

Mansfield Veterinary Clinic

# October News



## **FOR SALE**

**15hh**

**5yr old Bay**

**QH X ASH**

**mare**

**For sale as a  
broodmare**

**due to injury**

**0428506194**

## **Artificial Insemination**

With Equine Influenza causing standstills on horse movement and bans on interstate travel, the breeding season has become more difficult for some. Although horses are allowed to move freely within Victoria at the moment, if EI enters the state, another standstill might see your mare stranded at stud, which may incur ongoing agistment fees as well as just not having your mare at home after service. One of the options available is to have your mare artificially inseminated.

Artificial insemination can be performed using fresh, chilled or frozen semen. Fresh semen must be used almost immediately after collection and is most often used on studs when several mares are to be served on the same day to save the stallion extra work. Using a dummy mare for collection (looks a bit like a gymnast's vault), can also be safer for the horses, if not for the person collecting.

Chilled semen can be transported interstate, or even overseas, but must be used within about 48–72 hours of collection. Frozen semen can be stored for many years in liquid nitrogen, and is used directly after thawing, which takes about 30 seconds.

Artificial insemination can be performed at the Mansfield Vet Clinic, either as out-patients (bring your mare in daily for scanning), or as in-hospital cases, which may be required for frozen semen as they must be inseminated at the time of ovulation.

NB. Currently it is not allowed to breed thoroughbreds by artificial insemination, only by natural service.

## **Anne's Sheep**

Anne's sheep had been very lame in one foot for some weeks and was steadily getting worse and more painful. She was so sore that she was lying down and reluctant to eat. Anne wanted to do everything possible for her ewe as the ewe was heavily pregnant and had a history of having beautiful lambs and being a great mother.

To give her the best chance possible she was treated with antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and put on energy supplements to sustain her in late pregnancy. To the absolute delight of all, the ewe pulled through and shortly after gave birth to beautiful triplets. The whole family are doing well and proving they were well worth the effort.

## **RELAY FOR LIFE**

Support the  
Relay for Life  
Cancer Council  
by buying  
wormers for  
your dogs and  
horses at the  
vet clinic.

## Client Expectations– Dr Peter Cullen

Some of the fondest memories over my 35 years in Vet Practice have been the bond that occurs between our staff & our clients who have been very appreciative of our services.

There is generally a high expectation placed upon veterinary staff but when dealing with sick & injured animals things don't always go according to plan. We are often placed in highly charged emotional circumstances that often occur after normal working hours. We are also constrained by legal requirements such as in dispensing restricted drugs and Occupational Health & Safety issues. Our staff are highly trained and can deal with most situations that confront them. In my experience staff handle these situations in a manner that is a credit to the Veterinary Profession.

It is always disturbing to me when the competence or experience of staff is questioned, not to mention the effect that this has on the person concerned. It is a major reason why vets choose to work in comfortable city practices with no after hours work.

I can assure you that our staff are always trying to do the right thing and ask that they are always treated with respect.

## Uterine Prolapse

---

*A uterine prolapse is considered an emergency, as cows can suffer severe haemorrhage from rupture of the uterine artery.*

---

During the calving season, another problem we commonly encounter is uterine prolapse. A uterine prolapse will occur usually immediately after calving and is a condition where the entire uterus everts from the vulva. Treatment is by replacing the uterus and suturing the vulva closed to prevent recurrence. We consider this an emergency procedure as the uterine artery may rupture resulting in fatal haemorrhage. If left out for too long the uterus can become extremely swollen or dry making replacement difficult, the tissues may also die off or the cow can become septicaemic from infection.

If your cow has a uterine prolapse, walk her quietly and slowly to the yards and call the vet. If there is a delay in veterinary attention, covering the prolapse with a moist towel can prevent drying. If the cow is down and won't get up, put a rope halter on her and secure her to a tree or vehicle. And don't forget the hot water and towels!!

## Latest on Equine Influenza

The Department of Primary Industries has decided to import vaccines for use in Australia to try to control the outbreak of Equine Influenza. These vaccinations will be allocated to the most susceptible horses and will be administered by a veterinarian at no cost to the owner. The first imported vaccines will be used to create a buffer zone around the control areas in NSW and QLD to try and prevent spread from infected areas. A proportion of vaccines will also be allocated to Victorian racing thoroughbreds.

At this stage it is still hoped that by confining infected horses and creating a buffer zone, the disease will burn out and be eradicated from Australia.

Equine Influenza causes coughing, nasal discharge, fever, inappetance and depression. It can cause death in young, old and debilitated horses or by secondary infection. If it becomes endemic in Australia, we will be required to vaccinate horses at least annually to minimize effects of the disease. Vaccination is not 100% preventive.