDV can also affect daily weight gain, feed consumption, mortality, and weaning weights. All of which heavily impact your profit. It is estimated that BVDV costs dairy and beef producers between \$15 and \$100 per breeder per year and over 70% of Australian farms are infected.

Persistently infected animals (PI's) are the main mode of transmission of BVDV on farm. They shed virus continually throughout their life in very high levels. These carrier animals are produced when their mother is infected during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> months of gestation. These calves survive the infection, are born carriers, and then expose non-immune cows to infection during pregnancy, continuing the cycle.

Investigating a herd for pestivirus can be a multi-step process often starting with screening blood tests. If you are noticing poor in-calf rates, a large number of abortions or reduced growth rates contact the clinic to discuss how best to proceed.

There is a crush-side test available that uses an ear notch sample. This test is used to screen for PI animals and can be performed at any age from birth. There are a number of ways to utilise this test such as testing bulls in order to sell them as non PI. Animals can be tested at birth to ensure their worth before investing time and money into them.

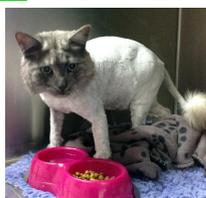
It has been demonstrated that there is 100% sensitivity and 99.6% specificity meaning that the test never misses a PI animal and only rarely misdiagnoses a healthy animal as PI. For this reason valuable animals or weak positives should be retested in two weeks in case the positive was due to a transient infection.

The best management practices for controlling BVDV include removal of PI animals, vaccinating at risk females to protect them during pregnancy, maintain good biosecurity and remaining vigilant in screening for reintroduction of PI's.

*\*Each point of care pestivirus test is \$15.*

**Flat out? Not enough time to scratch your head?  
If you need reminders, e.g. vaccination of cattle at dry off, calf vaccination or other, please contact the clinic and we can organise a mailed reminder.**

Remember there is only a week between a good hair cut and a bad hair cut! (Maybe a bit longer for Jo)



## **INVITATION**

### **MASTITIS PREVENTION AND CALF SCOURS FARMER DISCUSSION NIGHT**

A discussion evening on the best forms of mastitis prevention, colostrum and calf scouring.

Where: Moyhu Pub (Free dinner!!)

When: Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, 6.30pm for 7pm start.

RSVP by Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup>

03 5721 4000 or [wangarattavetclinic@bigpond.com](mailto:wangarattavetclinic@bigpond.com)

### **Twin lamb disease - A whole "lotta" lamb!**

It is not long before Spring and the paddocks will be full of lambs. With lambing can come a number of problems for farmers and the ewes. One of these is twin lamb disease or pregnancy toxaemia.



Pregnancy toxaemia is a metabolic disorder in ewes where their liver cannot produce enough glucose to keep up with their requirements. Due to the low blood glucose the ewe utilises her body's fat reserves for energy, causing high ketone levels (ketones are a product of fat breakdown).

In the last six weeks of pregnancy there is a large increase in energy requirements of the ewe due to the developing lamb(s), udder development and colostrum production. In ewes affected by pregnancy toxaemia their body cannot keep up with these demands.

A number of risk factors increase the chance of pregnancy toxaemia. Decreased feed intake due to health issues (e.g. foot abscess), cold weather or yarding. Increased energy requirements such as twins (hence the name!), stressful handling or cold weather. Fat or older animals are more at risk as are some breeds.

*A thigh slapper for you.....*

*Q. How did the farmer find his lost cow?*

*A. He tractor down.*

Affected animals will be dull, inappetent and often stand alone. When approached they can stumble and appear blind and in the later stages will go down and eventually die.

Treatment is often unsuccessful but involves providing energy in the form of ketol/acidex orally or dextrose under the skin as well as adequate nutrition. Induction of lambing may aid in removing the stress of the lamb(s) but carries some risk. Prevention is where your energy is best directed and in the last six weeks of pregnancy supplement feed should be provided. Cereal grains are often the most cost effective feed. Minimising handling in late pregnancy will also decrease the risk. Longer term culling of older animals can help reduce the herd risk.

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THEN CURE. ARE YOU USING A TEAT SEALANT?  
HAVE YOU VACCINATED YOUR STOCK?**