



Bega

02 6492 1837

Monday to Friday 8.30 - 5.30pm

Saturday 9-12pm

Cobargo

02 6493 6442

Monday to Friday: 9 - 5pm

Alternate Saturdays 9-12pm

After-hours

02 6492 1837

Pete's Tips

Keep a bulldog-clip in the dairy for emergencies where the milk vein has been cut - place it over the injury to apply pressure and stop the blood flow while help arrives.



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Horse Dentistry

Dr Claire Hynes, a recent addition to the Veterinary team attended an intensive horse dentistry course in Grafton NSW in early June. The course, run by two well known veterinarian equine dentists, Oliver Liyou and Gary Wilson, is held every 2 years.

The course included advanced dental procedures such as floating, bit seating, molar removal, pulp capping, radiographs, nerve blocks, sedation, specialist care for young horses and aged horses as well as lots and lots of practice (120 horses between 16 vets!).

Our clinic is well equipped for equine dentistry (power float, hand rasps, dental mirrors, pick, tooth removal gear, pulp capping gear, dental halters, mouth lights, sedation and pain relief) and with the addition of a portable horse crush specially set up for performing dentals in the field, equine dentistry will

be safer (for the horse, owner and vet!), easier, quicker and more effective.

Claire has been performing equine dentistry over the past six years in a number of practices across in Australia, but said the course has opened her eyes to a variety of new procedures and methods that have increased



Claire using the power float

Trivia

1. What food is used to season some dog's meals but can cause anaemia?
2. Which horse has the nickname of rattail?
3. What are the barbs on a cat's tongue for?
4. What is a group of owls called?

Check page 4 for answers.

Pet Obesity

A 2005 study in Australia showed that 33.5% of dogs were overweight and 7.6% were obese.



An easy way to tell if your pet is overweight is to feel its ribs and waist contour – if these are hidden by fat there's a good chance your pet is in need of some dietary and exercise modification to assist weight loss.

Obesity can lead to a myriad of other health problems – diabetes, heart disease and joint disease to name a few.

There are many strategies available to achieve weight loss for your pet, and our Vets are more than willing to help review and modify your pet's diet and exercise regime.

Utilise Hill's Prescription Diets to assist your dog or cat's weightloss and become a part of the Hill's Pet Slimmer Program.

For September only, when you join the programme and receive...

- Free weight loss consultation and ongoing support.
- Weight loss starter pack
- Join our weekly walking group

September is Pet Weight Loss Month at the Bega Clinic.

Cold winters affect old animals just as they do more mature humans.

Canine Arthritis

Pain and discomfort when walking or reluctance to move around may be signs that your dog is suffering from Degenerative Joint Disease (DJD), the animal-equivalent of human arthritis.

Post injury and as animals age, cartilage becomes brittle and damaged leading to joint instability, inflammation and pain. The cold winters of the Bega Valley will exacerbate these signs, with increasing stiffness and pain expected over the coming months.

Arthritic disease can be diagnosed and monitored at our clinic using X-rays.

Although the disease cannot be cured, pain and mobility can be managed with the W.E.T. approach, that is:

Weight management

Exercise management, and

Treatment - such as anti-inflammatory drugs and other medical therapies.

For an assessment of your pet's DJD and to create a tailored management plan, please make an appointment at either of our clinics.



Winter Care for Aging Horses

Winter can be a particularly challenging time for aging horses, when feed becomes scarce and the cold nights affect their aging bodies.

Despite all this, there are things that can be done to ease the stress of winter:

Health check-ups

Especially for teeth and feet - poor dentition is a common cause of loss of condition in old horses, and one often

easily fixed. Bad feet can make moving around to feed difficult and painful. Other more sinister diseases like cancer and hormonal diseases are common in old animals and will affect their quality of life.

Supplementary feed

Feed that is easily chewed and digested will also help the oldies maintain condition. Boiled barley, or Mitevite Gumnuts™ are two options.

