

JULY NEWS

July 2008

MMM...THIS CROP IS DELICIOUS!! (BUT DEADLY.....)

We were recently called to a heifer at a farm in Bonnie Doon that appeared to have suddenly become blind. She was also staggery, and frothing at the mouth. A couple of days later, another calf on the crop had become blind, and died when it fell into a waterhole.

An investigation began into the cause of the problem. The cattle on this farm had been grazing on a crop of rape at the time that the problem began. A recent rain burst had caused a flush in young growth of the rape plants.

Rape poisoning occurs when cattle graze rape crops that contain either a large portion of seeds, or contain young, rapidly growing leaves. These seeds or leaves contain a large amount of sulfur that can act to damage brain tissue.

Typical signs of rape poisoning include blindness, head pressing, aimless walking, an unsteady gait and lying down. If affected, animals must be taken off the crop immediately, and fed a safe substitute feed of hay and pasture. Complete recovery usually occurs spontaneously, but may take several weeks.

BUMMED OUT GRIFFIN

Griffin the cat came in to see us recently with a very sore bottom. A big abscess had developed there and was swollen and filled with pus. The strange thing was, this had happened several times in the past, in exactly the same spot. A few years earlier, Griffin had survived a cyclone while he was living up north. The only injury he sustained was a cut to his bottom that was attended to at the time. Were these abscesses linked to the cyclone injury?

Griffin was anaesthetized and the abscess was lanced and drained. As well as a large amount of pus, a large piece of disintegrated wood was removed from the wound. As it turned out, poor old Griffin had been carrying around a souvenir from the cyclone all those years ago in his bottom! He went home that afternoon, happy and comfortable and minus his large splinter.

Foreign objects can often lodge in wounds or penetrate skin and may migrate through the body, making finding them a challenging task. In this case, the object took a few years to find!



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!**

**DR. ANDREW
CELEBRATED
HIS 34TH
BIRTHDAY
WITH A
DINNER AT
MINGO'S AT
THE END OF
LAST MONTH**



LOW ON MAGNESIUM?

It's that time of year when we are enjoying the lovely green fields around us, but sometimes these can be dangerous. Now is the time when we most frequently see grass tetany in cattle.

Grass tetany, or hypomagnesaemia, is a nervous disorder caused by a reduced concentration of magnesium in the brain. It leads to hyperexcitability with mad galloping and bellowing, frothing at the mouth, seizing and death, often within half an hour of initial symptoms.

Grass tetany is most commonly seen in cows over 6 years of age, in early lactation, often overweight and on grass dominant pastures. Cases are often seen on dull days when the lack of sunlight increases the concentration of ammonium in the pasture. Pastures that have been fertilized pose an even greater risk.

Magnesium is not retained in the body for a very long time therefore, grass tetany can also be seen in cattle that have been yarded for long periods of time (eg. During travel, or at marking). Lack of feed can trigger tetany due to low body reserves of magnesium (sometimes called transit tetany).

Magnesium concentrations can be affected by several factors:

Low intake: grazing vigorously growing, grass dominant pastures or other lack of food intake.

Reduced absorption: due to excess potassium or ammonium, or a phosphorous or sodium deficiency.

Increased excretion: through milk or urine.

Knowing this we can try to prevent grass tetany in several ways. Grazing high risk animals on lower risk pastures (those that have not been fertilized, particularly with potash or urea, and pastures with more roughage). Feeding hay, to increase roughage and saliva production (especially on dull days) and adding a magnesium supplement to the diet (magnesium bullets, causmag or salt licks).

Clinical cases of grass tetany can be treated with variable success. Often it is a case of finding a dead cow or cows in the paddock. If symptoms are seen, some cows can be saved with intravenous administration of magnesium and calcium. Unfortunately, it can take up to 24 hours for the magnesium to get from the blood stream into the brain so many cows die despite treatment. Recurrence is also a problem so subcutaneous treatment followed by the above management regimes need also be applied.

There are many reasons for sudden death in cattle, but grass tetany can quite quickly be confirmed by taking a sample of fluid from the eye. The magnesium concentration in the eye fluid is similar to that of the brain, if it is low, that confirms grass tetany as the cause of death.



TRAINEE VETS

Over the next 6 months or so, you may spot quite a few new faces around the clinic. The Mansfield Vet Clinic is a popular clinic for training vet students to come and spend some time in order to gain hands-on experience. From June onwards, 3rd year and final year vet students come and spend 2 or 3 week blocks with us. We really encourage them to 'get their hands dirty' and get involved in the cases we see both at the clinic, and out on farms.

Please help us make these vets-to-be feel welcome at the clinic. They are always under supervision by a vet, and will really benefit from the wide range of cases we see at our clinic. Don't forget that both Dr. Sally Cullen and Dr. Jackie Davey were past students who loved practice here so much that they came back for good.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

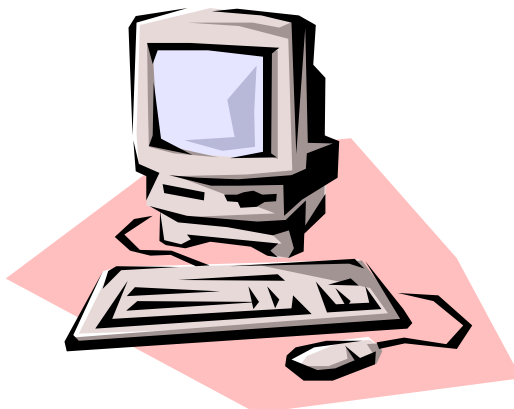
A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find "filler" articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety

of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a

simple way to convert your newsletter to a Web publication. So, when you're finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.



Caption describing picture or graphic.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is growing.

Some newsletters include a column

that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top

customers or vendors.

INSIDE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or enhances the message you're trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands

of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the



Caption describing picture or graphic.

image near the image.

MANSFIELD VETERINARY CLINIC

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Your business tag line here.

We're on the Web!
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om



This would be a good place to insert a short paragraph about your organization. It might include the purpose of the organization, its mission, founding date, and a brief history. You could also include a brief list of the types of products, services, or programs your organization offers, the geographic area covered (for example, western U.S. or European markets), and a profile of the types of customers or members served.

It would also be useful to include a contact name for readers who want more information about the organization.

BACK PAGE STORY HEADLINE

This story can fit 175-225 words.

If your newsletter is folded and mailed, this story will appear on the back. So, it's a good idea to make it easy to read at a glance.

A question and answer session is a good way to quickly capture the attention of readers. You can either compile questions that you've received since the last edition or you can summarize some generic questions that are frequently asked about your organization.

A listing of names and titles of managers in your organization is a good way to give your newsletter a personal touch. If your organization is small, you may want to list the names of all employees.

If you have any prices of standard products or services, you can include a listing of those here. You may want to

refer your readers to any other forms of communication that you've created for your organization.

You can also use this space to remind readers to mark their calendars for a regular event, such as a breakfast

meeting for vendors every third Tuesday of the month, or a biannual charity auction.

If space is available, this is a good place to insert a clip art image or some other graphic.



Caption describing picture or graphic.