



## updates from the field

### Please note:

Crookwell Veterinary Hospital has a new email address. Contact us at: [info@crookwellvet.com.au](mailto:info@crookwellvet.com.au)

### August is Dental Health Month



Bring your dog and/or cat into Crookwell Veterinary Hospital during August (by appointment only) for a **FREE dental health check** and a dental health gift pack.

The annual Australian Veterinary Association Pet Dental Health Month is an excellent opportunity to make sure your pet's oral health is up to scratch. Any problems can be discussed with our vets, and a treatment plan developed if required.

This is what we're talking about: these teeth need work!



### Taking the pain out of mulesing

Crookwell Veterinary Hospital is a strong supporter of the technology that is now providing tangible pain relief at the time of mulesing. The product \*Tri-Solfen is increasingly being used by Australian sheep producers, including most wool growers in the Crookwell district.

Tri-Solfen is a local anaesthetic and antiseptic gel spray that provides both fast and long-lasting pain relief, as well as a reduction in blood loss and infection. It is sprayed directly onto the wound immediately after mulesing.

Apart from two local anaesthetics, the product contains adrenaline. This reduces the shock and stress of blood loss while prolonging the anaesthetic action.

Tri-Solfen also contains the antiseptic Cetrimide to protect from bacterial contamination. The product's gel base helps it adhere well to the wound and become a barrier to potential infection.

Managing pain at mulesing is both an animal welfare and a production issue.

Anecdotal evidence from sheep producers around the country indicates much faster mothering and return to suckling, significantly less pain and stress, faster wound healing, and a rapid return to normal lamb behaviour following the use of Tri-Solfen post-mulesing.



The use of the local anaesthetic spray Tri-Solfen after mulesing leads to much faster return to mothering, less pain and stress, and faster wound healing.

Another advantage of using the product is recognition through Better Choices, an audited welfare program that identifies woolgrowers who follow an integrated, planned approach to achieving best-practice welfare for husbandry procedures in sheep. Producers registered for Better Choices can stamp their wool as coming off sheep that have been mulesed using Tri-Solfen.

CVH can assist you through the supply of the product, and provide information about registering for the Better Choices program (<http://www.betterchoices.com.au>).

\*Tri-Solfen is a Schedule 4 Prescription Animal Remedy and as such is only available from veterinarians.

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## Pets get arthritis, just like us

So many human medical conditions also occur in companion animals – including arthritis. Did you know arthritis affects one in every five adult dogs and it's one of the most common sources of chronic pain veterinarians treat? The condition is also increasingly being recognised in cats.

Arthritis results from the wearing down of the cartilage lining the affected joints and a decrease in the synovial fluid (lubricating oil) within those joints. Causes are varied and include damage due to old age, injury, and growing or inherited defects such as elbow and hip dysplasia.

How do you know your dog may be suffering the painful effects of arthritis?

1. Favouring a limb, difficulty getting up and down, sitting or standing
2. Stiff and sore joints, often more obvious in winter
3. Hesitancy to jump, run or climb stairs
4. Decreased activity and play, often leading to an increase in weight
5. Changes in attitude or behaviour.

If you suspect your dog or cat has arthritis a physical examination, which may include X-rays, is advisable. Diagnosing the problem and starting an early treatment plan can help ease the pain and slow the progression of the disease.

The good news is that, as in human medicine, there are now excellent, effective arthritis drugs for pets, but before we discuss treatment it's essential you devise a complete health plan to tackle your pet's arthritis.

This means ensuring your dog or cat is not overweight! The loss of weight in obese pets can make a huge difference and it's often exciting for everyone – pet, owner and vet – when a previously overweight and sore dog gets a bounce back into his step just through weight loss. The pet usually also feels more like exercising, which can be managed according to the level of joint damage.

Arthritis treatments are varied and must be prescribed by a vet and managed according to the level and type of arthritis. **NEVER be tempted to give human medication to pets!** Paracetamol, for example, can kill cats and dogs.

Treatments include animal-specific supplements such as Sasha's Blend; the compound Cartrophen that relieves pain while improving the quality of cartilage and joint fluid, cartilage cell production and blood supply and nutrients to the joint (given as a course of injections, the frequency depending on the dog's response) and, as a last resort, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. These have more side effects and are used when other treatments fail to manage the pet's pain.

Keep your pet cosy with a WeatherBeeta dog rug!

CVH has a huge range of high quality dog rugs in store: bring your pooch in for a fitting. WeatherBeeta is a top brand - the rugs are strong, lined and warm, weatherproof, available in all sizes, colours and patterns.



## Contact us

Opening hours 8.30am – 5.30pm M to F | 9am – 12pm Saturday

**24 hour emergency service**

Telephone: (02) 4832 1977 | Fax: (02) 4832 1459

Email: [info@crookwellvet.com.au](mailto:info@crookwellvet.com.au)

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## Calving calls

The spring calving season is just about to start and it's timely to think about managing difficult births.

A successful outcome of live cow and live calf relies on early detection and intervention (if required). Given the current high value of cows, it is cost effective to seek early veterinary assistance.

If in doubt, ring sooner rather than later! Some golden rules:

1. A cow that is more than an hour into labour will most likely require assistance
2. A heifer that is more than 2 hours into labour will most likely require assistance
3. Pay attention to body weight. Pregnant cows and heifers need enough nutrition for themselves and their growing foetus, but overweight cows and heifers have more trouble calving
4. A normal presentation for calving is front feet and face coming first – any variation on that is abnormal and should be examined
5. Signs of straining without any presentation almost always indicates problems. This could be, for example, a breech presentation when only the tail is presented.

Be aware of uterine prolapse. This may occur soon after calving, frequently after a difficult birth. Prolapses are an emergency. The affected cow or heifer can die of shock unless veterinary assistance is provided as soon as possible.

Don't forget CVH has excellent bovine loading and crush facilities on site if the animal can be transported. This saves you money and us time.