

## Cattle Newsletter – March 2010



A number of clients are now feeding waste peaches from the cannery. Peaches are a good source of nutrition, however some care needs to be taken. In the last week the clinic has seen numerous cattle with whole peaches stuck in the oesophagus (throat). This results in the animal being rather distressed, drooling from the mouth excessively and developing bloat.

The bloat occurs because the cow cannot belch and gas accumulates in the rumen. In severe cases the cow dies.



From the limited number of cows we have seen, the problem is with hard, green peaches. Ripe and softer peaches seem to be OK.

The stuck peach cannot be removed without causing excessive damage to the cow and the best option is to allow it to pass naturally over the next 24 hours or so. While this is happening it is essential that the bloat is controlled. We are doing this by inserting a rumen canula until the blockage has cleared.

It is not our intention to discourage the feeding of cannery waste, but it should be done with some care and careful monitoring of the cattle being fed.