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NOVEMBER 12
NEWSLETTER

Clinic News

We are approaching 12 months in our new veterinary clinic at 65 Russell Street—it only seems like yesterday we had clients helping us move in. Our first 12 months have been an exciting challenge with many business and veterinary obstacles that we have overcome—some much more successfully than others!!!

We have grown our veterinary team from three vets (and Anna’s Mum) to four vets; Trish, Mark, Anna and Michaela with Kylie and Tracy keeping us in line.

Hendra Virus Vaccine

Spring is upon us which means that trees are in flower and harvest has begun. Unfortunately, this means that Fruit Bats are back and with them the risk of Hendra Virus. Pfizer Animal Health has recently announced that they are releasing a Hendra Virus Vaccine under a minor permit to veterinarians. Being under a minor permit, the restrictions around the administration are stringent.

The Equivac He Vaccination regime as outlined by the Minor Permit are:

- 2 Vaccinations EXACTLY 21 days apart
- Administration by an accredited VETERINARIAN ONLY
- All Horses to be Microchipped
- Horses, Microchip Number, Vaccination Details, Owner Details to be entered on a National Database

The Vaccine is being released in 3 Zones.

- Zone 1: November 1 - East Coast
- Zone 2: November 12 - All QLD & NSW
- Zone 3: December 1 - Nationally
- * Goondiwindi is Zone 2

Brain Drain

We had a fantastic time at the Goondiwindi hero’s & Villain’s Brain Drain—the annual Trivia Event. The GDVS Team entered as the Walt Disney “Incredible Family” and a great night was had by all.



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MICHAELA WOOLFORD— Our New Vet

Michaela was raised in Narrabri with a mixed background in cotton, horses, cattle and meat goat production on the family farm. After high school she headed straight off to Charles Sturt University at Wagga Wagga for Veterinary School. During veterinary school she was fortunate enough to work with farmers and researchers abroad, travelling to both Pakistan and the United Kingdom during her study. Graduating in August 2012 with Honours, she has taken a position at GDVS and is very excited to get stuck in to country life and to work in Goondiwindi. We are not sure who she is going for in State of Origin.....



Snail Bait Toxicity

Snail Bait poisoning occurs when pets eat snail or slug bait that contains metaldehyde. The bait may be eaten directly from the packet or from where it has been applied around plants in the garden.

Pets will readily eat baits made from metaldehyde since it is often combined with food products such as soybeans, rice, oats, or apples to attract the snails.

What are the signs of metaldehyde poisoning? Metaldehyde is a fast-acting toxin and the most common signs of poisoning are convulsions, continuous shaking, bizarre behaviour, and an unsteady gait. Unfortunately, many other diseases can have these same signs.

Therefore, it is very important that you provide as much detail as possible about the animal's previous possible exposure, and about the environment. Inform your veterinarian if there are chemicals to which the animal could gain access. Be specific regarding brand names and bring product labels or containers with you to your appointment.

How is it diagnosed?

The vomit, stomach contents, or blood can be analyzed for metaldehyde. However, since it may take several days before results are available, your veterinarian will

have to make a preliminary diagnosis based on the history and signs. Metaldehyde baits are usually green or blue in colour.

Can it be treated?

There is no antidote for metaldehyde poisoning. However, medications can be given to control the seizures and to help remove the poison from the digestive tract. Depending on the time since ingestion, your vet may induce vomiting or perform a gastric lavage (stomach pump). Activated charcoal may be given to absorb the remaining toxins.

Do not attempt to make your dog vomit at home unless instructed by your vet over the phone. Never induce vomiting once the animal is exhibiting seizures.

What is the prognosis for metaldehyde poisoning?

The prognosis depends on the volume of metaldehyde that the animal ate and on the length of time between eating the poison and starting treatment. Death usually occurs in 4-12 hours if the animal is not successfully treated.



