



Updates from the hospital

News



Vet Nurse Trainees

At Crookwell Vet hospital we continue the tradition of having vet nurses in training. Both Lily Panne and Rebeka Picker are studying for their Certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing through TAFE NSW. As part of the course they are required to spend a period of time each week in a veterinary clinic learning about the practical side of being a vet nurse.

Both Bec and Lily are locals who attended Crookwell High School completing their HSC last year.

Lily has been working at CVH for the past year as a kennel hand on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. Lily also plays soccer and enjoys horse riding.

As well as working at CVH, Bec also works at Hart's pharmacy. In her spare time she plays hockey and soccer in Canberra and Crookwell.

As part of the TAFE course, students must cover a range of practical skills. At CVH we enjoy helping budding veterinary nurses develop their practical skills and foster a passion for helping animals.

Dental

Dental disease, or periodontal disease, is one of the most common health problems seen in domestic dogs and cats. In many cases dental disease is preventable. Periodontal disease occurs when bacteria in the mouth forms plaque that sticks to the surface of the teeth. This plaque, over time, hardens and forms calculus (tartar). This can often be seen around the gum line, but it's what we can't see below the gum line that causes the problem. When the plaque and calculus spreads under the gum line, bacteria start to damage the tooth's supporting tissue, including the soft tissue and bone surrounding the tooth. Gums become red and inflamed and will often bleed. An abscess can form around the tooth roots and teeth can become loose. If you have ever had a rotten tooth you will know it's very painful. Imagine eating a dog biscuit with a sore tooth.

Dental disease can also lead to other health issues due to bacteria entering the blood stream and travelling to other organs in the body causing disease.

Signs of dental disease include;

- Bad breath (halitosis)
- Difficulty eating or not eating
- Excessive drooling
- Pawing at the mouth
- Inflamed or bleeding gums
- Swellings on the side of face

Crookwell Veterinary Hospital has just added to its equipment list a state of the art dental machine, with high speed dental burs and ultrasonic scaler, to provide your pets with the highest quality dental treatment.

What can you do?

If you're worried that your pet has dental disease, book them in for an appointment with one of our vets. Depending on the severity, a scale and polish might be all that is required. In more severe cases teeth may need to be removed. To maintain good oral hygiene in your pets, feed them a good quality diet, and give them access to things to chew on such as dental chews, and quality toys. We don't recommend bones as we see too many animals with bones stuck in their mouths or gastrointestinal tracts and small pieces of bone can also increase the incidence of constipation. Brushing your pets teeth is also recommended by using special tooth paste and toothbrushes designed for pets. Unfortunately some breeds of dogs and cats are more prone to dental disease due to their mouths conformation and require more regular dental care.



Gingivitis:
Plaque and slightly disagreeable mouth odor.



Early periodontal disease:
Gum inflammation, swelling and moderate bad breath.



Moderate periodontal disease:
Pustular discharge, bleeding and bad breath.



Advanced periodontal disease:
Bleeding gums, mobile teeth and very bad breath.



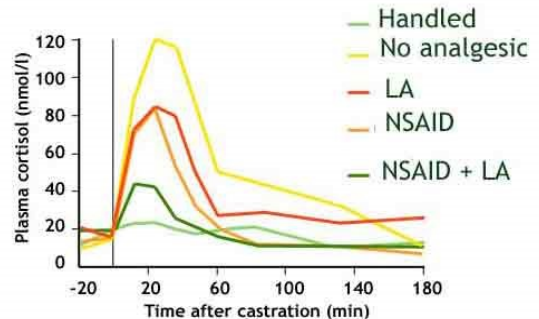
Updates from the field

Pain Relief in Lambs and Calves

With the push towards higher welfare standards in our production animals, the need to provide pain relief is not just an ethical one, but also an economic one.

Painful animal husbandry procedures result in decreased productivity through high stress levels, which can lead to mis-mothering, reduced feed intake and subsequently reduced growth of wool, meat, milk and other animal produced products. The figure on the right is a graph taken from a study into the effects of local anesthetic (LA) and NSAIDs on cortisol levels in 3 week old lambs being castrated. Cortisol is used to measure stress levels in animals. The higher the level the more stressed the animal. From this graph it can be seen that the use of LA and NSAIDs results in a decrease in the level of cortisol measured post castration in lambs treated, compared to those that didn't receive pain relief.

