



Pip & Pop's Publication

July, 2024

August is upon us, the cold winds are starting to whip through the paddocks and your animals are starting to question why they can't be snuggled inside by the fire. We have some exciting news in the fight against Fleas & Ticks, a guide to calling us after hours and preparing for foaling season. Put on the kettle and settle in for this month's issue.

Bravecto Quantum (Fluralaner)

Introducing **BRAVECTO QUANTUM** - the first and only injectable parasiticide to provide a full year protection against paralysis tick and fleas. It also controls brown dog ticks for 11 months and flea allergy dermatitis.

Australia is the first country worldwide to gain approval of **BRAVECTO QUANTUM**. The paralysis tick - *Ixodes holocyclus* – is unique to Australia's eastern seaboard. It is the single most dangerous parasite for dogs with just one tick sufficient to cause paralysis and even death.

Bravecto Quantum is suitable for administration to dogs and puppies from six months of age and takes 3 days to exert its full effect.

Embrace a simpler approach to pet care with a reliable solution, ensuring your furry companion remains healthy and happy throughout the year.

Contact us today to schedule an appointment or for more information on how we can protect your pet from ticks and fleas effectively.



When to Call After Hours: A Quick Guide

We appreciate that, emergencies don't stick to a 9-to-5 schedule. Here's a handy rule of thumb for when to give us a ring after hours:

- Breathing difficulties
- Eating something poisonous
- Broken bones and fractures
- Hit by a car
- Seizures
- Burns
- Heat Stroke
- Foaling/ Calving Complications
- Colic

Remember, vets are human too—so while they're great at fixing pets, they're not so good at handling midnight snack requests or surprise kitten dance parties!"

If you're ever in doubt, it's always better to err on the side of caution and reach out.

Galloping into Parenthood: Preparing your Mare for Foaling

Welcome to the start of foaling season, where mares channel their inner drama queens and every new foal arrives with a flourish worthy of a Hollywood premiere.

Pregnancy

The gestation ranges from 330-345 days, however the length is extremely variable. Mares can go significantly over their due date and produce a healthy foal; however less than 330 days is considered premature.

The first pregnancy test is routinely carried out at 14-16 days. The first pregnancy test is vital to check for twins. Mares are not designed to carry twins. Even if they do survive until birth (most do not), they will be weak and underdeveloped. It is much easier to deal with twins if the first pregnancy test is performed early, at the recommended time.

Most of the growth of the foetus occurs in the last trimester, and so until this point your mare's energy intake can be kept in line with what is normal for her, unless her body condition is changing. Pregnant mares should have a consistent and low stress environment and good access to pasture. Body condition should be monitored throughout pregnancy and kept as moderate to moderately well

3 Stages of Foaling

1st Stage: The mare appears restless; she might pace up and down, and is often not interested in food. She might flick her tail like something is bothering her and look/kick at her belly. It's not unusual for her to get up and down several times. The mare's behaviour can appear similar to the signs of colic.

2nd Stage: Most mares will lie down by now. Within 20 minutes after the 'water breaks', a white-grey membrane becomes visible. This is the amniotic membrane which contains your foal. In the white membrane, a foot should be visible, followed by a second foot and shortly after, the nose on top of both feet (as shown in the picture, right). The mare will be contracting & pushing while lying down, until the foal is delivered. This phase takes about 10 minutes. The umbilical cord ruptures when the mare gets up. Do NOT cut the umbilical cord. Give the mare and the foal some privacy and observe from distance.



3rd Stage: The placenta will hang under the mare's tail and the mare will continue to have contractions until it passes. You can tie a knot into the placenta so it doesn't drag on the ground. Do NOT cut any parts off. As soon as the placenta has passed, put it in a bag to the side and let your veterinarian check it the next day.

The 1-2-3 Rule

- **One** hour to stand. The foal should be sternal within 1-5 minutes
 - **Two** hours to nurse
 - **Three** hours to pass the placenta

Emergency – Call us if....

- The white-grey membrane does not appear within 20 minutes or the membrane bag is red
- If you don't see two feet & a nose after 15 minutes once the membrane bag has been seen
- You mare doesn't become more comfortable, or if the placenta has not passed within three hours after foaling. Retained placenta is an emergency!