

Dairy Newsletter December 2023



CVC NEWS

Happy Christmas and New Year to all of our clients. We thank you for your continued support throughout 2023. We will continue to trade over the holiday period this year however ordering of medications during this period will be minimal. Therefore, if you know you are going to require medications for your pets or livestock throughout this period, please contact the clinic to make sure we have stock available.

It is shaping up to be a warm summer so this issue will focus on heat stress in cattle. It will touch on leptospirosis, a disease which may be affecting your cattle.

CAMPERDOWN VETERINARY CENTRE

1 Leura Street, Camperdown

03 5593 1077

Normal Trading Hours

Mon, Wed, Fri: 8:30am-5:30pm

Tues, Thurs: 8:30am-7:30pm

Sat: 9am-12pm

Sun: Closed

Christmas and New Year Period Opening Hours

Saturday December 23rd 2023	Normal Trading	OPEN- 9am-12pm
Sunday December 24th 2023		CLOSED— Emergency only
Monday December 25th 2023	Christmas Day	CLOSED— Emergency only
Tuesday December 26th 2023	Boxing Day	CLOSED— Emergency only
Wednesday December 27th 2023	Normal Trading	OPEN—8:30am-5:30pm
Thursday December 28th 2023	Normal Trading	OPEN—8:30am-7.30pm
Friday December 29th 2023	Normal Trading	OPEN—8:30am-5:30pm
Saturday December 30th 2023	Normal Trading	OPEN- 9am-12pm
Sunday January 31st 2024	New Years Eve	CLOSED— Emergency only
Monday January 1st 2024	New Years Day	CLOSED— Emergency only
Tuesday January 2nd 2024	Normal hours- No Late Night Trading	OPEN 8:30am—5:30pm

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Are your cattle vaccinated for leptospirosis? Now, how many of you have had that warm splash of urine from that old girl on the last platform at milking? Well... you could be at risk of contracting leptospirosis.

Leptospirosis is caused by a bacteria called *Leptospira*. It is a disease spread by urine from infected animals contaminating pasture, water and feed. Infected animals can carry the bacteria for long periods of time and often don't have obvious clinical signs. Clinical signs can include abortion or still births, decline in quality and quantity of milk, bloody, dark coloured urine, rough dry coat, fever and possible death.

However, leptospirosis isn't just a risk for your cows. It is a workplace health and safety issue for all farm workers. Humans can contract leptospirosis if they come in contact with water, soil or any objects contaminated with urine from an infected animal. This includes direct contact with urine at milking. It can cause fever, headaches, sore muscles, chills and vomiting with clinical signs often being mistaken for a severe flu.

The good news is leptospirosis can be prevented in your herd helping to improve the safety of you and your workers. It is as simple as vaccinating with 7 in 1. Obviously you should never rely on vaccination alone, good biosecurity is also important however, vaccination for leptospirosis helps to reduce shedding of the bacteria in infected animals. Two initial doses of 7 in 1 are required from 6 weeks of age followed by annual boosters thereafter. Please contact the clinic if you would like more information.

HEAT STRESS

It is shaping up to be a hot Summer and therefore it is important that you know the signs of heat stress in your cattle. Heat loss leads to decrease production and in severe cases can result in organ damage and subsequent death.

Heat stress occurs on warm days when the body temperature of cattle rise and they are unable to dissipate this heat from their bodies.

Heat stress most commonly occurs when it is hot and humid.

Predisposing Factors

- High ongoing minimum and maximum ambient temperatures
- High humidity
- No cloud cover or shade
- Sudden increase in temperature
- Dark coloured cattle. Cattle with lighter coloured coats tend to be more tolerant of heat
- Cattle in higher body conditions are more prone to developing heat stress

Clinical Signs

Initially heat stress leads to reduced feed intake and production losses however, when severe it can cause organ damage resulting in death.

- Open mouth breathing / panting
- Increased salivation
- Unusual behaviour
- Lack of coordination
- Increased respiratory rate
- Drop in milk production
- Decreased appetite
- Lethargy

Prevention of Heat Stress

Always having access to fresh, clean water supply. Where possible, have multiple water sources and avoid making cattle walk long distances to access water.

On hot, humid days, keep cattle in paddocks with ample shade, avoid moving cattle during the hottest part of the day and reduce time standing in yards in the heat.

Sprinklers in milking yards can be used to help cool cattle. Sprinklers wet the cow's skin and allows heat to reduce as the water evaporates. Caution needs to be used when using these methods as it may increase humidity around the cow and therefore it is usually only beneficial when there is a wind to help cool the cow. Fans can be placed around the dairy to assist in creating wind to aid in cooling. Caution also needs to be taken to avoid excessive sprinkling as this can cause water to run down the udder leading to an increased risk of mastitis.

Avoid high stocking rates in holding yards.

It is also important to note that cattle with pre-existing health conditions such as infections of the uterus, lameness, pneumonia etc are more susceptible to heat stress as their bodies are already compromised and they may already have elevated temperatures due to inflammation, therefore ensuring good health is also an important factor in preventing heat stress in your cattle

JOKE OF THE MONTH!

This one is vet related...

What happens when a cow is exhausted?

