



The Barn Yarn

November 2012
Volume 1, Issue 2



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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Len's Feed Shed



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The Rains Are Coming Marge!

They are coming aren't they? It may very dry right now but sooner or later the rains will be coming. This issue we are going to look at a few important tips on caring for your horse and your feed during the wetter months of the year.

Who loves grass?

Your horse loves it, you love it and your wallet loves it. The question is how good is the grass?

The grass that grows around Townsville is generally very low in nutrition unless you are improving your soil.

So why not put some fertiliser around to give soil a boost and produce better grass.

Poultry manure like Organic Booster is a good option as it improves the soil and acts as a slow release fertiliser.

Chemical fertilisers like CK88 or will produce a quicker result, but too much may create very high protein levels in the grass

Vitamins & minerals are required even with grass.

We usually think that horses naturally eat grass, so as long as they have it, that's all they need.

That can certainly be the case in areas like the Tablelands where the soil is rich and they have year round rainfall and there is plenty of grass year round.



Not so in Townsville...

Because we have poor soil and grass quality, it is very important to ensure you are still providing vitamins and minerals to your horse.

The easiest way is by having a lick block in the paddock such as a 007 block or horse block. You can also use Equilibrium Mineral Mix or Groom Concentrate.

Rich Wet Grass – comes out looking the same only faster

When the grass starts to grow during wet conditions, the grass is very rich and has high moisture content.

Your horse's belly at the moment is used to dry grass or hay. Going straight from one to the other is likely to cause diarrhoea at the least.

Start slowly by limiting the time he spends eating the new grass, starting with an hour a day and building up over a week or two. This will give his system time to

adapt to the new diet.

RED ALERT –New Product
Protect your feed this wet season with a New 200L Feed Drum

Rising water and wet ground are the most common reasons people lose feed in the shed.

Those worries are gone with these waterproof drums big enough for chaff and square bales.

They come with lockable lids so the mice cannot get in, and your feed shed will be the best looking in town.

For only \$20, if they save one bag of feed, they have paid for themselves.



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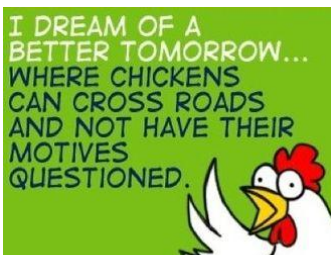
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Did You Know?

Baby chickens need to be kept warm between 32-35°C for the first 3 weeks as they can't generate their own body heat.



Hot Tips to Successfully Raising Baby Chickens

We all know what it is like when we see those tiny, cute day old chickens. Our heart melts instantly and our brain stops functioning. We just want to grab them all and take them home. Now that's just us adults, what about the kids' reactions?

What you need to know about raising baby chickens..

Like any animal, making the decision to raise them babies is a long term commitment. They will need food, water, shelter, housing, protection & medical treatment. If you are not prepared to provide these, walk away.

Choose the right type for you

The best type of chickens for egg laying are Commercial Layers. They come in Red, Black and White colours. Red's are the best layers, so you will see lots of them around. If you want something different, you can usually get different breeds, but they are very seasonal and not available all the time.

If you buy them from private people, they will not normally be vaccinated so death rates can be a lot higher. Private sellers usually won't sex them meaning you could get roosters.

Buying through a store usually means the chickens will be vaccinated and are usually sexed as hens. They are about 97% accurate, But **extraordinary stores** (like us) have a Rooster Guarantee so that if one grows up to be a rooster you can bring him in and swap him for another baby chicken.

Food and Water – How much do those little suckers eat and drink?

Baby chickens need to eat baby chicken food. Their diet is very different from adults, and their delicate digestive systems cannot handle adult food This food is called Starter Crumble and it has all the nutrition they need to grow healthy and strong.

Starter Crumble also has medication in it for

Coccidiosis, which causes a lot of deaths in baby chickens. They need to stay on this food for 3 months and then they can go onto an adult diet.

Baby chickens will eat about-grams per day. By the time they are adults they will eat about 130g per day, so a bag of feed is going to last a long time.

Your baby chickens need clean fresh water available at all times. The volume of water the need increase dramatically as they age from 20ml per day in the first week to 100ml at 5 weeks, to 250ml at 20 weeks and 500mls at 30 weeks. These levels are even higher hot humid conditions (ie Townsville).

Housing and protection – Won't my adult chooks look after the babies?

