



WELCOME TO NORTHERN COUNTRY ANIMAL CARE

# Newsletter

October 2023

## WHO IS NORTHERN COUNTRY ANIMAL CARE?

Our friendly teams at Cobram Vet Clinic and Yarrowonga Vet Clinic provide modern, professional and affordable health care for your pets. We aim to make your pet feel at ease in our clinic with a caring and gentle approach to treatment and consultations.

Northern Country Animal Care know that helping our client's starts with providing a good understanding of health care issues and treatment options. With good advice and professional recommendations, you'll be well equipped to make the best ongoing health care decisions for your pet. We are your local animal professionals who will fully support your animal, pet and farm needs with 24/7 sound advice.



## Healthcare Checks

Dogs and cats age on average, grow five to eight times faster than humans. By age two, most pets have already reached adulthood. At age four, many are entering middle age. By age seven, many cats and dogs, particularly larger breed dogs, are entering their senior years.

Because pets age so rapidly, major health changes can occur in a short amount of time. The risk of heart disease, arthritis, kidney disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity and other serious conditions all increase with age. Early detection is important and annual health checks can help your veterinarian diagnose and treat problems early or even prevent problems occurring altogether, therefore enabling the best possible outcome for your pet.

Annual health checks also offer you a great opportunity to ask us about nutrition, behaviour or any other topics.

**CALL US TODAY TO BOOK A HEALTH CHECK FOR YOUR PET WITH ONE OF OUR VETS |**



Thank you for reading our newsletter. For more updates be sure to follow us on social media @cobramvet @yarrowongavet

**COBRAM 03-58721233 | YARRAWONGA 03-5744 1048**



## Sniff out a new way to pay

Visit the vet and **only pay the gap!**



**g** GAPONLY®

## GAPONLY | PET INSURANCE MADE EASY

You asked & we listened!

We've partnered with [@gaponlyau](#) which helps you access your pet insurance benefit on the spot\*!!

So that means rather than paying us the full invoice upfront, you only pay the amount not covered by your policy – or the gap!

Is your pet insured with a GapOnly pet insurance partner? Let us know next time you visit and we can process the claim for you.

## OCTOBER 13 | CELEBRATING VET NURSE DAY

We are always so grateful to our wonderful team of nurses & receptionists at both Cobram Vet Clinic & Yarrowonga Vet Clinic.

The role of a veterinary nurse certainly is diverse and requires the wearing of many different hats within the clinic! A vet nurse does everything from the anaesthetist to receptionist, surgical assistant, phlebotomist, lab technician, radiographer, paramedic, grief counsellor, IT technician, pharmacy assistant, nutritionist (and much more)... all in one day!

Thank you for all your hard work, dedication and care of our patients and clients. Happy Vet Nurse Day!





## Meet Emmah!

Emmah grew up in Warragul and graduated from Charles Sturt University.

She grew up on a dairy farm surrounded by a variety of animals and has a border collie named Ash.

Her special interests include dairy medicine and surgery.

Welcome to the team Emmah!



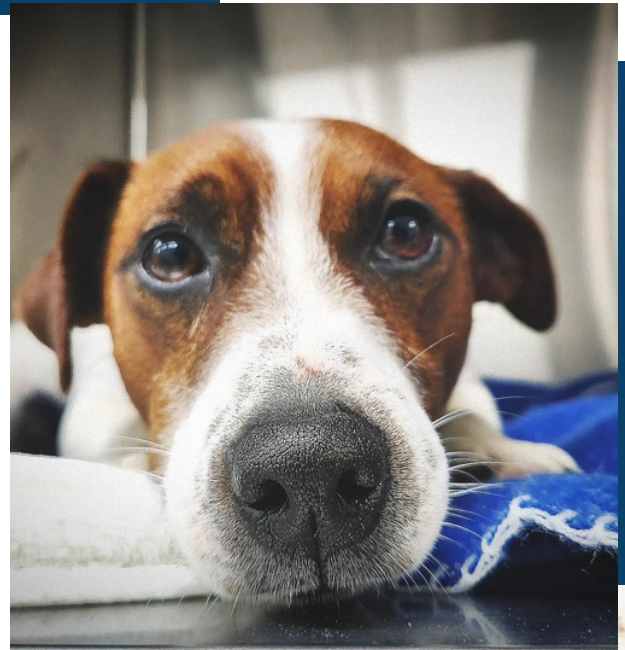
## Grass seed season is here | be careful

Timmy came in for a visit to our Yarrawonga clinic recently after shaking his head constantly, head tilt and scratching at his ears. These grass seeds were extracted from his left ear under sedation..

Grass seeds can become lodged in lots of places: ears, skin, eyes, nose, between the paws and more!

### Prevention is the best cure:

- Regular checking of your pet all over (including between paws), especially after a walk.
- Avoid long grass on walks.
- Keep long-haired dogs trimmed or clipped, especially around their feet and ears.
- Call us if you suspect a grass seed problem in any location on your pet.





# Congratulations Dr Lauren

Massive congratulations to Dr Lauren and Shaun on their wedding recently.

Best wishes from all of us at Cobram & Yarrowonga Vet Clinic.

## Snake season alert!

Snakes have been on the move and we have unfortunately seen many cases recently.

