



# updates from the field

## Winter news

## CALVINGS



### Name the Rhino!

Thanks to the 60-plus people who entered our competition. Our rhino is part of a Taronga Zoo conservation project - visit [News](#) on our website for information. She is now officially named *Lady Rataxes* (from the Babar books), with *Scribbles* as her nickname. Congratulations to Jan Pont who receives \$100 in free veterinary services. Runners up were Greg Mason (*Pula, Setswan for rain*), Susan Reynolds (*Lady Aminata*), and Evie and Lilah Wharton (*Kipenzi - Swahili for precious*).

### July is Geriatric Month

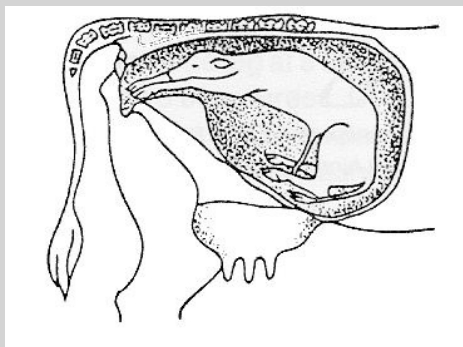
You have just a few weeks left to make an appointment to bring in your precious ageing pet (including senior horses!) for:

- [Consultation/health check](#)
- [HALF PRICE geriatric blood screening test, and ...](#)
- [Giveaway pack](#)

### August is Dental Month

Bring your pet to CVH in August for a **FREE dental health check** by our trained nursing staff and complimentary dental health gift pack. See [News](#) at [www.crookwellvet.com.au](http://www.crookwellvet.com.au)

Managing dystocias, or difficult births, is a daily occurrence in calving season for CVH vets and it's worth thinking about strategies to minimise the loss of mother, calf or both. Early detection and intervention (if required) can help deliver a live cow and live calf.



**Normal presentation with nose and front legs forward. A calf in any other position almost always needs assistance.**

If in doubt, please always ring sooner rather than later. Minimise your efforts at calving the cow or heifer if the presentation of the calf is not normal. These golden rules may help you make a decision about seeking veterinary advice and/or assistance:

- A cow that is more than an hour into labour will most likely require assistance.
- A heifer that is more than 2 hours into labour will most likely require assistance.
- Pay attention to your herd's body weight. Pregnant cows and heifers need enough nutrition for themselves and their growing foetus, but overweight, unfit cows and heifers often have more trouble calving.
- A normal presentation for calving is front feet and nose coming first – any variation on that is abnormal and should be examined.
- Signs of straining without any presentation almost always indicates a problem. This could be, for example, a breech presentation where only the tail is presented, or an over-sized calf sitting back within the pelvis.

Crookwell Veterinary Hospital has excellent bovine loading and crush facilities on site. If your calving cow can be transported, it's cost effective for you if we can treat the cow or heifer at our hospital.

# updates from the field

## 1080 poisoning in dogs

Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) is a highly toxic pesticide with a long history of use in the Crookwell district. As many local farmers and pet dog owners know from bitter experience, 1080 can have a devastating impact as an inadvertent killer of non-targeted pet and farm dogs. At CVH, we see the highest incidence of poisoning at this time of the year - coinciding with lambing as farmers conduct baiting programs to reduce fox numbers.

Canines are particularly susceptible to 1080. Once ingested, the toxin is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, disrupting the body's citric acid cycle, and impairing the central nervous and cardiovascular systems.

In 1994, CVH vet Dr Rob Churchill developed a treatment for 1080 which is now widely used around Australia – see below.

### How to prevent access to 1080 baits

- Always alert neighbours when starting a baiting program
- Always erect 1080 baiting signage on public boundaries
- Always ensure you know exactly where your animals are at all times when baiting. If off the lead, always use muzzles
- Remember baits can stay toxic for many weeks, even after rain - don't become complacent
- Be aware of the potential for baits to be carried by wildlife across your property and onto neighbouring properties
- Vomitus remains highly toxic – remove all traces of vomitus immediately, dispose of safely, and always use gloves.

### Diagnosis

Clinical signs of 1080 poisoning are usually noticed within half an hour of ingestion (but can also take several hours to manifest). Initial symptoms include vomiting, anxiety and shaking. These quickly develop into frenzied behaviour with running and screaming fits, uncontrolled paddling and seizures, followed by total collapse and death from lack of oxygen to the brain.

### Treatment

**1080 poisoning is an emergency!** Successful treatment requires immediate action and transport to the veterinary hospital. Always ring first to let us know you're on the way.

1080 has no specific antidote and historically, attempts at treatment have been largely ineffectual. The **CVH treatment regime** developed by Dr Rob Churchill has dramatically changed the outcome for many poisoned dogs with around 75% now surviving with the following treatment:

Animals showing no signs are made to vomit and kept in for observation. Those presented with advanced symptoms (seizures, screaming, paddling and barking) are immediately anaesthetised and placed on an I/V saline drip with sodium bicarbonate to counteract the toxin's effects on the body's chemistry.

## Mulesing and \*Tri-Solfen

CVH is committed to promoting the use of \*Tri-Solfen, a product that provides tangible pain relief at the time of mulesing. \*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.

We are also committed to keeping prices competitive, especially for the small producer. Only vets are allowed by law to dispense small quantities of \*Tri-Solfen, keeping your costs down and avoiding waste.

**CVH has supplies of \*Tri-Solfen at last year's prices – ring 4832 1977.**



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## 1080 poisoning continued

Intensive care of the affected animal is essential over the next 1 to 3 days: the dog is monitored every 1 to 2 hours, maintained under anaesthesia, on I/V fluids and antibiotics, and turned regularly. The animal is allowed to come out of anaesthesia when it can wake without seizure activity. Once the dog begins to recover it is usually able to stand and eat within 12 hours.

## Contact us

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

**24 hour emergency service on (02) 4832 1977**

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