

WINGHAM & VALLEY VETS

Newsletter

October 2017

Volume 7

Have you heard about our Equine Health Package?

This month we are launching our annual equine health package, which offers local horse owners the very best in preventative healthcare for their horse. We are finding that for most people, their horse is more of a companion or pet and as such, they want the very best veterinary care for them. Preventative care is especially important for horses to keep them healthy and performing at their best. This program ensures common health problems are prevented, before they can seriously impact on a horse's health.



Figure 1: Our purpose-built equine facility and crush

For an annual fee of only **\$295**, horses will receive:

- Full physical exam
- Faecal egg count and worming plan
- Dental exam and dental float (including sedation)
- Annual Hendra virus booster
- Equivac 2 in 1 for tetanus and strangles
- Equest plus tape wormer.



Figure 2: An equine patient receiving some much-needed intravenous fluid therapy in our equine facility

This price is for horses transported to our equine facility for procedures in hours – if you would like a vet to visit your property, travel fees will apply. We have a purpose-built equine hospitalisation facility, the only one of its kind in the Manning Valley. It is perfect for breeding work (pregnancy scans,

follicle scans, artificial insemination) and dentals; as well as for horses and foals that require more intensive treatment, such as intravenous fluids, regular intravenous antibiotics or frequent dressing changes for severe leg wounds. The package offers great value and if you have any questions, we would be happy to answer them. Contact the clinic on 6557 0000 or email us at admin@winghamvets.com.au.

Cases of the Month



Rat Bait Toxicity
Theileria
Corneal stromal abscess (horse)
Femoral fractures (cats)
Pancreatitis
Tick paralysis
Retrobulbar abscess
Grass seed abscesses
Bladder stones

Run Dates



Krambach: every Tuesday

Comboyne: second
Thursday of every month
Thurs 12th October
Thurs 9th November

Oxley Island: fourth Thursday
of every month
Thurs 26th October
Thurs 23rd November

Cooperook, Lansdowne &
Hannam Vale: third
Thursday of every month
Thurs 19th October
Thurs 16th November

To book a job, please call us
by 5pm the day before a run.

Emergencies will be
accommodated.

Subsidised travel fees.

6557 0000

Upcoming Events



Cattle Lameness Workshop
coming soon!

Staff Profile: Dr. Peter Rourke

Pete graduated with honours from Sydney University and he has been with the practice since its inception in 1994. A true allrounder, Pete is an outstanding large and small animal vet, who is a true asset to the practice. Pete's areas of interest are broad and include small animal surgery, diagnostic imaging (x-rays and ultrasound), equine reproduction and dairy medicine. Pete recently completed a distance education course in Veterinary Diagnostic Ultrasound and this has been of great benefit to the clinic with Pete's ultrasound skills enabling the practice to have outstanding diagnostic and case management capabilities across all species. He has also been offering a referral ultrasound service to neighbouring clinics, which has kept him very busy and he has very much enjoyed working so closely with our local vet colleagues. Pete has enjoyed the ultrasound course so much that he has now enrolled in an advanced cardiorespiratory medicine course to further his skills and knowledge in not only echocardiography (heart ultrasound) but also the diagnosis and treatment of heart and lung disease.



Figure 3: Ultrasound is extremely useful for any species - even cattle! Our large animal hospital facilities were very handy for this ultrasound. Unfortunately beautiful Ella was diagnosed with thoracic lymphoma.

Synchrony programs: a tool to improve in herd fertility

Synchrony programs administer fertility drugs to synchronise a herd's oestrus cycle to make all the cows ovulate at a similar time, allowing for timed artificial insemination. Synchrony programs can significantly improve fertility; with studies showing a 6 week in calf rate (ICR) of 68% with Fixed time AI (FTAI), compared to 47% without a synchrony program. However, the decision to begin a synchrony program with your herd should carefully consider all the positive implications, as well

as potential pitfalls. The cow oestrus cycle is 21 days (range 18-24). The cows in the herd will be at different stages of this cycle at any one time and with synchrony programs, we aim to have cows ovulating as close to each other as possible.



