



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

Deer – part 6

Identifier first line

Second line



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

WARNING

This material has been reproduced and communicated to you by or on behalf of the University of Melbourne in accordance with section 113P of the Copyright Act 1968 (Act).

The material in this communication may be subject to copyright under the Act.

Any further reproduction or communication of this material by you may be the subject of copyright protection under the Act.

Do not remove this notice



Velvet Production

- Practicalities
- Legalities

Velvet Harvesting

- Amputation of live antler prior to calcification from male deer
- Must be carried out under veterinary supervision with appropriate analgesia OR
- by a farmer accredited through the National Velvet Accreditation Scheme



Rainbow Deer Farm - Deer Velvet Antler

30 October 2013 · 🌐

We have removed Billy's velvet antler (humanely) and we are very pleased with the result - 8.52 kgs of Super A grade velvet antler. That is our best ever and shows our genetic improvement over the years. As can be seen from the photo I am struggling a bit to hold his velvet antler up for the camera.

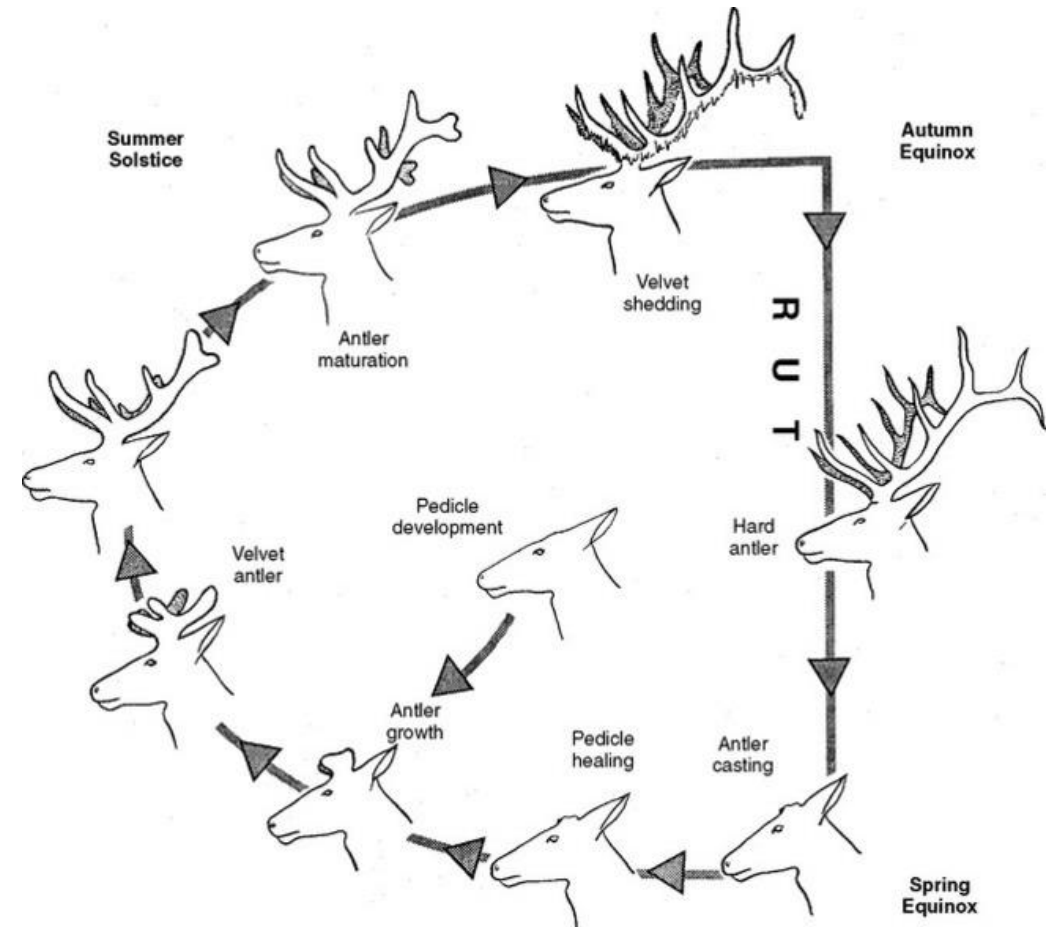
Velvet harvesting - Antlerogenesis

- Annual casting of buttons (or antlers), regrowth and calcification
- Change in daylight length
- Increased daylight = decreased testosterone = cast and new growth
- Decreased daylight = increased testosterone = shedding of velvet and calcification