Two new products have recently been launched, Buccalgesic® and Metacam®, which are both designed to provide pain relief at marking time for both calves and lambs. Both products are easily administered either as an oral gel, Buccalgesic or an injection, Metacam. Both provide fast, effective, long lasting pain relief and have data to back up their efficacy. CVH stocks both products, if you would like more information please come in or contact us.



Treatment
 LA - Local anaesthetic
 NSAID - Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug



Vet and CVH director Jayde Costello, demonstrating using Buccalgesic at lamb marking time

Cattle Vaccinations —ARE YOU DOING IT CORRECTLY?

At Crookwell Veterinary Hospital we have seen deaths in cattle and sheep from diseases that are preventable by proper vaccination. In these cases the animals had been given a vaccine, but had not followed the correct vaccination protocols.

NOTE: Different manufacturers of vaccines recommend slightly different protocols so make sure you use the recommendation on the vaccine brand you are using.

The following is what is recommended by the brand we sell;

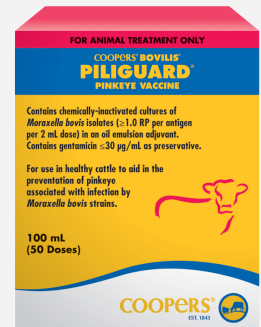
5 in 1 (2ml) and 7 in 1 (2.5ml) — Calves— 2 DOSES, 1st vaccine at 6 weeks of age then 2nd (booster) 4–6 weeks later. E.g. Give first dose 4-6 weeks before marking and a booster at marking.

A **booster every 12 months** is then recommended. For breeding cows this should be done a month before you're due to start calving.

However in young stock (i.e. up to 2 years of age) the Pulpy Kidney (Enterotoxaemia) component only covers for 3 months. In conditions when there is a higher risk, such as a change in feed to lush green pasture/crop or grain feeding a booster is recommended.

Pestigard—2 (2ml) doses - 6 weeks to 6 months apart then a booster every year. Don't forget to do your bulls!

Virbovax—Bulls (5ml) — initially 2 doses 4-6 weeks apart then yearly booster. Aim for the 2nd dose to be 6 weeks prior to joining.



Contact us

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24 hour emergency service

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Winter Promotion

Geriatric Health

During **June and July** Crookwell Veterinary Hospital is offering free geriatric health checks and half price blood tests.

Why should you get your older pets regularly vet checked?

Unfortunately, as our pets age they may develop health issues such as arthritis, renal, heart and liver disease. Early diagnosis of these and other diseases through a good history and a thorough physical exam with the aid of blood tests, may enable earlier treatment to improve the quality and length of our furry friends lives.

Why a blood test?

As the body ages certain organs start to slow down and don't work as well, including the liver and kidneys. A blood test can help us pick up any early signs of disease. If there are early indicators of disease, we can investigate further and develop treatment plans to prevent or slow down the disease processes. The main diseases we pick up with blood tests are liver and kidney disease. In combination with a change in diet and medication many kidney and liver diseases can be treated. Knowing how the kidneys and liver are functioning, also allows us to tailor medication that may be used to treat conditions such as



JUNE AND JULY ARE GERIATRIC MONTHS!

FREE Consult and Health Check
 Half Price Blood Screen
 Entry into the draw to win
 vet services to the value of **\$100.**

arthritis and other painful conditions. These results are also important when determining anaesthetic risks, as the drugs used in anaesthesia are predominantly processed and excreted by the liver and kidneys. Knowledge of organ dysfunction can allow us to develop an anaesthetic protocol that is safest for your pet.

Arthritis is probably the most common issue we see in older pets so this is a great time to discuss treatment options to keep your pet more comfortable. Arthritis is a very painful condition, so if we can provide pain relief we can improve your pet's quality of life. Early treatment of arthritis can slow down its development and help improve mobility.