Product in focus

Microchips

A microchip is an implantable device that has a unique number programmed into its memory. When combined with a pet recovery system such as National Pet Registry, it could save your dog, cat or horse from being lost forever. This small, easily injected, microchip identifies a pet for life. Currently the National Pet Registry (NPR) maintains records for over 1.5 million animals and is growing daily while registering all animals - dogs, cats, birds, horses, reptiles and even ferrets. Only authorised users are able to access the animal records for recovery purposes. This includes councils, animal welfare agencies and veterinary clinics. A secure system of ID Numbers and NPR staff training ensure the integrity of this process.



My pet already has a name tag on the collar, do I still need a microchip?

Yes, it the law!

Name Tags are often lost and can easily be removed. Pounds and shelters are full of pets that are not microchipped.

Q? Does implanting a microchip hurt my pet?

No, most animals will only feel a slight discomfort. It can be done while they are awake.

Q? What is a microchip made of?

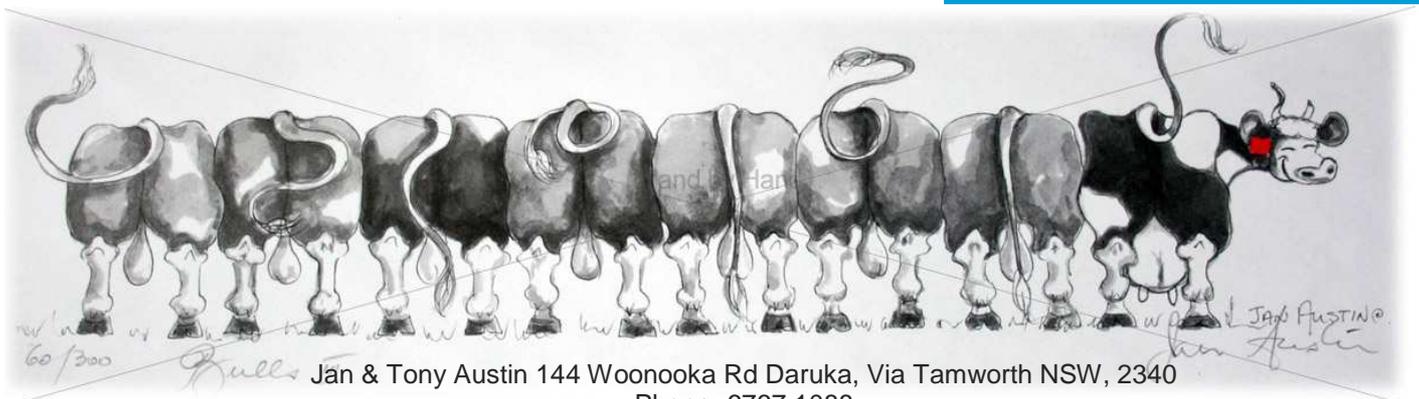
A special inert, biocompatible material, however it looks just like glass.

Q? How big is a microchip?

The size of a grain of rice.

Q? If my pet becomes lost will the recovery cost me anything?

No. NPR does not charge anything for the release of details for our microchip registration service.



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WHEN WILL YOUR MARE FOAL?

HOW LONG IS A MARE PREGNANT?

Normal gestation for a mare lasts about 335 days, with some healthy foals born as early as 300 days and others taking over 360 days.

PREDICTING TIME OF FOALING:

Most mares foal late at night or early in the morning when everything is quiet and they are undisturbed. They also have the ability to delay foaling for awhile if they feel insecure.