In the spotlight: Grass Seed Abscesses in Dogs



Lately we have been seeing lots of cases of dogs with nasty grass seed abscesses. One dog had a draining sinus and abscess so severe that the owners thought she had been attacked by wild dogs! The abscess pocket was 20cm across and the overlying skin was an intense purple colour. Grass awns catch in the dog's coat and because of their sharp point, can push through the skin, taking bacteria with them into the subcutaneous tissues. The body's reaction to this is to try and wall off the infection, resulting in a pus-filled abscess which can make the dog very unwell. They can also track a long way under the skin and have been implicated in pyothorax cases (a chest full of pus – we had one of these last month), retrobulbar abscesses (behind the eyeball) and even brain abscesses (entering via small holes in the skullbones where arteries enter the skull). To cure these dogs surgery is essential to find and remove the grass awn foreign body, flush the abscess cavity and allow it to drain. Antibiotics alone will not resolve the infection, as the grass awn will continue be a source of bacterial contamination until it is removed. To prevent grass awn abscesses in your dog, it is ideal to keep long haired dogs clipped and avoid exercising them in long grass when there are lots of awns visible in the pasture. If it isn't possible to have the dog clipped, they should be brushed regularly to remove any awns lurking in the coat.



SYNCHRONY PROGRAMS FOR LACTATING COWS IN YEAR-ROUND CALVING HERDS (adapted from Dairy Australia)				
PROGRAM	DESCRIPTION	COST	COMPLEXITY	COMMENTS
The "Monday Program"	All cows past voluntary wait period (VWP) and not mated are injected with PG on a routine morning every 14 days. Cows that don't come on heat are injected 14 days later – DO NOT PG MATED COWS	Low	Simple	Only works on cycling cows.
Ovsynch	Day 0 – Inject GnRH ("Gonabreed") Day 7 – Inject PG Day 9 – Inject GnRH (PM) Day 10 – Fixed time insemination (AM)	Med	Needs to have accurate timing of treatments. Fixed time insemination simplifies and condenses mating.	Breed to fixed time. Good in year-round calving and batch-calving herds. Will increase submission rates over PG only.
Enhanced Ovsynch	Day 0 – Inject GnRH ("Gonabreed") Day 7 – Inject PG and ECG Day 9 – Inject GnRH (PM) Day 10 – Fixed time insemination (AM)	Med	Higher than PG programs and needs to have accurate timing of treatments.	Breed to fixed time. Good in year-round calving and batch-calving herds. May help if non-cycling cows are prevalent.
Progesterone (CIDR or CueMate) device	Day 0 – Insert Cue-mate (or CIDR) and inject GnRH ("Gonabreed") Day 7 – Remove Cue-mate + inject PG Day 9 – Inject GnRH (PM) Day 10 – Fixed time insemination (AM) <i>Alternative protocol to reduce risk of prolonged period of non-cycling: After day 7, give no more treatments, and observe cows closely for heat. Mate any cows that show heat.</i>	High	Much higher than PG programs and needs to have accurate timing of insertions, removals, treatments. However, fixed time insemination simplifies and condenses mating.	Breed to fixed time. Will increase submission rates over PG only. Good treatment for cows that are not observed to come on heat.
Presynch Ovsynch	Day 0 – inject PG Day 14 – inject PG Day 26 – inject GnRH Day 33 – inject PG Day 35 – inject GnRH (PM) Day 36 – Fixed time insemination (AM)	Very High	Higher than PG programs and needs to have very accurate timing of the large number of treatments.	Breed to fixed time. Long lag to start of the program. Probably increases conception rates to mating.

Although synchrony aims to improve 6-week ICR and overall herd fertility, it is not a complete solution to poor herd fertility. Factors such as body condition score and nutrition, bull power, heat detection, insemination technique and heifer growth all influence overall fertility. The aim of synchrony is to make a subfertile cow more fertile, allow for better use of labour and make heat detection less crucial.

