

The Hamish Mavor Memorial Trophy

When Hamish passed away in 2007 it was decided at NSVets to donate a trophy, in his name, to the Northern Southland Trotting Club.

The trophy is awarded annually to the best performed horse, in the previous racing season, whose owner is a member of The Northern Southland Trotting Club. As well as the trophy, which is held for one year, NSVets also awards the winning owner with a suitably engraved halter for the winning horse. The trophy has been won by some notable horses and I thought it was timely to list these winners and their owners as we approach ten years since Hamish's passing.



Paul Langford BVSc

Year	Horse	Owner
2007 - 2008	Springbank Richard	R.A. & Mrs D.J. Smith
2008 - 2009	Jaccka Jack	C.F. & Mrs A.G. Smaill
2009 - 2010	Springback Richard	R.A. & Mrs D.J. Smith
2010 - 2011	Jaccka Jack	C.F. & Mrs A.G. Smaill
2011 - 2012	Chesteron	E.D. Hailes
2012 - 2013	Jimmy Johnston	J.K. McRae
2013 - 2014	Raksdeal	B.J. Fahy
2014 - 2015	Tas Man Bromac	Mrs E.D. Greene, Mrs P.E. Dent, G.R. Youngman, Mrs R.M. Jones, Mrs K.M. Williamson, A.I. Jones
2015 - 2016	Mossdale Conner	A.G. Affleck

Horse Reminders

- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in ponies

An Unusual Case

From time to time our vets come across strange and interesting cases. This spring one of our vets was out seeing a down cow. As part of the clinical exam the vet was observing the cow's demeanour and noticed that she was depressed. This was quite evident as the cow did not seem bothered by a pesky fly hanging around her face. What happened next particularly surprised the vet as the fly appeared to go into the cow's ear and still the cow did not respond. The vet, somewhat bewildered, continued on with the clinical exam and was checking the udder for mastitis when they noticed the fly shoot out from one of the teats! In shock the vet jumped back, how unusual – the fly had gone in one ear and straight out the udder!

Rearing Christmas Dinner

Somebody told me once "Don't trust a Vet without a Pet". That's been me for the past 9 months so I decided to step up my game and get a couple of lambs.

Many of you will have pet lambs especially for the school pet days coming up, here's a few tips;

- It is recommended to yoghurtise the milk and feed cold. The yoghurt allows good bacteria to proliferate, and stops a gas producing bacteria called "Sarcinia" from growing on the lactose in the milk. This helps to prevent abomasal bloat in lambs, which is the most common cause of pet lamb deaths. For instructions on how to do this you can email me at samantha@nsvs.co.nz
- Offer meal to your lambs from day 1; a muesli is best. They take a small while to get used to it, but I offered it from a few days of age and put some in their mouth when they were hungry and they soon got used to eating it. The larger sheep pellets do not work as well as muesli for lambs in my experience. Ensure you offer small amounts at one time to keep the muesli fresh and prevent wastage.
- Most pet lambs get fed for far longer than necessary. If your lamb is eating muesli well they can be weaned onto pasture from 4 weeks of age. You need to continue to feed meal for 6 weeks or longer if weaning early. You should ensure your lamb is at least 9 kg to be a candidate for early weaning.

My lambs however, will not be gracing the dinner table on Christmas Day.

Samantha Edgar BVSc



Staff Comment

We hope everyone is enjoying the weather this spring, and long may it last.

We are very pleased to welcome Charlotte Perniskie to our team.

Charlotte is based at our clinic in Riversdale and will be at the front desk to greet anyone who pops in. Many of you may have met her in this role already. She has just the right background having spent the last few years working in early education and now moving into a vet clinic. They say never work with animals or children....



1. Staff Comment, H.A.P.P.Y. Horse Weigh Day

2. Understanding B12, Muppetto and Lamocchie

3. Mating Circle of Success, 6 Week Challenge

4. The Hamish Mavor Memorial Trophy, An Unusual Case, Rearing Christmas Dinner

We were very sad to say goodbye to Elaine after nearly 10 years, it was the end of an era. We would like to wish her well for the future and thank her for all the hard work and sacrifices over the time she worked for us. She will be missed.

Over spring we have a familiar face back at the clinic, Tash Leamy is doing a six week stint after spending the last six months travelling in the Americas. It is really good to have her back even if it is only temporary. Becky has begun her placement in Canada as part of her postgraduate Masters degree. The hospital she is at has an array of specialist services and she is spending time in a few different areas. She will be back at the start of December with all her usual enthusiasm and a heap more knowledge – we can't wait!