SIGNS OF IMPENDING FOALING:

HOLLOWNESS OF TAIL ROOT

About 3 weeks prior to parturition an obvious sinking on both sides of the tail head appears as the muscles & ligaments relax (allow expansion of birth canal) This is more obvious in older, multiparous mares

VULVAR OEDEMA & RELAXATION

This occurs during the last few weeks of gestation
It is subtle at first, becoming more obvious 6-8 hours before foaling

MAMMARY GLAND DEVELOPMENT

This is the most reliable indicator
Usually begins 4-6 weeks before foaling, with the most significant increase in udder size occurring during last 2 weeks
Teats change – initially they are shorter and fatter. As the time for foaling comes closer the teats fill with milk and elongate, becoming tender to touch
During the last 2-3 days colostrum oozes from the teats forming beads of wax-like material – “waxing”
In some mares udder filling and waxing does not occur until after foaling

MARE'S BEHAVIOUR

As foaling gets closer, the mare becomes restless and agitated, especially as she enter the first stage of labour
During first stage of labour she may show signs indicative of colic

CONCENTRATIONS OF ELECTROLYTES IN MAMMARY SECRETION

Calcium concentration rises sharply in mammary secretions of most mares 24 – 48 hours before foaling

® Stall-side tests available to predict foaling:

- ◆ Test strip kits that changes from green to red:
- ◆ Predict-A-Foal, Animal Health Care Products, Vernon, Calif
- ◇ Dilution kits with a dye indicator changes from pink to blue:
- ◇ Titret (most reliable), CHEMetrics, Calverton
- ◇ Sodium concentration is typically much higher than potassium until 3-5 days before birth, when it becomes lower than potassium

BODY TEMPERATURE

Prior to foaling, the mare's body temperature will be equal to or drop lower than her normal morning temperature (37.5°C).



Uterine Prolapse in Cattle

A uterine prolapse is a serious complication seen in cattle, and one that requires veterinary attention. It occurs most commonly in dairy cattle, but occasionally in beef cattle. The timing of events is typically following calving and up to 72 hours post partum.

The series of events, and predisposing factors leading up to a uterine prolapse may include, but is not inclusive of strong straining, long uterine attachments to the body wall, a relaxed flaccid uterus, placenta retention, and excessive relaxation of the pelvic and perineal (anal) region. It could be caused by something as simple as calving on a downward slope, causing increased pressure on the diaphragm and abdominal organs.

If there is dystocia (difficult calving), and excessive force is used to get the calf out, this predisposes to straining after the birth and prolapse.

In dairy cattle, this occurs in cows that have had several calves and a metabolic event such as milk fever can cause prolapse due to the uterus being atonic or relaxed.

In Australia, the feeding of oestrogenic pastures such as white clover which essentially have the same effect as oestrogens within the body, making everything floppy and sloppy so when the cow strains there is no resistance to a uterine prolapse.

The symptoms of a uterine prolapse are very obvious. The uterus will be clearly visible from the back of the cow, although it will need to be differentiated from other types of prolapse such as vaginal or rectal.

However, these other types can occur at the same time. The cow may be standing or recumbent, but there is usually a lot of environmental contamination of the membranes with faeces, sand, dirt, etc. There is usually swelling if several hours have passed and the cow will be straining, restless and have a raised respiratory and heart rate.

The situation is worsened by more severe complications such as milk fever or intestinal obstruction, but a veterinarian will be able to tell if these complications are likely.

Treatment by the veterinarian will involve replacement of the uterus or amputation, depending on the severity, as well as systemic treatment of shock and pain relief if necessary.

The prognosis varies greatly, and depends on the severity and the time that has lapsed between event and treatment. If the condition is noticed and treated early the prognosis for full recovery is good. In cases where excessive time delay has occurred and there are more severe complications the prognosis is guarded, but generally said to be poor until proven otherwise.

The prognosis for future breeding of this animal also varies largely depending on circumstances. However, if the uterus is not severely damaged, grossly contaminated or dried out due to sun exposure then the prognosis for a breeding future is good.



HOLIDAY SEASON TRADING HOURS

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Christmas Eve | - Normal Trading Hours |
| Christmas Day | - Closed |
| Boxing Day | - Closed |
| December 27-29 | - Normal Trading Hours |
| New Years Day | - Closed |

