

## \* \* HEVC Summer Newsletter \* \*

The year 2010 has started with a vengeance, the contrast of heat waves to rain & extreme humidity, all out to confuse the cycling mare & frustrate those trying to get them in foal. Traditionally mares can still cycle and get pregnant through February & March, so if a late foal is not a concern for you, don't give up hope yet.

With this humidity there are plenty of biting insects around and the itch season is worse than we have seen for some time. If you are having difficulties with the allergic dermatitis, please contact the clinic to discuss a management program.

The rain has led to a flush of green grass and this has brought many bouts of colic, as well as laminitis. Be mindful of this, if your horse is suddenly exposed to lush grass.

In addition for all clients (both horse and alpaca), be aware that with this semi-breaking of the drought, there will be an enormous release of internal parasite larvae into the pastures, so make sure your worming program is up to date.

We have some staff news for this year, with both some departures and arrivals. Our Irish vet, Kate Keenan, has decided to move on and expand her skills in a smaller practice. We wish her well and thank her for her efforts over the past year. We are however excited to welcome, Dr Kylie Hardwicke to our team. Kylie is an enthusiastic and experienced horse woman and we are sure she will prove to be a great asset to the practice.

We are also sad to say that Gary Lai has decided to return to small animal practice. Gary has been a great asset to the practice for over 5 years and we would like to extend to him our sincere thanks for his wonderful contribution and work ethic over the years. We wish him and his family all the very best for the future. As we are still in the process of interviews for his position, Gary may continue his dental expertise on a part time basis until a suitable replacement is found.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to a great 2010 ahead.

John & Tony