



Pip & Pop's Publication

June, 2024

Winter and respiratory viruses go hand in hand and our bovine buddies are not immune to it. This month we look at pneumonia in calves, lawsonia in horses, canine diabetes and understanding why we offer pre-anesthetic blood tests. Grab a hot cocoa and settle in for this month's hot topics.

Pneumonia in Calves: A Critical Concern for Farmers

This respiratory disease can impact calves of all ages, with young animals particularly vulnerable due to their developing immune systems and environmental stressors. It is often seen in calves 4-6 weeks of age and post weaning.

Causes and Contributing Factors

Pneumonia often begins due to a viral infection and as time goes on secondary bacterial infections occur. Stress such as overcrowding, cold weather, wet bedding and poor ventilation contribute to the impact on the respiratory tract which in turn allows viral and bacterial infections to establish.

What To Look Out For

- Open mouth breathing
- Nasal and oral discharge
- Coughing
- Increased respiratory rate
- Fever >39.3
- Reduced appetite

Prevention

- Colostrum at birth
- Minimising stress factors
- Adequate nutrition
- Clean & well ventilated housing
- Vaccination may be required

Treatment

Prompt treatment is essential for good outcomes. Treatment may include a combination of antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and electrolytes. The lungs can become permanently damaged following a bout of pneumonia. In fact, a calf which develops pneumonia pre-weaning is 1.8x as likely to suffer from calving difficulties as a heifer. This indicates the lifelong impact that pneumonia has on dairy cattle.

If you believe your calf/calves may have pneumonia, please call us. We can provide a correct diagnosis, look for risk factors to reduce disease and set up treatment plans for your calves

For More Information www.dpi.nsw.gov.au

Why a Pre-Anaesthetic Blood Test Matters

We prioritise the health and safety of every patient, including before any procedure requiring anaesthesia. A pre-anaesthetic blood test is a crucial step in this process. By assessing key indicators such as organ function, blood cell counts, and overall health status, we tailor our anaesthetic protocols to each individual's needs. This proactive approach not only enhances the safety of the procedure but also allows us to address any underlying health concerns pre-emptively.

If you would like to know more, please contact us to have a chat.

Little Gems Kitty Rescue

A local cat and kitten rescue service. Based in Casino and servicing the local area to give animals a second chance in finding a warm and loving home. For more information go to: www.littlegemskittyrescue.weebly.com

Equine Proliferative Enteropathy Caused by Lawsonia

Equine proliferative enteropathy (EPE) is caused by the bacterium *Lawsonia intracellularis*. It is a gastrointestinal disease which primarily affects young horses, particularly weanlings and yearlings, though it can occur in horses of all ages.

Causes and Transmission

Lawsonia infects the intestinal lining, leading to thickening and inflammation. The bacterium spreads through the faecal-oral route, often in environments where horses are in close contact or share feed and water sources.

Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

Clinical signs of EPE can vary from mild diarrhea to severe colic and weight loss. Diagnosis involves a combination of clinical signs, blood tests, and sometimes a faecal PCR.

Treatment and Management

Early detection is crucial for effective treatment. Antibiotics are commonly used, alongside supportive care such as fluid therapy and electrolyte supplementation. Management practices that reduce stress and maintain good hygiene help prevent outbreaks in susceptible populations.

Prevention Strategies

Preventing EPE involves strict biosecurity measures, including quarantining new horses, minimizing stress, and maintaining a clean environment.

We have had a few cases recently and with the right treatment and management the horses have made a good recovery. If you are concerned about your horse or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Diabetes isn't just for humans—it's a treatable challenge for our furry friends too!

Dogs and cats can develop diabetes mellitus, a chronic disease that impacts their ability to regulate blood sugar levels effectively. While the diagnosis may initially seem daunting, understanding and proactive management can ensure pets lead full and comfortable lives.

Common Symptoms

- Increased thirst
- Increased urination
- Weight loss despite a good appetite

Can diabetes be treated?

Most pets affected by diabetes mellitus will require long-term supplementation of insulin via twice daily injections under their skin.

If you notice changes in your pet's eating or drinking levels or any unexpected weight loss, we'd advise a prompt check-up for further assessment. We're sweet on high-quality veterinary care for all our patients!

