



The Barn Yarn

March 2013
Volume 1, Issue 3



About us.....

Dave & Ros have over 20 years of experience showing pet lovers how to get the best from your pet by putting the best fuel (food) in...

Our Mission.....

To provide information of great value and be a resource to pet owners in the care and comfort of their precious furry friends.....



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Keep Your Horse Cool This Summer!

This time of the year we get to see the ugly side of Townsville. It's Hot, It Humid and sometimes not a breath of air.

These times can be dangerous for all animals, but particularly so for horses that are still being ridden, or have limited shade.



How horses cool down?

Horses cool themselves down 3 ways. Sweating (evaporation), Airflow over the skin (convection) and panting if necessary.

During humid conditions, the sweat doesn't evaporate which transfers the heat. If there is no breeze, no heat will transfer that way either.

Most dangerous times

A very simple tool you can use to calculate the danger times, it to add the temperature and humidity together.

If they are less than 100, normal cooling will occur. 100-120 is a high risk time and over 120 is potentially life threatening.

$30^{\circ}\text{C} + 50\%\text{Hum} = 80 \text{ OK}$
 $30^{\circ}\text{C} + 75\% \text{ Hum} = 105 \text{ Risk}$
 $35^{\circ}\text{C} + 90\% = 125 \text{ Danger}$

Signs of heat exhaustion

If your horse becomes uncoordinated, weak or collapses, he needs to be cooled down immediately. Hose him down, stand in a creek or dam and contact

your vet for advice.

7 ways to keep your horse cool this summer...

1. Make sure you paddock has shade 2m higher than your horse.
2. Find the paddock or area with the best breezes.
3. Clip horses with thicker coats.
4. Use light sun rugs.
5. Provide lots of fresh cool water. The bigger the volume the better.
6. Ride in cooler times of the day or at night time.
7. Cool your horse with water before, during and after exercise.
8. Feed your horse during cooler periods and at night time.
9. Cool your horse before traveling and make sure your float gets plenty of airflow through it.

Water Trough Gone Green?

This time of the year it is so important to keep the water up to your horse, but it is also when the water goes green so quickly...

3 Tips to keeping your water clean and clear...

1. Use trough blocks.

These copper blocks stop algae growing really well, but are designed for non-metallic water troughs up to 7000L.

For smaller troughs, break into smaller pieces or leave in for 1 day at a time.

2. Use Copper Sulphate.

As with the blocks copper kills algae. 1 teaspoon in a bathe tub will do a good job.

3. Add Gold fish.

In bigger troughs add some goldfish and seaweed to keep the water under control.

Be aware of how much copper your horse is getting in total to avoid toxic levels.

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Did You Know?

*Providing your
chooks more
than one feed
container will
help the less
dominant
chooks get their
nutritional
requirements.*



Feeding Chooks – How Hard Can It Be Right?

Feeding chickens can be as simple or as complicated as you wish to make it. When it comes to chook food, simple means one high quality product does it all. Being complicated means mixing feeds, adding vitamins and hoping you get it right...

You And Your Family Are Going To Eat The Eggs, So What They Eat Matters

The quality of the eggs your hens lay is directly related to what they eat. If they eat high quality healthy food, they will produce high quality healthy eggs that are safe to eat.

If they eat low quality food or unhealthy items, you will get poor quality eggs and they may even be unhealthy and harmful to you and your family.

On top of that, healthy chooks lay more eggs.

Let's Look At The 5 Types and See Which One Is Right For You:

Course Laying Mash:

These are a mixture of whole and cracked grains, meat meal, soybean meal, shellgrit and a vitamin & mineral mix (usually in a small pellet).

Although we call them a mash, they are a course grainy mix, not a powder. They provide the correct diet for laying hens and use high quality ingredients.

The most popular one is Advanced Rural's Tropical Mash. In fact it is so popular, it is also our fastest moving product. We not only highly recommend it, but we also use it for our own hens and they stay healthy, lay like troopers and yes we eat the eggs too.

The next most popular is Riverina's Red Label Mash with Molasses. This too is very high quality and has a drizzle of molasses through it. This does help it stick together better, and easier for the hens to eat the crumbs. The downside is that it also acts as a sweetener.

High Protein Laying Mash:

High protein mixes are normally used in a

commercial environment where high performance is required. These can be used to provide maximum egg production, to improve the condition of your chooks.

Advanced Premium Mash is the highest protein available at 18% and it is a fine powder. Top Layer Mash is 16.5% and is more of a gritty crumble.

Fine Laying Mash:

Fine mashes consist of all the same ingredients as course mashes, but they are ground down to a fine powder. This makes it a bit harder for the chooks to eat and you can lose more in the ground.

Fine mash can get dusty and cause eye infections which can lead to the death of chooks in rare cases. It is best to dampen fine mash with water and / or keep out of windy conditions.

Laying Pellets:

Pellets are made by mixing the ingredients into a fine powder and the compressing them into a pellet. A lot of the time millrun (a wheat byproduct) is used as a base and a binding agent (sometimes molasses) added to keep it together.

