



updates from the field

Winter news

June is CVH Geriatric Month.

All our staff love geriatric patients and recognise the extraordinary pleasure and love they give their owners. But, like us, senior pets develop a range of age-related problems and the earlier these are diagnosed and managed, the longer your pet will have a good quality of life.

During June we're offering senior pets:

- a consultation, including a comprehensive health check
- a half price geriatric blood screening test, and
- a free rug

Please ring to book in on 4832 1977.

Attention horse owners: Equine Hendra virus vaccine

From 20 May to 31 July Zoetis, the manufacturer of Equivac® HeV (Hendra virus vaccine), is offering all horse owners **two vaccinations for the price of one (the second is free).**

CVH vets are accredited to administer Equivac® HeV vaccine. We strongly advise owners of horses travelling, competing or mixing with other horses to consider Hendra vaccination. Horses can be vaccinated from 4 months of age, and require 2 vaccinations three weeks apart.

CVH welcomes our new vet



We're delighted to introduce our latest vet recruit, Penny Ovenstone, a 2011 Bachelor of Veterinary Science graduate from the University of Sydney.

Growing up on a rural property in Blayney, Penny has always wanted to live and work in the country.

Penny also likes to keep fit (she's a qualified swimming teacher and plays hockey).

Before joining CVH in April 2013, she worked in a small and large animal practice at Muswellbrook.

Like all our vets, Penny loves pets and large animals equally, and she gained broad work experience while studying: working on farms, as a vet nurse/receptionist in city and country practices, and as a volunteer bird keeper at Taronga Zoo.

Penny has Ovine Brucellosis and Hendra vaccine accreditation and an Artificial Insemination and Animal Breeding Management certificate.

Penny's University Honours thesis focused on advanced reproductive techniques in sheep, giving her practical experience in techniques such as laparoscopic AI and surgical harvesting of embryos.

Senior pet care

Even from the age of 7 years, dogs and cats can develop health problems such as arthritis, dental disease, cancer, diabetes, heart, kidney and thyroid disease, incontinence and senility. We can diagnose and help you manage these health problems to extend your pet's quality of life.

Geriatric blood screening test

The physical examination and blood tests we perform in house at CVH for senior pets test the function of kidneys and other vital organs and check specifically for diseases common in older dogs and cats. If required, we'll work with you to develop a treatment schedule. That might mean finding the most effective and safe medication for pets with arthritis, medication for age-related behaviour changes, a tasty prescription diet to help failing kidneys, or a palatable weight loss science diet that really works!

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Vaccinating your lambs

Routine vaccination programs are essential for lambs and adult sheep. Don't assume it's safe to miss a booster – it isn't. The five clostridial diseases covered by 5-in-1 and 6-in-1 vaccines are fatal. Annual boosters after the 2 initial injections are required to maintain solid immunity.

At CVH we stock all required sheep vaccines. As with all our large animal merchandise, we care for our product and all vaccines are rigorously maintained at correct temperatures in refrigerated cabinets.

Major sheep diseases prevented by routine vaccination

- the 5 **clostridial diseases**: enterotoxaemia/pulpy kidney, tetanus, blackleg, black disease, malignant oedema/swelled head in rams.
- **caseous lymphadenitis**: cheesy gland or CLA, usually not fatal but causes economic loss to carcasses and wool production.
- **scabby mouth**: see below.

Clostridial and CLA vaccination schedule

We strongly recommend 6 in 1 vaccination to protect against the 5 clostridial diseases plus cheesy gland:

- Lambs must have 2 doses, 4 to 6 weeks apart, for full immunity. First vaccination at marking, the second as above or at weaning.
- Adult sheep vaccinated as lambs require lifelong annual boosters.
- Introduced adult sheep with no vaccination history must be given 2 vaccinations 4 to 6 weeks apart, then annual boosters.
- Give annual boosters to ewes 2 to 6 weeks pre-lambing. This protects the ewe during lambing and antibodies in her colostrum give 6 to 8 weeks immunity to her lamb.
- Weaners on lush pastures need boosters every 3-4 months to protect against pulpy kidney, then annual boosters when adults.
- Annually vaccinate wethers 4 to 6 weeks pre-shearing to protect against the higher risk of cheesy gland at shearing.

Scabby mouth

Scabby mouth is a non-fatal but debilitating disease. Routine vaccination of all sheep on properties where the disease exists is recommended. The vaccine is live, making non-vaccinated stock vulnerable to infection.

- A single scabby mouth vaccination protects sheep for life.
- Vaccinate lambs at marking.
- Don't vaccinate pregnant ewes within 6 weeks of lambing.
- Scabby mouth is essential for sheep destined for live sheep export.
- Scabby mouth is a zoonosis – it is dangerous to humans! Always wear gloves and protective clothing to safeguard against inadvertent vaccination splash entering skin wounds.

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 Web: www.crookwellvet.com.au

220 Goulburn Street, Crookwell NSW 2583

Strangles alert

Outbreaks of strangles have been reported since May in recreational horses in the ACT and southern NSW. Recently introduced horses sparked the outbreaks. In NSW, strangles is a notifiable disease.

Symptoms of this highly contagious, potentially fatal disease include fever, depression, loss of appetite, yellow nasal discharge and swelling of the lymph nodes around the head and neck. These can abscess and burst.

Our vets are keen to alert horse owners as the outbreaks have coincided with a national shortage of strangles vaccine. To protect your horses, we recommend:

- Quarantine all new introductions and check daily. Horses incubate strangles for 3 to 8 days before appearing sick, and can remain infectious for months after recovery.
- Ring us immediately if your horse develops a fever (over 38.3°C), runny nose or swellings under the jaw.
- Consider cancelling planned travel for your horse to competitions and meets. The safest place for your horse is on your property.
- Maintain strict hygiene protocols. Strangles passes easily and rapidly from horse to horse, and via people moving between horses, sharing gear, feed and water containers.

• Institute a vaccination program in all unvaccinated horses as soon as the vaccine is available (*ring us and we will notify you). Horses require three initial doses two weeks apart, followed by annual boosters.