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment

H.A.P.P.Y. Horse Weigh Day

Recently we hosted a weigh day at the clinic where owners brought in their horses or ponies to walk over our scales and see what their weight is.

An accurate weight for an equine is important when drenching with wormers. It is also essential when administering drugs from a veterinary perspective.

Owners were asked to guess the weight of their own horse before they went on the scales. This was an interesting exercise in seeing what weight people were drenching their horses to. Most people were within 50 kg of accurately guessing their horse's weight.

The horses ranged from a miniature horse to a 16.3hh Thoroughbred with many variations in between. The horses were also all body condition scored so this did reflect on their sizes and weights.

We also collected some faecal samples from the horses who made a deposit. We found that egg burdens were generally low and therefore drenching was not required. We recommend a faecal sample from your horse to be analysed by one of our vets every three months.



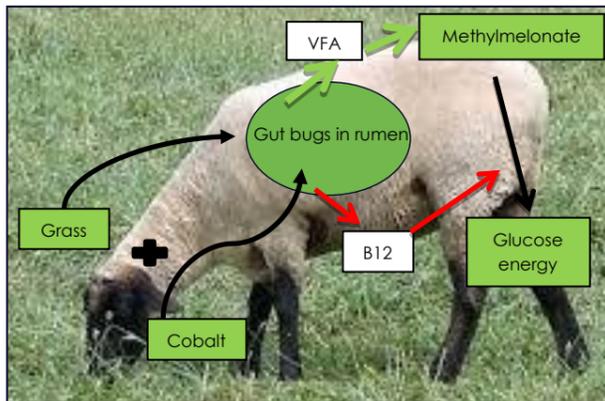
We ran a competition to guess the weight of Scarlett (as shown above). The winner was Hannah O'Connor and she won an emergency first aid kit.

If you want to have a go guessing the weight of Scarlett, who is 15.2hh and a Clydesdale cross, the answer is over the page.

Megan Reidie BVSc



Understanding B12



Ruminants need Vitamin B12 to get energy out of grass for growth. Bacteria in the rumen make B12 using cobalt. This pathway can be affected by either low cobalt or lack of bugs as is the case with young lambs and calves where the rumen is not yet developed, they can't make B12. Without B12 the cycle is blocked, and methylmelonate builds up causing ill thrift, watery eyes, washy wool, and lost appetite. Cobalt supplementing can help adult stock but for young animals direct supplementing of B12 is better.

Suckling lambs don't need extra B12 as they get their glucose directly from the milk. The time to supplement is when lambs are eating more grass than milk – this is usually before weaning, but after tailing! Some treatments given at tailing may well be gone by the time of need.

Product	Dose	Duration
Prolaject	1 ml	4 weeks
Smart Shot - Prime Lamb	0.5 ml	3-4 months
Smart Shot	1 ml	6 months +

Note: Mineralised oral drenches usually contain cobalt (not B12) at low levels.

Factors reducing cobalt:

- Binding by Manganese, iron and nickel.
- Free draining soils
- Liming lifts soil pH which reduces cobalt uptake by plants
- Lack of clover/legumes (higher in cobalt than grass, but not if soil cobalt is low)
- Spring or times of lush growth

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Sheep Reminders

- Tailing
- Feeding prioritisation
- Pulpy kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet dries
- Blood test rams B Ovis

Muppetto and Lamocchie

I had this very cute patient in Lumsden one day- he had a rather unusual lump on the end of his nose which turned out to be an abscess! His lovely owner brought me this poem a short while later...

Late one night...

A spring lamb was born, he came out looking like he had already been shorn. Poor wee lamb, he looked quite a fright- nothing but a load of wrinkles in sight! Where oh where did his woollie coat go?

Muppetto and his wife really didn't know. Nek minute something else grows but heavens its on the end of his nose. Larger and larger the growth did get... Come on Muppetto, its time for the vet.

The vet thought to herself "will you look at this muppet, his lamb looks like a long-nosed puppet!"



