



Pip & Pop's Publication

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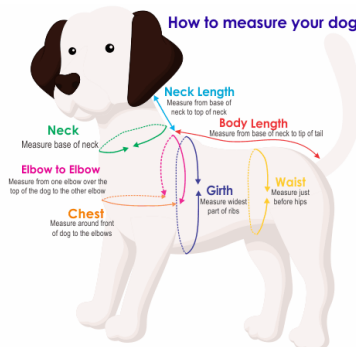
As temperatures drop, there's a palpable sense of crispness in the air and our mornings are greeted with a blanket of mist. As you pull out your cozy sweaters, don't forget your little mates. This month we are going to look at rugging your canine buddies, staying safe this mothers day, Bovine Respiratory Disease and we delve into the intricacies of bull reproductive performance.

Rugging Up

Generally speaking most dogs and cats are covered with lustrous fur coats, however it's worth remembering that some have lighter fur layers than others.

- Puppies and kittens shouldn't go outside in the extreme cold, as they don't have the fat, metabolism or fur coat to sustain their body temperature.
- Older pets tend to be more at risk in cold weather.
- Pets who suffer from arthritis may benefit from wearing a jumper, as the additional warmth can help prevent their joints from getting stiff and sore.
- Animals suffering from diseases that impair hair growth like hypothyroidism or Cushing's disease may benefit from a winter jumper.

If you feel that your dog needs a winter coat, you should look for a coat that protects the dog's torso and fits snugly without being too tight. If you are unsure whether your dog needs a winter coat, we recommend contacting us for advice. Be sure to purchase a coat that is properly suited to your dog's size. The coat should fit snug to trap their body heat, but not too tight where it cuts off their circulation.



Mothers Day Flower Guide

With Mother's Day fast approaching, you might be wondering what to get the special fur mama in your life. Flowers are always a fool-proof choice. But, as a dog owner, have you ever wondered which flowers are actually safe for your dog?

Toxic Flowers

Azaleas, Carnations, Chrysanthemum, Daffodils, Lillies, Peonies & Tulips

If you suspect that your dog has eaten a dangerous flower or plant, call us immediately. Ideally bring along a photo or sample – this will help us identify the toxin and treat your dog as quickly as possible.



Bovine Respiratory Disease

Bovine Respiratory Disease (BRD) is a common cause of illness and death in cattle. It is triggered by stress factors, viral and bacterial infections. A range of factors can predispose cattle and calves to BRD.

Stress can be caused by weaning, transport, sale yards, social restructuring, age, immunological background, dehydration and change of diet. Viral infections include Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) and Pestivirus (BVDV).

In the early stages, cattle may have a lack of appetite, appear hunched and lethargic. As the disease progresses coughing and nasal discharge may be seen and cattle may appear depressed and withdrawn from the main herd. In many animals the disease may go unnoticed, silently impacting weight gain and meat quality. In others it may ultimately be fatal.

The good news is BRD is very manageable and often preventable using a combination of vaccination, and management techniques to minimise stressful events

If you would like help setting up a BRD prevention and treatment plan, please contact us so we can assist you.

Optimizing Bull Performance

Yearly examinations of the bulls in your herd reduces the risk of poor performing bulls and bull breakdowns. Bulls influence the herd fertility and profitability more than any other class of stock. They contribute half of each calf's genetics, and individual bulls have the greatest effect on genetic improvements in the herd.

What should the bulls be checked for?

• Scrotal circumference (strongly correlated with sperm cell output) • Sperm morphology and motility (the number of normal cells and how they move) • The reproductive tract • Soundness and health of the bull • Mating ability and libido • Age and condition, and • Social interactions between bulls.

Crush Side Semen Testing

Semen is collected from the bull following a physical examination. This is done using an electro ejaculator and it is then assessed under a microscope. The test checks whether the sperm are progressively swimming forward and for adequate concentration of sperm.

Semen Morphology

A crush side motility test will tell you the percent of the sperm that are swimming but it will not tell you if those sperm are able to penetrate the egg or form a viable embryo. The morphology test checks for known sperm abnormalities that have been known to cause reduced conception rates.

Your Role

- Ensure bulls of similar age are used together (ideally this will prevent fighting & allow more time to serve).
- Make sure he moves well and is not lame.
- Measure the scrotal circumference and assess the soundness of the testicles by palpating them. Understand what is normal, and what abnormal softness, lumps or swelling feel like.
- Observe the bull during joining, making sure he is working well.

Bulls have a habit of injuring themselves or breaking down unexpectedly. It is vital to your breeding program to have a backup plan to ensure all the cows still get in calf.

Casino Vet Clinic has you and your herd covered. Phil & Sam are Accredited Veterinary Bull Breeding Examiners. Please call us a call to arrange your Bull Breeding Soundness Examination.