The advantages of pellets is that the hens cannot sort the grains and eat the yummy stuff. They also have a longer shelf life and are less prone to weevils and mites.

The downside is that you cannot see the ingredients in the end product so often lower quality ingredients are used for pelletising. It boils down to the integrity of the company making the products.

Barastoc Golden Yolk Pellets are a tried and tested product with good ingredients and backed by a company that stands behind the quality of their products. These are the only pellets we will sell.

Mixed Grains:

These are exactly that, the mixed grain part of the chooks diet. There is no protein meals, vitamin & minerals or shellgrit in them. You need to add these to the diet.

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Killing Fleas & Ticks Dead So They Don't Come Back?

In the last issue we tormented you about a group of people who don't have problems with fleas & ticks at all. Only about 5% of dog owners are in this secret society, closely guarding the secret.

The rest of the population is spending lots of time & money washing, dipping, applying Frontline or Advantix, spraying the yard, putting lime around, you name it, someone is doing it every weekend.

But today we are going to uncover the truth and reveal the secret which could mean we never sell another flea or tick product again...

...On second thoughts maybe not.

OK I am just kidding, but only because it is in the best interest for your pets.

It all started with our own experiences and we used to have all the same problems as everyone else, some fleas but mainly ticks. About 10 years ago it all changed and we have not had problem since.

On a rare occasion if we see one, we treat it instantly with Frontline or Advantix. When I say rare, we have used pipettes in 3 years, twice after we picked up stray dogs and once just because we had house-sitters coming, not for fleas or ticks.

We have had numerous dogs and cats and lived in several areas around Townsville and we do end up with those stray dogs until their owners come. Our pets also come inside all the time and sleep on the kids beds (sshhh) so we certainly know if there is one around.

We did two things 10 years ago, first we used a Killtix collar (just 1 10 years ago). Now I love Killtix collars, but even they are not that good.

The second thing we did was changed what we fed our dogs and cat. We were feeding dry food from the supermarket and the cheaper the better.

We swapped their food to IAMS and within weeks noticed improvements. Later on we upgraded them to Eukanuba and have never looked back.

But I sell the stuff right, so here is what you said

We asked customers just like you...

We asked a whole bunch of customers using IAMS & Eukanuba if they had problems with fleas & ticks. Their answers were unanimous. NO! Some said very occasionally, but a dose of Frontline or Advantix and their gone again.

The next thing we did was search our own database of customers to see which customers feed Eukanuba & IAMS and which ones buy flea and tick products. After all we have 10 years of real life, local data from right here in Townsville.

Here is what we found...

The customers feeding Eukanuba & IAMS had not bought a flea or tick product in over 12 months with 3 exceptions – a lady that religiously Frontlines all her cats every month, a man who swapped to Eukanuba and not used any more Advantix, and a lady who swapped from IAMS to Dog Pro has started buying Advantix.

Then we looked at the customers buying Frontline, Advantix, Nucidol, Killtix, Fido's, Malaban etc to see what food they bought.

80% of them did not buy their food from us, and of the 20% they were feeding Cobber, Dog Pro & Frozen Meat.

The conclusion we can draw from this is that the better quality food you feed, the less likely you are to have problems with fleas & tick. Most of the brands we like to see customers on like Bonnie, Enduro IAMS & Eukanuba are pretty good products – that's why they are in our shops.

The majority of the 80% are those that shop at the supermarket, and come to us when they have problems with fleas & ticks.

But I wanted a professional opinion and all vets sell dog food, so I found Dr Ian Billingham who started the BARF concept in Australia. He says...
..most commercial foods are lacking when it comes to levels of vitamins & minerals and these dogs are more prone to infectious disease and parasites such as fleas and worms.

So if fleas & ticks are bugging your pet, try upgrading his diet – I know I am convinced.



Abundant levels of vitamins and minerals promote a healthy natural immune system that are less prone to infectious diseases and parasites.



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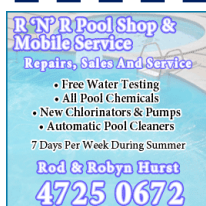
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If you run a professional pet or related business that provides excellent customer service and high quality products & services, we are looking for you. Call Us Now.

Upcoming Events

- Wildlife Rescue Training 19th May.
- Bartlett Park – U18 Come & Try Day 23rd March.
- RSPCA Million Paws Walk 19th May.
- NQEG Dressage/Jumping 13/14 Apr

Community Support

- \$105 Donated this month to local horse clubs.
- Child sponsored to Circus Quirkus.
- Monthly donations to Animals.
- Facebook Group Townsville Pet Rehoming reaches 182 likes!
- 22 new customers referred by you this month – Thanks!

News!!!

- Monthly Winners of the \$150 Gift Vouchers were: November's Lynda Parsons, December's Paul Bennati & January Sue & Gordon Christie

ONLINE !

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