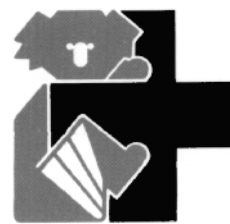


# Spring Newsletter



September 2009 - November 2009

## **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (Pestivirus)**

### **What is BVDV?**

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus causes several forms of disease and is often an insidious disease affecting up to 70% of Australian herds. We have confirmed cases on North East Victorian properties.

It is transmitted by inhalation and ingestion of virus. Eradication of the disease can be an involved process, and control of the disease is a significant management issue for producers once the virus has been confirmed on a property.

### **Clinical signs of BVDV**

Disease the BVD virus causes depends on what age the animal is when infected

- Infection in a non-pregnant animal under normal conditions usually shows no symptoms. If infection is clinical, weight loss and respiratory diseases may be a sign.
- Infection in pregnant animals
  - <45 days embryonic death and repeat breeding
  - Up to 180 days - abortion
  - 45-110 days - produce a calf that is persistently infected and is a carrier of the virus. These calves are the reason BVDV continues to persist in cattle herds.
- Persistently Infected (PI) calves are usually illthrift and die at an early age. They can also develop Mucosal disease which causes profuse diarrhoea, mouth ulcers, excessive salivation, nasal discharge and is inevitably fatal.

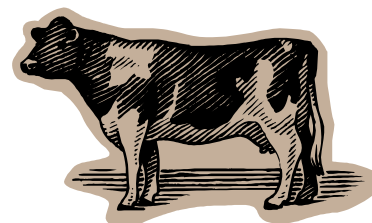
### **Management of BVDV**

Due to some countries in the EU now classifying BVDV as a notifiable disease, it is going to be important for Australia to think about eradicating BVDV in order to maintain export markets. There is no easy solution to eradicate the disease, it involves several management issues

- Blood test, ear notch or bulk milk sample test to confirm virus on property
- Find and remove PI calves
- Maintain biosecurity by limiting cross-fence contact with neighbouring herds
- Develop an ongoing vaccination program
- Test all incoming stock for the BVD Virus. This includes bulls and non-pregnant cows

Feel free to speak to us about testing procedures and management for your individual property.

**Look out for our upcoming seminar in October on Pestivirus and Curly Coat disease.**



## **Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**

FIV is quite prevalent in the cat population worldwide, and reflects the percentage of free roaming cats in the area. It is spread by inoculation of saliva or blood, which generally occurs with cat bite wounds. Thus cats with outdoor access and especially uncastrated male cats have the greatest risk of contracting the 'Feline Aids' virus.

Post infection, the virus causes an initial period of illness which may be mild and go unnoticed. Signs may include fever, enlarged lymph nodes and being 'off colour'. Infected cats may then appear disease free for months to years until the virus begins to replicate in large numbers. It is invariably fatal, infected cats do not have an adequate immune system and succumb to opportunistic infections.

The FIV virus is not transmissible to humans.

Keeping cats inside overnight and castrating males can reduce the risk of infection by limiting their fighting. A vaccine is also available in Australia. The vaccination protocol is a course of three vaccines 2-4 weeks apart, followed by a booster vaccination annually. Adult cats should be blood tested for the FIV virus before commencing the vaccination program, as after vaccination the common test cannot differentiate between a vaccinated cat and an infected cat. Vaccinated cats will be positive to this test as they produce antibodies to the vaccine virus. There is a special laboratory test available to differentiate between these if required (eg stray vaccinated cat).

Contact us if you have any queries about this disease.



### **Newsletters online**

**Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletters via Email?**

If so, fill out the form below and drop it in to us at Warby Street  
(or fill out one at reception).

Name: .....  
(first name) (surname)

Postal Address: .....

Email Address: .....

## Immunoglobulin (IgG) support for foals

Foals that do not receive adequate levels of immunoglobulins (antibodies) in colostrum often require an intravenous plasma infusion to boost their immunoglobulin levels. Immunoglobulin's help protect the foal from disease in the first few months of life. Foals with low levels are more prone to infectious agents causing respiratory, diarrhoea and joint infections common in newborn foals. Foals at risk of low IgG levels are foals that don't suck well in the first 24hrs, and foals born to mares that have 'run' milk for a few days prior to foaling. You will notice this on the mare's hind legs, as colostrum is a very sticky substance.



IgG in colostrum from the mare's first milk can only be absorbed by the foal in the first 24hrs of life. There is no IgG absorption if colostrum is given orally after this time, intravenous plasma is required. We can perform a quick and inexpensive blood test to determine whether your 24-48hr foal has absorbed enough IgG from colostrum, and determine whether plasma is needed to support the immune system of the foal.

This plasma is commercially harvested from healthy donor horses and protects the foal against commonly encountered pathogens. A new product available to Veterinarians is 'EquiplasR', which is very rich in specific gamma globulins to the Rhodococcus bacteria, responsible for outbreaks of respiratory disease in foals.

### *“King Valley Run”*

A service provided every **Tuesday** charging **TRAVEL fees** from Glenrowan, Greta, Moyhu or Milawa.

### *“Beechworth & Myrtleford Valley Run”*

A service provided every **Thursday** charging **TRAVEL fees** from Markwood, Everton, Beechworth and Myrtleford



A Queensland Jackeroo is overseeing his herd in remote territory when suddenly a brand new BMW advances out of a cloud of dust towards him.

The driver, a young man in a designer suit, Gucci shoes, Eyres sunglasses and YSL tie, leans out the window and asks the jackeroo, 'If I tell you exactly how many cows and calves you have in your herd, will you give me a calf?'

The jackeroo looks at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looks at his peacefully grazing herd and calmly answers, 'sure, why not?'

The yuppie parks his car, whips out his Dell notebook computer, connects it to his Cingular RAZR V3 cell phone, and surfs to a NASA page on the internet, where he calls up a GPS satellite navigation system to get an exact fix on his location which he then feeds to another NASA satellite that scans the area in an ultra high resolution photo. The young man then opens the digital photo in Adobe Photoshop and exports it to an image processing facility in Hamburg, Germany.

Within seconds, he receives an email on his Palm Pilot that the image has been processed and the data stored. He then accesses a MS-SQL database through an ODBC connected Excel Spreadsheet with email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, receives a response. Finally, he prints out a full colour, 150 page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized HP laserjet printer and finally turns to the jackeroo and says, 'you have exactly 1,586 cows and calves'.

'That's right. Well I guess you can take one of my calves' says the jackeroo.

He watches the young man select one of the animals and looks on amused as the young man stuffs it into the trunk of his car.

Then the jackeroo says to the young man, 'hey if I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my calf?'

The young man thinks about it for a second and then says 'Okay, why not?'

'You work for the Australian Government' says the Jackeroo.

'Wow! That's correct' says the yuppie, 'but how did you guess that?'

'No guessing required' answered the jackeroo. 'You showed up here even though nobody called you, you want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked. You used all kinds of expensive equipment that clearly somebody else paid for, you tried to show me how much smarter than me you are, and you don't know a thing about cows...this is a herd of sheep. Now give me back my dog'