Like most species, mothers will protect their young with a force to be reckoned with. Fathers, aunties, uncles, brothers and sisters are far less reliable. In the chook world, they are not to be trusted at all.

Baby chickens cannot be left with older chickens, unless mum is there, and even then keep a close eye on them.

Baby chickens need to be kept in a draft-free place (cardboard boxes are great) and for the first 3-4 weeks they need to keep warm at 32-35°C. Baby chickens cannot make their own body heat for the first few weeks so you need to provide it.

You can buy warming lights which are basically a desk light with a 40 watt incandescent globe (the old style). Other ways to keep them warm are to keep near the hot water system, over the back of the fridge, small boxes with blanket over them.



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Raising Baby Chickens Continued.....

Your baby chickens also need to be protected from rats, dogs, snakes, cats, hawks etc. Using very fine wire on your pen will help, as well as keeping them inside at night time.

There is another danger you need to be aware of, and that is your darling children. Baby chickens are a natural attraction to kids of all ages, and it is very easy for young kids to accidentally hurt them by squeezing too hard, dropping them, or just separating them from the group for long periods of time.

Baby chickens (all birds for that matter) are very sensitive to fear and a fright is enough for some to die from it. Stressed animals from too much handling, roaming predators, close calls can all cause baby chickens to die from fright.

Next issue we will be looking at choosing the right chook food for your hens.

Get Started Today with our special Chicken Starter Pack

Here is what you get...

- 4 x Day Old Baby Chickens (only the cute ones)
- 1 x Plastic Feeder 1.5kg
- 1 x Plastic Waterer 1.3L
- 1 x Chicken Starter Crumble 4kg
- 1 x Woodshavings MiniBale

**Normally sells for \$77.70 – You pay only \$57
That's a savings of \$20.70**



Chickens are a flock animal, which means they thrive in groups. Have at least 2 chickens, as they will fret and stress and may even die alone, especially baby chickens.

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

In the last issue, we were discussing how lots of people felt frustrated by flea & tick products that didn't work. And I got the sense that you were looking for the "Magic Pill", something you could take once and you would never have to deal with fleas or ticks again...

Well guess what? **There isn't one!** Well not yet anyway. There is a concept that controls 99% of the problem. This technique is only used by about 5% of pet owners and doesn't involve harsh chemicals or weekly dipping, but I will tell you more about that technique later.

So last issue we showed you that fleas & ticks lay millions of eggs in a short space of time. We only see them as adults, which is 5% of how many are really there so by the time you know they are there, there are millions getting ready to hatch and the have been there for a couple of months.

All the products generally work on killing the adults, some are effective at breaking the breeding cycle, but basically you need to treat the

animals and environment on a continuous basis to get all the eggs that are hatching.

In most cases 4 weeks is long enough to eradicate the majority of eggs, but it can take 3-6 months so don't expect that you can give them a magic pill and all your troubles will go away. You have to be in it for the long haul.

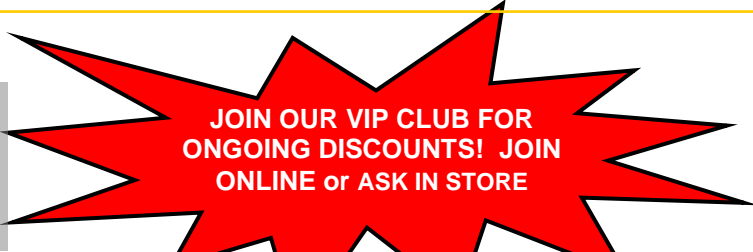
The most effective products for continuous treatment of your pet are Frontline Plus (not Frontline Original), Advantix & Kiltix Collars.

The most effective dip and yard spray is Nucidol. If you don't like nasty sprays, you can get a Pest Controller (like Blue Ribbon) in to do your yard for you.

If you have multiple pets, you need to treat all the animals at the same time. It won't be very effective trying to kill fleas on 1 pet while they breed on another. The same goes for visiting pets and wildlife. Try to stop visiting animals to your yard while treating them.



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Killing Fleas & Ticks (Cont'd)



Free Cooler Bag

Buy a 6 Pack of Frontline Plus or Heartgard Plus

While Stocks Last!

With all these chemicals, dips and spraying, is there a better healthier way for my pet?

I am so glad you asked, because there is a better way. There is a special technique that we use that seems to eradicate fleas and ticks altogether. In fact we haven't had a flea or tick outbreak in 10 years.

