

BEGA AND COBARGO VETERINARY HOSPITALS NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition 2007

Welcome to the Bega Veterinary Clinic News! This is the first edition of our new newsletter which will be released quarterly. We hope you enjoy it and feel free to offer suggestions for future publications. Each quarter there will be large and small animal articles written by our vets or final year veterinary students. We will also feature one of our staff members so you can get to know us better!

OPENING TIMES:

Bega:

Monday to Friday: 8.30-5.30pm

Saturday: 9-12pm

Phone: 02 6492 1837

Cobargo:

Monday to Friday: 9-5pm

Alternate Saturdays: 9-12pm

Phone: 02 6493 6442

For all after-hours emergencies call
02 64921837

Small animal surgeries can be booked in on any weekday, please ring and book in advance!

If you would like to see a specific vet for a small animal consultation please let our reception staff know and they will do their best to accommodate you.

Bruce Adams



We have been overwhelmed by the support show to us by clients, friends and neighbouring practices at this difficult time. A big thank you to all. Greatly missed.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

The horse flu situation is ever changing. Unfortunately new cases are still being diagnosed daily. For the most up to date information specific to this area visit the DPI website at: www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horse/influenza Or ring the hotline on 1800 675888.

We are currently in a green zone, with no confirmed outbreaks in the area. A permit is still required for any movement of horses. It is currently in discussion as to whether there will be vaccination in the Berry area; there is no mention of vaccination in the Bega area. Most of the recent outbreaks in NSW have been linked to human movements, which have spread the virus. We encourage everyone involved with horses to be conscientious about biosecurity to avoid an outbreak in the region. If you are visiting a horse property, whatever 'zone' it is in, you should disinfect yourself and your vehicle thoroughly before returning home.

If your horse shows any symptoms of horse flu, please ring the clinic immediately.

WHATS NEW!

Plans are still underway for the development of a brand new clinic at North Bega. The process has been delayed with Bruce's death but will be proceeding in the New Year.

Some of the features of the new hospital include separate dog and cat wards, a pathology laboratory, an isolation ward, multiple consulting rooms, a large treatment area and state of the art surgery; as well as equipment for ultrasound, radiology and endoscopy.

Check out our new website! Visit www.begacobargovethospitals.com.au We are updating it regularly and will be placing lots more information onto it in the near future. This newsletter will also be available online through the website.

Staff Profile



Name: Peter Alexander

Position: Veterinarian and practice principal

Background:

Graduated from University of Sydney in 1978 with honours then moved to Bega where he has stayed ever since!

Interests:

Membership in Dairy Cattle Medicine; past-President of Australian Cattle Vets society. Completed a distance education course in small animal medicine. He enjoys working with all aspects of mixed practice

Hobbies:

Studying history, speaking French, walking and cycling to name a few!



Small Animal News: Tick Paralysis

Unfortunately the area we live in has a high prevalence of the paralysis tick (*Ixodes Holocylcus*). The tick attaches onto your dog or cat and engorges with blood before producing thousands of eggs. Signs of tick paralysis are seen within a couple of days of tick attachment. It releases toxin into the body, which affects the nervous system, causing progressive paralysis. The signs to watch out for include:

- * Hoarse voice/change in bark
- * Increased salivation
- * Dilated pupils
- * Changes in breathing, often with a characteristic grunting sound
- * Vomiting, especially after eating or drinking
- * Wobbliness, then paralysis of the hind limbs, then the forelimbs

Your pet has the best chance of recovery the sooner tick paralysis is identified and treated. Treatment involves treating them with tick anti-serum and supportive care in hospital.

The best advice is **avoidance!** Unfortunately nothing is 100% effective.

Tick prevention involves checking your dog manually every day for a tick.

Tick prevention products include:

- * Proban tablets
- * Spot on's e.g. frontline plus, advantix - fortnightly
- * Sprays and rinses e.g. permoxin (NOT in cats), frontline spray
- * Tick collars



The "Down" Cow

The downer cow can be a frustrating and labour-intensive animal to treat. Milk fever is the condition that jumps to mind for most people, however there can be many initial causes for a cow to go down - as a refresher - the '5 M's':

Metabolic: this covers milk fever (low calcium), pregnancy toxemia (low glucose in heavily pregnant animals), grass tetany (low magnesium), ketosis, low phosphorous,

Musculoskeletal: calving paralysis, back injuries, dislocated hip and many others

Mastitis: A severe and acute mastitis can cause a cow to go down. 'Black mastitis' refers to a toxic mastitis that rapidly spreads from the udder to the whole cow and can result in death within 24 hours

Metritis: A severe infection of the uterus can cause a cow to be systemically unwell and go down

Miscellaneous: Plenty of more obscure illnesses can cause a down cow including sick animals with gut infections, intestinal obstructions, nervous system diseases and calving difficulties to name a few!

A physical examination and possible further testing is needed to find the cause and appropriately treat the cow.

Remember the longer the cow is down, the less chance she has of ever getting up again!



Horse and Foal

Its that time of year again! Foaling season is in full swing. The following are a few points to remember with the mare and newborn foal:

MARE: When the mare goes into labour and passes its membranes and associated fluid, the foaling process should follow on soon after. If 15 minutes has passed and it is not progressing you need a vet to visit. Other indications that a vet visit is required is if the mare has excessive bleeding after passing the foal, doesn't get up after foaling, fails to pass membranes with 6 hours post foaling (they quickly become septic after this) or there is a vulval discharge 24 hours post foaling.

FOAL: A vet check of the foal is required if the foal is not standing within 1-2 hours and not sucking within 2-3 hours. Other symptoms to watch out for are a failure to pass meconium (first faeces), bent legs or signs of a weak/dummy foal. If you are not sure if the foal has had adequate colostrum, we can run a simple blood test, which will identify if the foal is lacking in antibodies. It is much simpler to correct this at an early stage before it becomes a problem to the foal.