Velvet harvesting - Antlerogenesis

- Cast – July/Aug
 - 3-4 months
 - Nutrition very important
 - Maturation – Jan/Feb
 - Primary harvest – Oct/Nov
- Date of cast-date of harvest very predictable



Velvet harvesting - value of velvet

- Not an aphrodisiac per se
- Promotion of good health and prevention of illness
- Lab assessments -variable results



Health benefits of deer and elk velvet antler supplements: a systematic review of randomised controlled studies

Andrew Gilbey, Jose D Perezgonzalez

Abstract

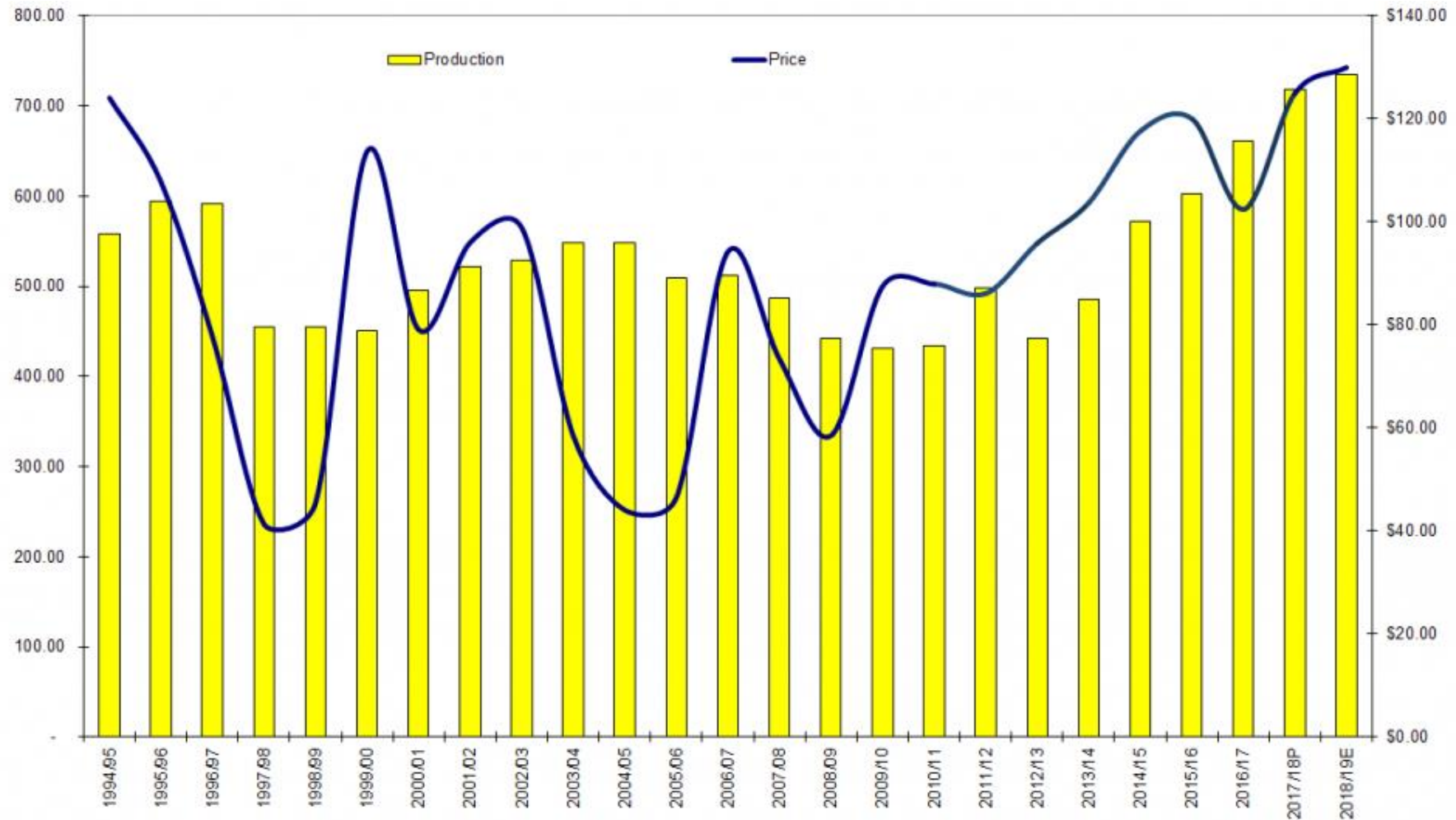
Aims The aim of this systematic review was to evaluate the evidence from RCTs of velvet antler supplements for any condition, using the QUOROM statement as a guiding framework.

