

WELCOME THE NEW YEAR



MARES

Did you know that at the Mansfield Vet Clinic we can scan your mare for pregnancy?

We can also perform artificial insemination (chilled or frozen) and store your frozen semen.

We hope you all had a great year in 2008 and are looking forward, as we are, to 2009.

We have seen a few new and old faces at the clinic over the past year. We enjoyed having Dr. Kate Martin back at the clinic for 3 months while Dr. Andrew Jacotine took long service leave. We were also lucky enough to add Kat Gannon and Rose Gilder to the team as casual veterinary nurses.

It was a great year for those of us that enjoy the slopes and put a smile onto many Mansfield residents faces with the exceptional snow conditions we had this year. The winter flush played havoc with our calving season though, and a combination of fat cows and big calves (and probably more breeding than the year before) saw all of us busy with our calving jacks.

The good season did not continue and we thought our hay sheds would be empty again this year, but the spring rains came late.... And are still going! Have we ever had such a green Christmas? First it was too dry, now it's too wet. Same old story!!

As always, the snakes are out and about in force. We recommend keeping your dogs on leads wherever snakes may be out and keeping cats inside whenever possible.

Grass seed season has also struck hard with seeds being found in ears, eyes, paws and in Dolly and Dozer's cases—all over the body!

Best wishes for the New Year. See you soon!

MOLLY'S BROKEN LEG



Dr. Andrew Jacotine is frequently receiving referral cases from other vet clinics. Last month, a patient came with a broken leg that needed pinning. Most patients are dogs, occasionally cats, but this was the first *lamb* he had been referred.

'Molly', the pet lamb, had been run over and fractured her femur. The surgery was not unlike any other species and went very smoothly. Although, Andrew mentioned he had used a rosemary and garlic impregnated pin in case of implant failure!!!

*Molly is pictured here with vet students Heidi and Michelle.*

## EBONY'S BONEY OBSTRUCTION

Ebony had been vomiting for 24 hours. Being a black Labrador, eating was one of Ebony's favourite pastimes so garbage ingestion toxicity or sock foreign body were high on the list of differentials. And, in fact she had previously gone to surgery to remove a sock stuck in her intestine some years before.

Dr. Andrew ultrasounded Ebony's abdomen and could see multiple loops of dilated intestine. A foreign body obstruction was suspected and an exploratory laparotomy was required.

When opening the abdomen Andrew found a large section of gut about 15cm long that needed to be removed, at the end of this was a large piece of knuckle bone that was obstructing the lumen of the small intestine.

Ebony had been chewing on her daily bone and for some reason decided to swallow the whole end of it in one piece! The bone was a large uncooked marrow bone, which is generally considered to be quite safe to feed. But most dogs won't swallow pieces large enough to cause problems.

After removing the bone and the devitalized intestine, Andrew connected the remaining pieces of gut and closed the abdomen.

Ebony made a fantastic recovery. She was kept off food for a couple of days while the intestine healed and then went straight back to eating like a Labrador!

## UNUSUAL BRACELET

A young heifer was brought into the clinic with a very swollen and sore foot. It was suspected there was some wire wrapped around below her fetlock, which is a very common finding. She was put in the crush and her leg lifted with ropes and the foot examined.

A hard black material was found wrapped around the pastern and after cutting it off, we discovered it to be black ag pipe! The heifer lived in a paddock by the highway where trees had been planted and irrigated with ag pipe. It is suspected the piece had blown into the paddock and the heifer had been unfortunate enough to step on it.

The ag pipe must have just slipped over the toes and got stuck around the pastern where it began to cause constriction and cut into the leg. Once removed, the heifer was treated with anti-inflammatories and antibiotics.

In cases such as these, it is possible for the blood supply to the foot to be severed. This would result in death of the foot and necessitate euthanasia.

Only time will tell if this heifer will make a recovery.



## GRASS SEEDS

This season we are seeing huge numbers of grass seeds. We recommend checking your dogs after playing in grass. Look under their ears, between their toes, in their eyes and generally over their coat and remove any grass seeds you can find before they penetrate too deeply.