Protection from the cold

Providing shelter in the paddock, stabling or rugging old horses will provide protection from the worst effects of the cold. Remember, if you are rugging horses, daily checking is essential.



Use of Metricure in Dirty Cows

“Dirty cows” have a chronic, usually mild bacterial infection of the uterus after calving and are commonly seen after complicated births, such as twins, difficult calvings, milk fever or retained foetal membranes. These infections are not always evident with obvious discharge and left undetected can cost valuable \$\$\$\$ in lost fertility and milk production.

Metricure is an intra-uterine antibiotic suspension for use in lactating cattle to treat endometritis and improve fertility following calving. It is

best used 20-30 days after calving, as before this time, natural post-calving changes of the uterus will correct many infections.

Detection of infections is done via vaginal examination using a Metricheck™ tool or a clean glove and lubricant for each cow. Those with a thick white, yellow or brown discharge may be treated once with Metricure placed directly into the uterus using a disposable catheter.

Treating dirty cows with Metricure prior to insemination can improve conception rates by up to 50%, as well as pre-

vent the drop off in milk production that often accompanies a bacterial infection. Recent Australian studies have shown that with appropriate treatment, dirty cows can conceive 2 to 4 weeks earlier and their empty rates can be reduced.

For more information about Metricure, or any other products feel free to contact the clinic.



Staff Profile: Dr Jane Woolacott

Jane has worked at the clinic for the last 3 years and recently became a partner in the practice.

Where did you grow up and train to be vet?

I grew up in Sydney and studied at the University of Sydney.

What was life before Bega?

I had always wanted to work in mixed practice, so for my first job I moved to Murray Bridge in SA to work in a



Jane with one of her dogs, Shaggy.

dairy and small animal practice. After 3½ years, my husband Adam and I then trav-

eled around WA and NT for 6 months before falling in love with the Bega Valley.

What are your interests?

My main vet interests are Cattle and dog medicine. At home I enjoy tending my veggie patch and looking after my dogs. I also enjoy the outdoors – playing soccer and mountain biking around the region.

Dr Jane has recently become a partner in the practice.

Rabbit Teeth

Dental disease is one of the most common health problems of pet rabbits. Rabbit teeth continually grow throughout their lives, so they are prone to becoming overgrown. A rabbit's front teeth grow an impressive 8-12 cm per year and if they are not worn down by grazing on a fibrous diet they can cause significant damage to the animal's mouth.

Rabbits with overgrown teeth may stop eating and

show weight loss because chewing becomes difficult and painful. Severely affected rabbits may develop tooth abscesses and gum disease as their teeth grow into gums and infections develop. Serious cases require extensive treatment, including anaesthesia surgical correction.

However the problem of overgrown teeth can be largely avoided by feeding your pet rabbit has an adequate diet. Just like sheep,

cattle and horses, rabbits are designed to graze for several hours a day and constant access to grass and hay is important to keep the teeth worn down. Fresh vegetables and a small amount of fruit can also be fed.





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Remember September is Pet Weight Loss Month!!

Join the Hill's Pet Slimmer Programme and use Hill's Prescription Diet to help your Pet lose weight. You will also receive:

- Free weight loss consultations and on-going support
- Pet Slimmer starter Pack
- Join the Petercise group for weekly walks with fellow pet slimmers and staff from the clinic,
- Call now to book your Pet Slimmer start-up appointment!

www.begacobargovethospitals.com.au

Farmer's note: Voluntary Oestradiol Ban

As a result of Dairy Australia's request for a voluntary ban on the use of oestradiol (Cidriol) in lactating dairy cows, Bega Cheese has decided to make this a condition of supply and has consequently developed a policy on oestradiol use.

The policy is as follows:

1. Oestradiol cannot be used in lactating cows
2. Oestradiol can be used on non-lactating heifers.

There are alternatives to oestradiol use in dairy cows.

Please feel welcome to discuss the available options with any of our vets.

Trivia Answers

1) Onions 2) Appaloosa 3) Grooming 4) Parliament