We just don't get them anymore. We used to by the truck load, but now we would maybe treat out pets once a year. And we are not the only ones, there are quite a few people who use the same sneaky technique we use and rarely have any fleas or ticks.

And this technique also removes many other health issues like skin conditions, allergies, hot spots, joint problems etc. Curious? Find out in our next issue...

Local Events & News

Upcoming Events

- JCUVET Pet Party Sun 11th Nov.
- Bartlett Park – Rodeo Club Day 10th Nov. Presentation Night 1st Dec
- RSPCA Santa Paws 25th Nov.
- NQEG AGM 25th Nov Bushy Tavern

Community Support

- \$282 Donated this month to local horse clubs.
- \$275 Gift Vouchers for JCUVET Pet Party on 11th November.
- Gift Vouchers supplied for Fetes at Bohlevalle and Good Shepherd.
- Facebook Group Townsville Pet Rehoming reaches 151 likes!
- 32 new customers referred by you this month – Thanks!

News!!!

- Monthly Winners of the \$150 Gift Vouchers were: September's Tina Arena & October's Kylie Baxter

Whiskers and Walkers Pet Sitting

"Caring for your pet when you're not there."
Bluewater – Saunders Beach



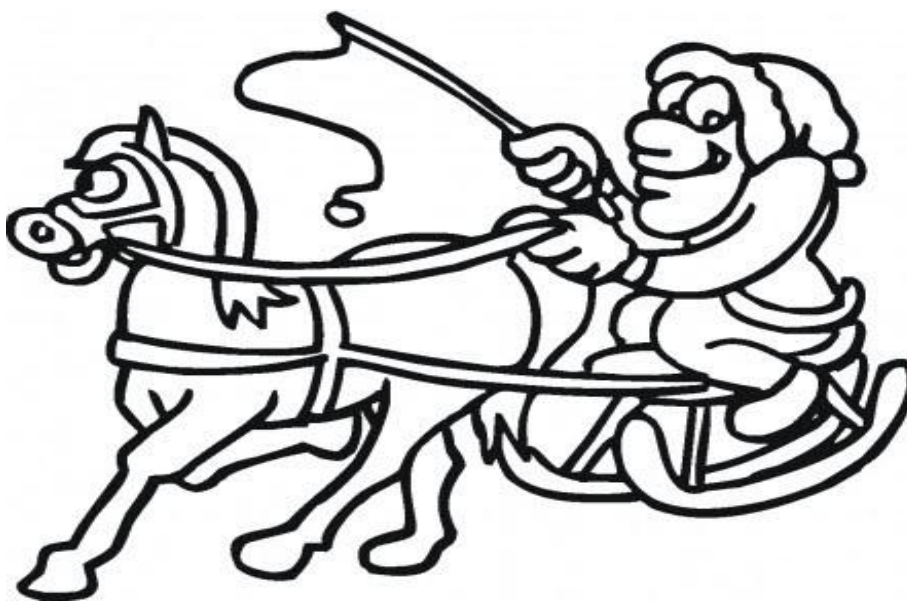
- In-home Pet Sitting • Dog Walking
- Fully Insured • Police Checked
- Qualified Veterinary Nurse

Your local Pet Sitter. Caring for local pets!
Ph Cathryn 4751 3408 or 0449068770

NEW! Pet Prayers Now Answered Overnight Pet Minding for your dog. Room to run and lots of fun. When your pet deserves a holiday too, pack its doggie bag & bring it to a fully fenced rural acreage where it can play all day and sleep in the comfort & care of my dog friendly couch at night.

Kid's Colouring in Competition – Drawn 7th Dec.

Hey Kids, Colour in Santa and send it in for your chance to win tickets to see **Wreck-It Ralph**. The winner will get 2 kids tickets + 2 adult tickets, so you can take a friend (or your smelly brother) and Mum & Dad, so they won't have an excuse not to take you lol. Drop it in, email it or on our Facebook page. Prizes for under 5yrs, 5-10 yrs & over 10 yrs.



ONLINE !

YES! You are now able to shop in the comfort of your own home. While watching TV you can also be selecting all your feed for the week and it will be delivered to your door **FREE!**

No more coming to town to fill your boot with dusty grains and grasses, trying to squeeze it in and having to unload at home, then clean the car out!

We are proud to be Townsville's first online Feed Supply Service! See our website for details!

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