

June 2008

WINTER HAS ARRIVED

Firstly, we have to say a sad farewell to Dr. Kate Martin who returned to work with us after spending 12 months in Melbourne. Kate has spent the last 3 months at the Mansfield Vet Clinic while Dr. Andrew Jacotine has been on long service leave. She is now heading off overseas to start the next chapter of her career in England. Good luck Kate, we hope you have a great time.

Secondly, we welcome back Dr. Andrew Jacotine. After 3 months on the road doing various jobs, such as darting deer for embryo transfer and performing referral orthopaedic surgeries, it may not have seemed like so much of a holiday for Andrew. Although the Murray Cod are probably glad he was so busy!!

It was also great to have veterinary nurse Georgia Shaw back to work for us for a week in May. Georgia is now working full time in Kyneton but came back to help out for a week. While she was here she represented the Mansfield Veterinary Clinic at the Connective Community Festival and was a hit with her two miniature horses 'Emanuel' and 'Zion' and the last of our kittens needing homes.

ABBIE THE GOAT PIGGED OUT.....

"Abbie," a very cute 7 month old domestic female goat owned by young Regan Tait, was seen at the clinic recently after some rather strange behaviour. She was walking with an awkward hindlimb gait and would intermittently drop to the ground and roll over. On clinical examination, Dr. Kate Martin found that she had greatly reduced gut sounds. After further discussions with Regan, it was discovered that she got into a new paddock FULL of lush green grass the day before and had PIGGED OUT! A diagnosis for rumen acidosis was made.

The huge meal of lush green grass had upset the normal balance of bacteria in her rumen and had allowed the bad bacteria to take over. This has then caused her rumen to stop contracting and hence, she had a giant stomach ache. Abbie was sedated and given pain relief. Sodium bicarbonate was administered orally to help neutralize the acid in her rumen and some vitamin B1 (thiamine) injections to help prevent Polioencephalomalacia, a common and often fatal brain disease of goats caused by a deficiency of the vitamin. Thiamine is normally produced by the good bacteria in the rumen. Given that Abbie's bacterial balance was altered, there was concern that without supplementation she may not be able to produce her own supply of vitamin B1 until she was better. It was advised that Abbie's diet include more hay (roughage) in the future as this helps to increase the production of alkaline saliva that keeps her belly happy!



HOMES NEEDED

2 very friendly
12 week old male
KITTENS.
\$100 each
includes
desexing,
microchipping
and first
vaccination.



CHANGE
OF
SEASON
WORM
YOUR
PETS

IS YOUR OLD CAT THIRSTY?

The old cat that seems to be drinking more than normal is a common presentation here at the clinic. A cat should not drink anymore than 45ml/kg/day. So, if your average 5kg cat is lapping up more than 250ml (a cup) of water each day, then there may be a problem!

Renal disease, diabetes and hyperthyroidism are the three main diseases in the older cat which have increased thirst (polydipsia) as the primary sign.



Renal disease

Common signs: Increased thirst, weight loss, unkempt coat, reduced appetite, vomiting, diarrhoea, mouth ulcers

Unfortunately, once we see symptoms of renal disease, 75% of the kidney function is lost. Treatment is only supportive and involves diuretic-type drugs and a low protein diet.

Diabetes mellitus

Common signs: Increased thirst, weight loss (often after being overweight), vomiting, diarrhoea

Diabetes is a disorder of carbohydrate, fat and protein metabolism caused by a lack of insulin. The diabetic animal cannot use or store sugars properly and hence, breaks down fats for energy. Treatment requires a committed owner who is willing to inject their cat with insulin once or twice daily. Management of the disease will require regular visits to the vet for blood glucose measurements to ensure that the correct dose of insulin is being given.

Hyperthyroidism

Common signs: Increased thirst, weight loss, unkempt coat, **increased appetite**, hyperactivity

Hyperthyroidism is caused by increased activity of the thyroid gland and overproduction of thyroid hormone. This causes a generalised increase in the metabolic rate. There are two options for treatment. The first involves giving anti-thyroid tablets twice daily for the rest of the cat's life. The other requires the one-off administration of a radioactive tablet which irradiates the thyroid gland without affecting any other organs. This needs to be done at a specialist clinic and although only one tablet is given, the cat must stay in hospital for a week as he/she will be radioactive! It is the more expensive option but it is very effective and removes the need to give your cat a tablet twice a day, which can be difficult.

SHEEP MAP—OVINE JOHNES ACCREDITATION

What is SheepMAP?

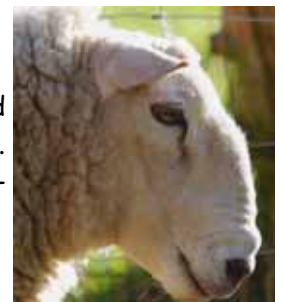
SheepMAP is a market assurance program that aims to identify, protect and promote flocks of sheep that are of low risk of being affected with Johne's Disease. It is based on a testing regime and on the adoption of property and management factors that minimize the risk of introducing Johne's Disease into the flock.

What is the role of SheepMAP?

SheepMAP accredited flocks provide a source of low risk replacement sheep to those who wish to avoid introducing infection. It also facilitates movement of low risk sheep around the country. The program is largely industry driven and the responsibility for the integrity of flock status lies with both the property owner and their approved veterinarian.

Why should I enroll in SheepMAP?

SheepMAP can provide owners of accredited sheep and flocks with a market advantage when it comes to sales. Dr Peter Cullen is an approved veterinarian for SheepMAP and is happy to discuss the program if you are interested. Peter is also happy to discuss the use of Gudair vaccine in sheep flocks. Gudair vaccinates sheep against Johne's Disease.



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.

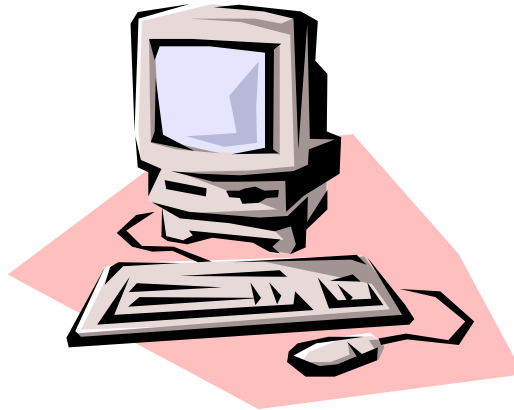
A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

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.

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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Mansfield Vic 3722

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Fax: 5775 1099
E-mail:

Your business tag line here.

We're on the Web!
example.microsoft.c
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.