



May (Autumn) 2013, pages

2012 - 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

National Velvet Accreditation Scheme

Prices of velvet have been relatively steady with farmers still able to make reasonable profit margins. We have been watching the Korean crisis develop over the past few months. Hopefully it will defuse peacefully without major conflict.

The future of the Australian Velvet Pools and Australian Deer Horn is still not resolved.

Research into a suitable alternative to lignocaine seems to be at a stalemate.

I will reiterate the significant points of the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme.

The velvetting procedure involves the annual removal of living tissue from the male deer. It is and always will be a controversial issue both with respect to the welfare aspects of the procedure and the prescription and dispensing of the drugs required for sedation and analgesia.

It is therefore very important to maintain the standards set by the NVAS and be accredited. The NVAS provides a buffer between the deerfarmer and the general public and animal welfare agencies and also sections of the veterinary profession that would have velvetting banned.

Method of administration:

The amount of lignocaine in the harvested stick of velvet will be greatly reduced to well within acceptable levels of residue if the tourniquet is applied with consistent pressure around the whole circumference of the pedicle before the administration of lignocaine.

The lignocaine is injected below the tourniquet around the base at a dose of 1 ml. per centimeter.

A complete ring block with overlapping blebs appears to provide the most effective analgesia.

Please note that xylazine **does NOT** provide a local anaesthetic. Local anaesthetic must be administered as well as using xylazine.

The tourniquet is applied before administration of local.

So the best analgesia results from:

1. A higher dose per centimetre ie. 1 ml/cm
2. Increased number of injection sites ie. 6-8 sites around the circumference
3. Taking time to administer the local anaesthetic to the pedicle
4. Injecting closer to the antler than the head ie. just below the tourniquet.

There will be a written assessment this year that will be sent out with the annual letter to accredited farmers.

We have lost a few farmers from the industry and we wish them well in their retirement.

I would like to thank Marika for her dedication and labours for the NVAS and wish our deerfarmers a prosperous season.

Dr. Susan M. Joubert.
Chairperson. NVAS.