Methods Four electronic databases (PubMed, Medline, Web of Science and Academic search premier, via the bibliographical platform, Endnote) and two review articles were searched for all randomised clinical trials of velvet antler supplements. Retrieved trials were evaluated according to standardised criteria.

Results Seven RCTs were identified as satisfying all inclusion criteria and examined the effectiveness of velvet antler for rheumatoid arthritis (2), osteoarthritis (1), sexual function (1), and sporting performance enhancement (3). Their methodological quality ranged from 3–5, as measured on the Jadad scale. Two RCTs reported some positive effects of velvet antler supplements, but neither were convincing while the remaining five RCTs found no effect of velvet antler supplements.

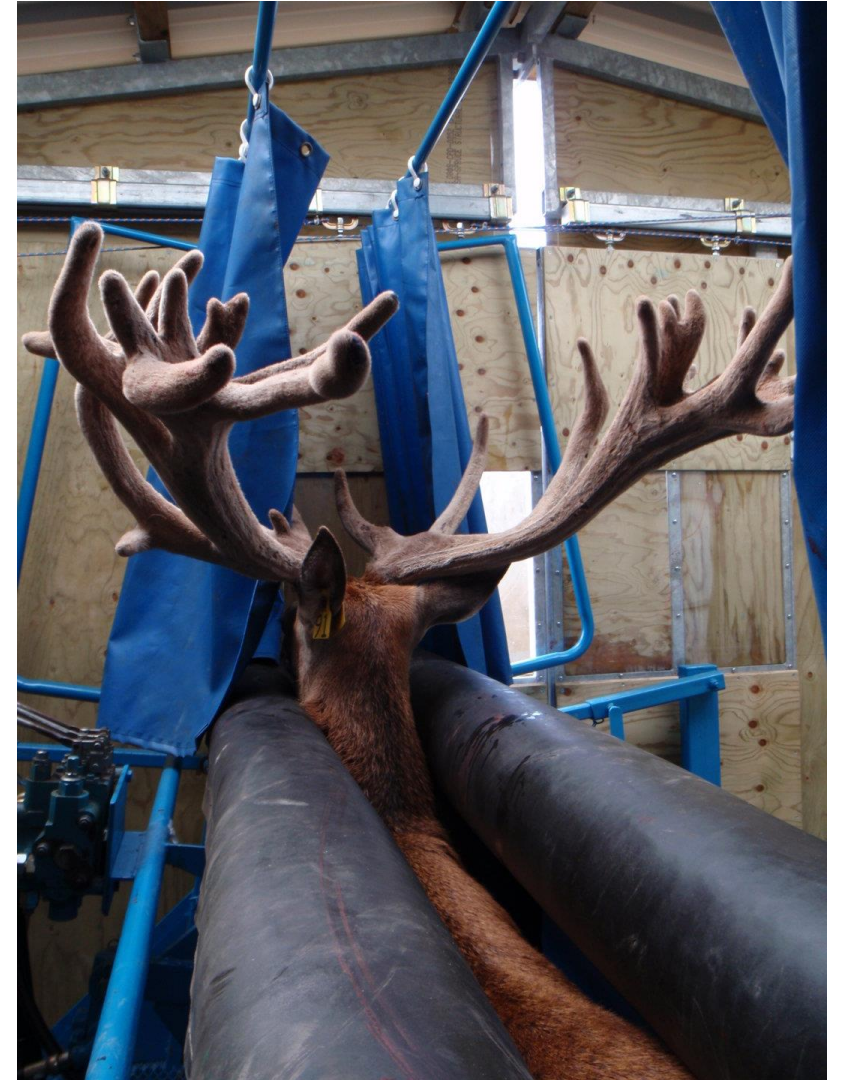
Conclusions Claims made for velvet antler supplements do not appear to be based upon rigorous research from human trials, although for osteoarthritis the findings may have some promise.

