



updates from the field

NEWS

Caesarians in Camelids

STAFF UPDATE

Crookwell Veterinary Hospital staff – veterinarians and vet nurses – undertake a range of courses and accreditations to ensure the Practice can continue to deliver the best veterinary care and services.

Veterinarian Jayde Watling, already an experienced ultrasonographer, has completed additional studies through the University of Sydney Centre for Veterinary Education. CVH has ultrasound equipment for small and large animals, providing a non-invasive, non-surgical way to diagnose a wide range of medical conditions and to confirm (or not) pregnancy in both small and large animals.

Jayde also now has AQIS accreditation (Australian Quarantine Inspection Service), enabling her to oversee the import and export of animals and animal products.

CVH vet **Will Lucas** has achieved Australian Cattle Veterinary Association Pregnancy Diagnosis accreditation. This accreditation is essential to enable veterinarians to tail tag cattle pregnancy tested prior to sale.

Open Day Gallery

Thanks again to the many people (and pets) who attended our Open Day on Saturday 22 February. See the Open Day image gallery under News and Community on our website at www.crookwellvet.com.au
All images by Rachel McLean of R J Photography.

When Crookwell Veterinary Hospital was established back in 1982, it's pretty safe to say there was not one alpaca or llama in the district. Today these camelids form a thriving and important part of our work. CVH staff not only have knowledge and expertise in camelid diseases and management, they enjoy the challenges these wonderful creatures bring to the practice. We hope you'll enjoy this story about two special llamas - Trinket and her new cria, Jade.



Llamas and alpacas often need a different medical and surgical approach to most of the animal species vets routinely treat. Gaseous anaesthesia in particular presents problems and this is a real challenge when surgery is required. When intubated and connected to an anaesthetic machine, their very long necks create a large "dead space", leading to a potentially fatal combination of increased carbon dioxide and insufficient oxygen flow.

When Rosie Francis (Maison Mauve Llamas and Alpacas, Taylors Flat) presented one of her prized breeding llamas unable to give birth after prolonged labour, our CVH vets first examined Trinket with the expectation of manually extracting her cria (baby llama).

It became obvious a caesarian section under anaesthesia was the only option and on 11 March, a live female cria was delivered. The cria – now called Jade after vet Jayde Watling! – required intensive, constant care over the next 4 days, including bottle feeding every few hours, until she was strong enough to stand and drink from her mother at 5 days of age. Here's Jade (above) at 15 days of age with mum, Trinket.

Rosie says she is still "pinching herself" following the successful caesarian – a rarity in camelids. While twelve year old Trinket had always given birth without intervention, the caesarian delivered her first female offspring, and the first cria for Totem, Rosie's young stud llama.

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HUMAN HYDATIDOSIS: don't be complacent about dog worming

The Crookwell district has been infamous in the past for its frighteningly high incidence of potentially fatal human hydatidosis. While this incidence has dropped dramatically, it's so easy for dog owners – especially in rural areas – to become complacent about maintaining regular worming routines *and* using effective products.

The tiny (4 to 6mm) hydatid tapeworm has quite a complicated life cycle. The true host is the dog (or dingo and fox), but the tapeworm requires other animals called intermediate hosts to complete its life cycle. These are numerous and include domestic livestock (sheep, goats, cattle, pigs, horses) and wildlife (kangaroos, wallabies).

Why is this tapeworm of canines so dangerous to us? Because humans can also act as an intermediate host.

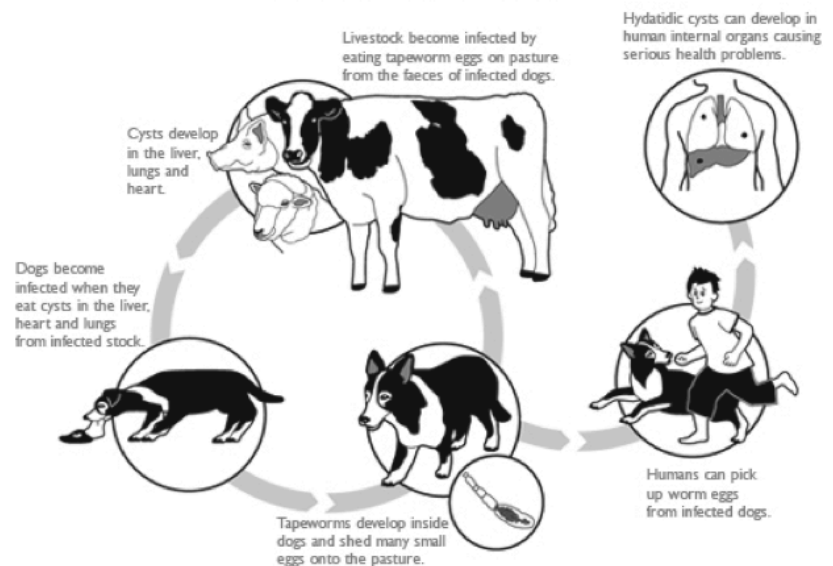
It's important to understand people don't become infected by eating offal or meat – they develop hydatid cysts like all other intermediate hosts by inadvertently picking up tapeworm eggs from dogs. These eggs have passed out in the faeces of infected dogs, and are easily picked up from the dog's coat or rugs, for example.

Grazing animals pick up the hydatid tapeworm eggs from pastures contaminated with dog droppings.

Once the eggs are swallowed, they can develop into hydatid cysts in the intermediate host's internal organs, especially the liver, heart and lungs.

The life cycle is completed when a dog, dingo or fox eats material containing hydatid cysts (for example, sheep liver) and becomes infected with hydatid tapeworms.

Hydatid life cycle



Hydatid prevention and control

Worming dogs

Most adult dogs should be wormed every 3 months for life. If you insist on feeding your dogs offal, or allowing them access to offal via dead livestock or wildlife such as kangaroos, they must be wormed every 6 weeks for life, alternating between a tapewormer and an allwormer (covering roundworms, hookworms, whipworms). To be effective against the hydatid tapeworm, the tapeworm product must contain praziquantel (for example, Droncit or Drontal).

Prevent access to offal

Try to ensure your dog does not have access to offal (while still maintaining the worming regime). The safest and best balanced diet for dogs is good quality manufactured dog food.

Human hygiene

Wash your hands thoroughly after handling your dogs, their rugs, feed bowls and grooming gear. And please teach children about the importance of hand washing after playing with their pet – these lessons may save a life.

(Image courtesy Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmanian Government)

Contact us

Opening hours 8.30am – 5.30pm Monday to Friday | 9am – 12pm Saturday

24 hour emergency service

Telephone: (02) 4832 1977 | Fax: (02) 4832 1459 Email: info@crookwellvet.com.au

Web: www.crookwellvet.com.au 220 Goulburn Street, Crookwell NSW 2583