Reasons to synchronise:

- Get cows in calf as soon as possible post-calving.
- Less reliance on heat detection. Errors in heat detection have major implications - for every 10% decrease in effective heat detection, the 6 week ICR decreases by 5%.
- Minimises late calving cows
- High producing dairy cows can have poor fertility
- Synchrony is a treatment for non cyclers. Treated non cyclers achieved a 25 day ICR of 50% compared to 10% if untreated. It also allows for early detection of problem cows.
- Increased early lactation milk production
- More replacement heifers produced.

Disadvantages of synchrony programs: more expensive in terms of labour and drugs and potential for accidents (it is crucial to get your drugs and days correct as mistakes can result in disasters).

Accurate mating records and accurate early pregnancy testing records are essential elements of any synchrony program.

Synchrony programs work best when:

- The voluntary waiting period (time from calving to start of mating) is longer
- Cows are not 'repeat breeders' i.e. cows should have fewer than 3 previous matings since calving.
- Labour is well organised and responsibility for the synchrony program is clearly defined
- Planning for the program occurs several weeks before the program starts
- Semen is highly fertile (check the bulls or AI semen you are using before starting)
- Inseminators are well skilled
- You have suitable facilities for injection and insemination of cows

Any synchrony program for your herd needs to be tailored to the individual requirements of the farm. Please speak to Michael at the vet clinic if you would like to discuss a possible program for your herd.

SUMMER POSES A SIGNIFICANT HEAT STROKE RISK TO PETS

Hot weather is fast approaching so remember to have plenty of shade and fresh water available. Take special precautions for brachycephalic (short nosed) breeds such as pugs and bulldogs as they are at increased risk of heat stroke.

Interesting Cases: Bad things happen in threes???

That seemed to be the case for three unfortunate cats last week! When we see two cases with the same problem, vet staff always remark "where is the third?" A nurse jokingly said this last week after we had diagnosed two cats with fractured left femurs in the same day and unbelievably, an hour later, a third cat presented non-weightbearing on the left hind and radiographs revealed yet another diaphyseal femoral fracture. All three cats underwent orthopaedic surgery the next day to repair the fractures, since none of the fractures were suitable for the application of an external cast. All three are currently doing well.



Figure 4: Two fractures were repairable with intramedullary pin and cerclage wire, the remaining fracture required a bone plate

Featured Staff Pets: Introducing Mr Jelly Grape!

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Mr Jelly Grape belongs to Alissa and Michael and was named by their three year old daughter. He is full of personality and like all Bengal cats, is very vocal, loves the water and loves children.



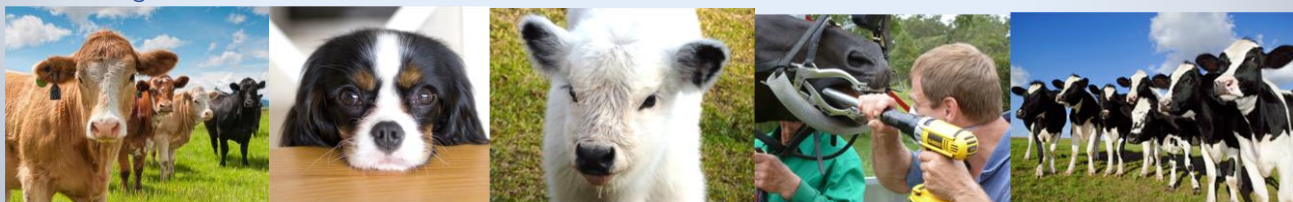
Bengals originate from the Asian Leopard cat which is how they get their beautiful rosetted coat. Bengals are a very high energy cat and when bored, are quite vocal! They love to climb and an excited Bengal will literally 'bounce off the walls'! Some Bengals love water so much, their owners can't leave a pot of boiling water on the stove in case their curious Bengal decides to stick their paw in!!



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