Other conditions that can be detected at these health checks include dental disease, heart disease and it is also a good chance to check out any lumps or bumps that might have appeared on your pet.

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Updates from the field

Liver Fluke

Liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) can affect cattle, sheep and alpacas. Liver fluke in Australia is estimated to cost the industry \$50-80 million a year in lost production. Livestock deaths only account for a part of this. Other significant losses occur through reduced production and quality of wool, reduced lambing and calving percentages, poor growth rates of lambs and calves and reduced milk production.

Liver fluke infections can be acute, sub acute or chronic.

Acute

- This can occur in certain seasonal conditions such as drought, where stock are forced to feed in the wet swampy areas —leading to massive intake of metacercariae. Sudden death occurs due to blood loss from haemorrhage in the liver as the immature fluke burrow through the tissue.

Sub acute

- Jaundice, illthrift and anaemia; due to liver damage. Death usually occurs in 8-10 weeks.

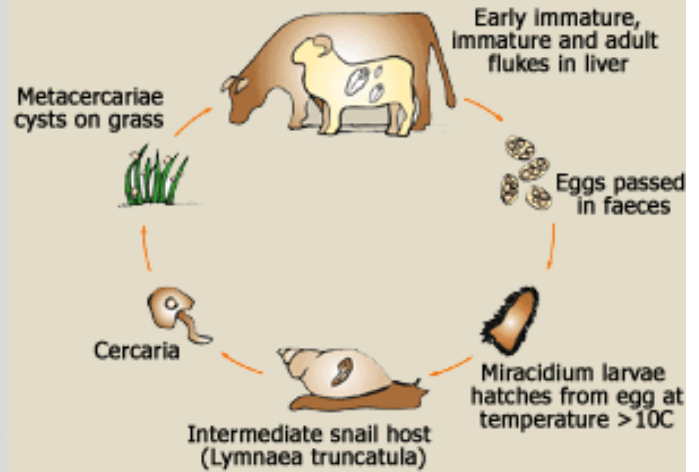
Chronic

- Most common form—signs slow to develop— anaemic, pale membranes, loss of appetite, oedema under the jaw (bottle jaw) and reluctance to walk.

Diagnosis: Liver fluke can be diagnosed by either; looking for eggs in faecal samples, although this is not always accurate as fluke don't shed eggs all the time, or a blood test, which is the most accurate. The good news is that the same blood samples used for pesti testing can also be used to test for liver fluke.

Knowing the liver fluke status of your herd in Autumn is important as the most strategic and effective time to drench against fluke in cattle is *after the start of frosts*. Killing fluke at this time means reinfection shouldn't be an issue until Spring, when we recommend a second drench. Unfortunately every season is different and sometimes 3 or 4 fluke drenches may be required.

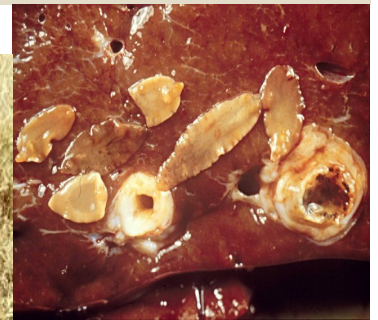
Treatment: Drenches such as Closantel only kill the adult stages while Triclobendazole, Nitroxylnil + Clorsulon will kill all stages of liver fluke. (Nitroxylnil and Clorsulon are not registered for use in sheep) .



Liver fluke lifecycle



Calf with bottle jaw



Liver with liver fluke

Measures to reduce incidence of liver fluke on your property include :

- Timing of treatment—treatment is required when clinical signs are present. By this stage production losses will have already occurred, therefore prevention is better. In the Crookwell District we recommend drenching all species in both autumn and spring.
- Regularly monitoring your stock for fluke.
- If a sheep dies on your property, a good idea is to do a quick post mortem and look at the liver for signs of fluke. You can often see them they are about the 10mm long by 3mm wide, and they look like leaves (see image above).
- Reducing access stock have to fluke infested areas; e.g. fencing off springs and swampy areas, using water troughs with water from non fluke contaminated areas.
- Improve drainage in swampy areas

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