If you think your pet has been bitten by a snake, time is the most important factor - do not wait for signs or symptoms.

Call our Cobram or Yarrowonga clinics (details below) - 24/7 after hours emergency service also available.

## Snake bite in pets



### SIGNS OF A SNAKE BITE

- Sudden weakness or collapse
- Shaking or twitching
- Difficulty breathing
- Salivating, drooling, frothing at mouth
- Vomiting
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- Dilated pupils
- Paralysis
- Blood in urine
- Puncture wounds, bleeding/swelling in the area that has been bitten

### WHAT TO DO

- Immobilise your pet (restrict movement)
- Keep the animal calm and quiet
- Take your pet immediately to the vet clinic
- Call us to let us know you are on your way
- Do not wash the wound or apply a tourniquet

### HOW TO REDUCE THE RISKS OF SNAKES

- Keep your dog on a lead when walking to bushland or water
- Snake avoidance training in dogs
- Keeping cats indoors
- Regularly clearing the garden of any rubbish and dense bush





# FARM NEWS WITH DR SAM



## CALF DISBUDDING



The vet clinic has offered disbudding for several years now. The veterinary form of disbudding is different to that of technicians, as we use sedation, local anaesthetic and pain relief to perform the procedure. The main benefit of disbudding calves in this way is improved animal welfare. In some countries the use of local anaesthetic and pain relief is mandated, we suspect that with time this will also become a requirement in Australia.

If you elect to get your calves disbudded by the vet clinic you can expect the following. Calves to be disbudded should be between 2 and 8 weeks of age. Calves are injected with sedation, which will cause them to lie down for approximately 30-45 minutes. Local anaesthetic is then injected around the corneal nerve, which takes the sensation out of the horn bud. The hair involving the horn bud is then clipped. The horn but and skin around the perimeter of the bud is burnt with a hot iron. An injection of pain relief (meloxicam) is given to provide pain relief for up to three days. Whilst the calves are sedated they can also be checked for extra teats, if present they can be easily removed. Checking for umbilical hernias can also be done at this time. Farmers often find it convenient to vaccinate and ear tag when the calves are sedated.

Research has also demonstrated that calves disbudded with the use of local anaesthetic and pain relief recover from the procedure more quickly and have improved growth rates in the days following disbudding when compared with traditional techniques. If you would like to know more about our disbudding procedure, feel free to contact the clinic.

## WELCOME ELISE



We have recently been fortunate enough to welcome Elise De Jong into our team.

Elise hails from the Netherlands and graduated from the university of Utrecht in 2020. She worked solely as a dairy vet in the Netherlands for two years.

We have no doubt that Elise will be a great contributor to our team and she is very much looking forward to working with our farm clients.

Elise has made the move to Australia with her partner Dione and we hope to make their time in Australia a success.

### COBRAM VET CLINIC

 70 Station Street Cobram  
 [www.cobramvet.com.au](http://www.cobramvet.com.au)

### YARRAWONGA VET CLINIC

 65-67 Telford Street Yarrawonga  
 [www.yarravet.com.au](http://www.yarravet.com.au)



# FARM NEWS WITH DR SAM



## WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO PREG TEST?

When preg testing our aim is to provide accurate predicted calving dates. This allows the farmer to maximise milk yield by not drying cows off too early. Additionally, it helps to set the herd up for a good transition period. By having accurate calving dates we can move cows onto a lead feed program at the correct time. A good transition is critical to limiting metabolic disease post-calving, while also aiding fertility outcomes in the subsequent joining period.



In order to achieve the above, we prefer to be ultrasound preg testing between 6 and 14 weeks of gestation. It is during this period that the foetus is going through a rapid growth phase. This means we can differentiate the pregnancies in week intervals. Once gestation moves beyond 16 weeks the foetus is difficult to visualise and the rapid growth phase has finished. This means the ability to accurately age the pregnancy is lost.



For most Spring herds we should be starting to preg test in late January and into February. For herds that join for longer than 10 weeks often we would carry out two preg tests, one 12 weeks after the start of AI and a follow up preg test 6-8 weeks after joining has finished. For herds with a joining of 10 weeks or less, one preg test 6 weeks after the end of joining works well.

For year round calving herds we should be preg testing at least once every eight weeks. Some year round herds elect to preg test more frequently so that animals can be moved out of the breeding group.

It is not uncommon for cow ID, transcribing and record keeping mistakes to contribute to preg testing errors. Focusing on these areas is important in ensuring the accuracy of the preg testing data.

Accuracy of preg testing data can be further improved by allowing us access to insemination dates. This allows the matching up of preg testing and insemination dates on the day of the preg test. Farmers should be aware that some pregnancies will be lost between preg testing and calving. As a general guide the loss of 1-2% of pregnancies during this period would be deemed normal. Due to this risk, it is a good idea to consider a dry off preg test to find these cows. Finding a small number of empty cows easily justifies the additional preg test by either keeping the cows in milk or preventing the expense of the dry period.

For clients that are interested we can also generate a fertility focus report. This looks into fertility indices such as the calving pattern, first calver milk production compared with mature cows, submission rate, conception rate, and six week in calf rate (seasonal herds) or 100 day in calf rate for year round herds.

**If you have any further questions regarding the preg testing of your herd, feel free to contact OUR Cobram or Yarrawonga clinics.**