Velvet pricing trends (NZ)



Velvet harvesting - technique

- Paddock
- Yards
- Crush
- Need quiet, well handled stags
- Group according to button drop
- Environmental temperature - cool



Velvet harvesting - procedure

- Sedation
- Analgesia
- Haemostasis
 - racing bike inner tube
 - no more than 30 mins
 - place below pedicle





Velvet harvesting - procedure

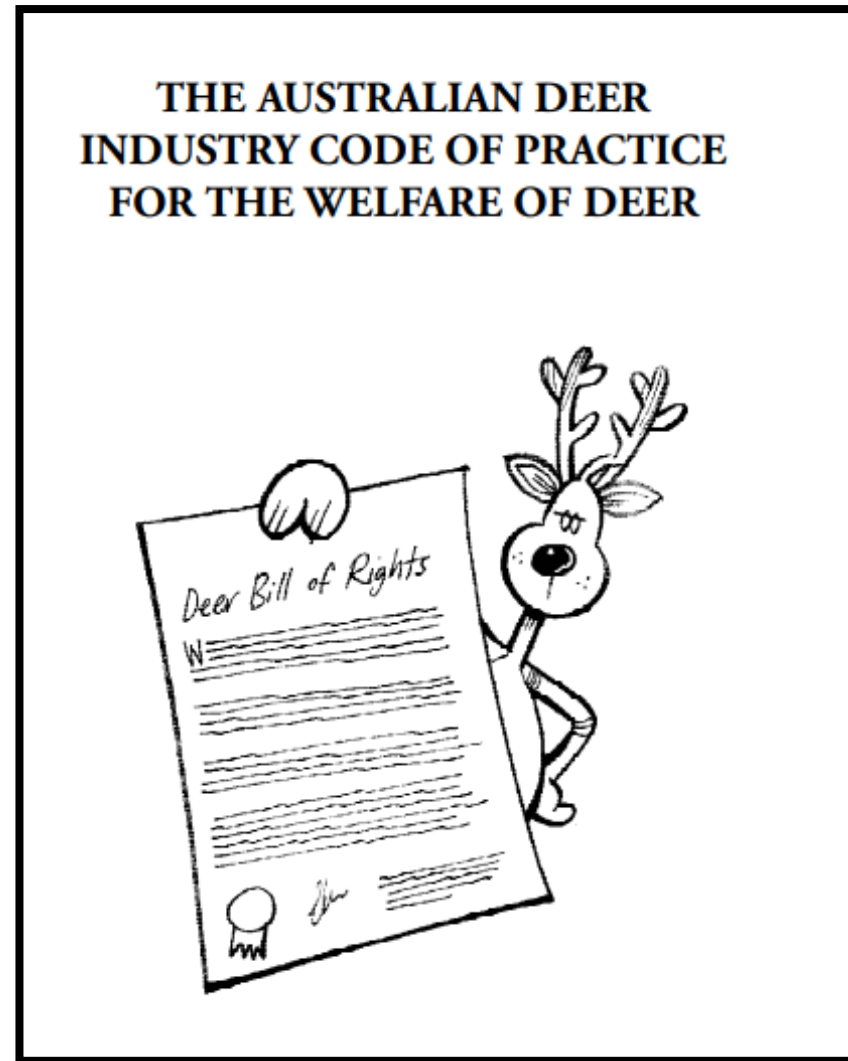
- Amputation
 - saw / secateurs
 - start laterally
 - careful to not rip velvet
- Aftercare
 - always bleeds
 - fly repellents



Legal aspects

- National Velvet Accreditation Scheme – 3 part course
 1. Self assessment
 2. Theory (open book exam – 75% pass)
 3. Practical assessment (by veterinarian)
- Given accreditation number for 3 year period
- Farmer must submit an annual report
- Annual vet visit (vet must keep register of drugs prescribed)

Code of practice





THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)