

****HEVC Autumn 09 Newsletter****

It is amazing how the year is flying by already. We are just rounding off this year's breeding, and before we know it the next breeding season will be upon us. With this in mind, the next few months are a good time to catch up on routine work such as castrations, wormings and vaccinations. Also if you have a problem mare who hasn't gone in foal this year, winter is a good time to get on top of those extra diagnostic tests, such as a uterine biopsy or trying to clear up any previous on-going infection.

With all the rain we have had of late, there has been a run of foot abscesses and founder. Those horses who are prone to these conditions are best kept out of muddy areas, and away from lush green pick. Also it is important to ensure their feet are kept neatly trimmed.

With the rain, also comes the outbreak of insect born viruses such as Ross River Fever. These viruses will often present with swollen legs and high fever. If you have any concerns about animals with these sorts of symptoms, please ensure you contact the office.

Now for some general staff news:

We need to say "Farewell" to Kristi Goldman, who joined our veterinary team about 19 months ago, and has recently left the practice. She plans to do some small animal locums before hoping to move to the Hunter Valley for stud work next breeding season. Louise Stubbs, our receptionist, has returned from maternity leave and will be job sharing with Emma McCormack, who is now doing university studies by correspondence. John Parbery will leave shortly on his extended sabbatical leave this year, however rest assured he will be back well in time for the stud season. For all his alpaca clients, be assured there are very capable vets still around in his absence and he is still contactable for any extra needed advise. Anne Raphael, our pathologist, who does a great job, will be supervising the Q alpaca program while he is away. In addition she will be filling in for his wife Anne in the office.

We are all hoping for a trouble free winter this year, with good weather so we can finally catch up with those important jobs that never seem to get done.

John & Tony