



# Pip & Pop's Publication

May, 2024

As the rain persists and our paddocks struggle to soak up the deluge, it's crucial to address the challenges our livestock face amidst these prolonged wet conditions. The abundance of rain brings with it a myriad of concerns from hoof problems to heightened risks of diseases Yersinia and Mastitis. In this issue, we'll explore practical strategies for mitigating the impacts of prolonged rain on animal health.

## Yersinia

Yersinia is caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*. Animals shedding the bacteria in their faeces contaminate pastures and the bacteria can survive for long periods and multiply in mud and water at low temperatures. It causes severe diarrhoea and can result in death in cattle if not treated. It is often seen in winter and early spring in cattle grazing in wet, waterlogged or recently flooded pastures. The Northern Rivers is unfortunately the right climate for Yersinia to thrive.

### Clinical Signs

Cattle will become depressed, off their feed and develop a profuse watery, foul smelling diarrhoea. Affected cattle become dehydrated and often become recumbent. Death usually occurs within 3-5 days.

### Prevention

The high-risk time for the disease on the North Coast is in winter. Producers can identify the water holding and flood prone areas of their properties and if possible graze cattle on other paddocks in winter. Some properties may be able to fence off high risk areas.

### Diagnosis & Treatment

Stool samples, bloods or a post-mortem are used to diagnosis Yersinia. Antibiotics may be indicated however timing is of the essence. Supportive therapy such as electrolytes, antidiarrheal preparations and vitamin injections may be advised.

Isolation of affected animals from the rest of the mob is recommended. Because flood mud scours often occurs as an outbreak in an area it's important to tell your neighbours to be on lookout if they have similar conditions on their property. Frequent observation of cattle grazing high risk paddocks is recommended to enable early treatment.

**Yersinia can potentially infect humans. High levels of hand hygiene should be practised when managing animals with diarrhoea.**

For more information please give us a call in the clinic or visit: [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### Kings Birthday Public Holiday

Friday 8:30am – 5:30pm

Saturday 8:30am – 12:00pm

Sunday CLOSED

Monday Closed

Tuesday 8:30am – 5:30pm

**We are closed Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June. We are available for client emergencies Please call us on 02 6662 2488 for EMERGENCIES ONLY**

## Watch Out – Ticks, Snakes & Cane Toads

Despite the cooling weather we are still treating for snake bites, paralysis ticks & cane toad toxicity.

Although snakes hibernate in winter, they can be found coiled up under your wood piles. When you and your furry mate collect timber for the fire you may disturb them.

The high-risk period for ticks is from spring to autumn, however cases are still detected in winter. All year round prevention is the best way to keep your pets safe.

Adult cane toads need water to rehydrate and breed. Due to the ongoing rain, there is plenty of water around increasing the likelihood your furry friend will encounter a cane toad.

**If you have any further questions, please give us a call or pop into the clinic.**

### Snake Bite Symptoms

- Dogs commonly collapse suddenly & get back up
- Muscle tremors and shaking
- Wobbly in the legs
- Lethargy
- Bleeding out of the nose, mouth, or bite site
- Dark urine
- Complete paralysis
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**Call us immediately to be assessed!**

### Tick Paralysis Symptoms

- Change in gait/ incoordination
- Change in bark or meow
- Vomiting or retching or difficulty swallowing
- Heavy breathing
- Heavy salivation
- Weakness/ collapse

**Call us immediately to be assessed!**

### Cane Toad Toxicity Symptoms

- Profuse drooling and/or frothing from the mouth
- Very red and slimy gums
- Pawing at the mouth
- Vomiting
- Disorientation
- Shivers and/or tremors
- Convulsions or seizures

**Call us immediately to be assessed!**

## Reproduction Disease Management in Cattle – Vibriosis

Vibriosis, the uninvited guest at your cattle's reproductive party! This pesky bacterium, *Vibrio fetus*, loves crashing the herd's fertility fiesta, bringing along infertility and spontaneous abortions. Vaccinating against Vibriosis is crucial for preventing its spread within herds and safeguarding the reproductive health of cattle. Disease management isn't just a strategy it's an armour that shields your livestock against the incidence of disease, minimize reproductive losses, and maintains the productivity and profitability of your business.

### The Facts

- Vibriosis, caused by the *Campylobacter fetus* bacterium, it is a common venereal disease that lives in the reproductive tract.
- Vibriosis is a sexually transmitted disease (STD) caused by a bacterial infection.
- Bulls are responsible for the introduction and spread of bacteria in a herd, and infected bulls will not show any visible signs
- Prevention is the cheapest and most effective way of controlling vibriosis. Vaccinating bulls annually against the disease is the best way to maintain vibriosis-free herds. Vaccinations should be given 4 weeks before joining.

**Call us to discuss your farms reproduction disease management plan and concerns.**