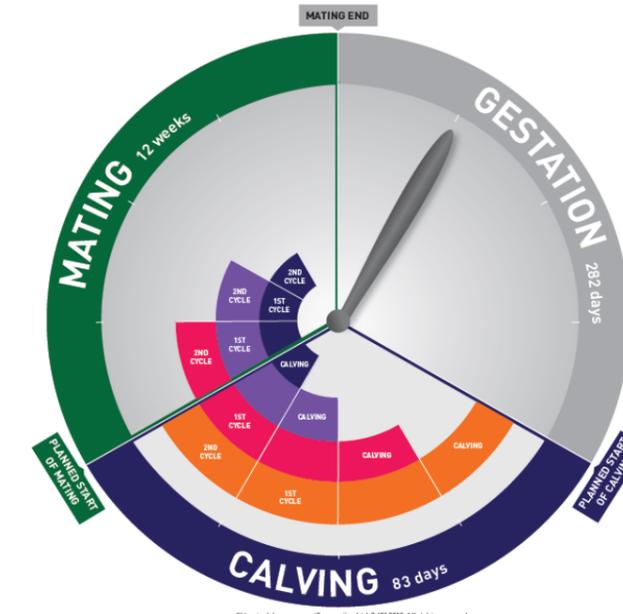
We lanced the abscess and have had a report that the lamb is looking much like the others in the paddock now, springing and racing around!
Samantha Edgar BVSc

Deer Reminders

- Hinds - pre-fawning clostridial vaccination
- Pre-calving worming & copper
- De-velvetting
- Check copper & selenium in pregnant hinds
- Sort stags into de-velvetting mobs

Mating Circle of Success

Getting cows in calf is a year round process. Are you on an upward or downward spiral?



- Early Calvers:** First 3 weeks (should cycle twice before)
- Mid Calvers:** Second 3 weeks (should cycle once before PSM)
- Late Calvers:** Third 3 weeks (likely to have their first cycle after PSM)
- Very Late Calvers:** Third 3 weeks (likely to have their first cycle after PSM)

Key players: **(Current focus)**

- Calving pattern
- Heifer management
- Body condition and nutrition
- **Heat detection**
- **Dealing with non-cyclers**
- Genetics and artificial breeding practice
- Bull management
- **Cow health**

Tasks done or in process:

- Tail paint on all calved cows
- Re-Paint cows 2nd colour as cycle
- Discussed reproduction plan with vets
- Booked in intervention dates with the vets
 - ⇒ Metricheking
 - ⇒ Synchrony programmes for cows
 - ⇒ Heifer programme

Industry targets:

- 6 week ICR **78%**
- MT rate **6%**
- 3 Week SR **90%**
- CR **60%**

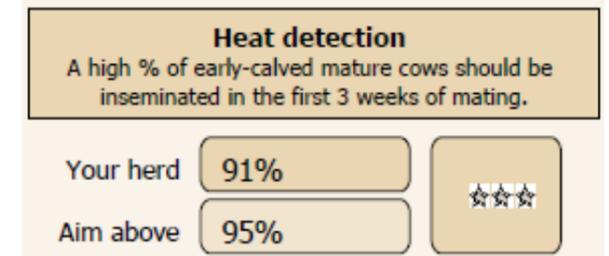


Cattle Reminders

- Dairy - pre-mating check of 'at risk' cows
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Tail paint - 4 weeks before PSM
- Organise mating programme - cows and heifers
- Treat non-cyclers one week before PSM
- BVD booster bulls & cows 4 weeks before PSM
- Metrichheck late calvers

6 Week Challenge - Heat Detection

- 1. Missed heats** mean three weeks of lost production next year, less chance of an AB heifer and potentially more empty cows. Invented heats (short returns) waste semen and may risk established pregnancies. Be certain that she is on heat before you mate her again.
- 2. Non-cyclers** The Heat Detection figure on your Fertility Focus Report targets 95% of early-calved mature cows to be submitted in the first three weeks of mating. If this is below 95% then you could be missing heats, not mating some cows by choice, or have a non-cycler problem.



3. Worried about accuracy? Use the Early Indicator – Repeat Matings report on the Mating tab in MIN-DA® Live Reproduction to see the percentage of your herd that have been mated twice in the first 17 days of mating. Single figure returns are what we aim for and double figures indicate issues are likely.

4. If in doubt, draft her out with other bulling cows and observe. If she jumps into the melee then you're probably right, but if she isolates herself from the group then you may have picked wrongly.

5. Decision points Having multiple heat detection aids can be helpful or add to confusion. Activity meters often trigger before mount detectors. Keep a record of heat dates to help you out, and look for secondary signs of heat.

6. Mentors You might be able to get to some last minute heat detection training days in your region or if you work in a team spend some time with the best heat detectors, and have them explain how they decide to mate a cow.

Refer to chapter 10 of your InCalf book or call the clinic to discuss further.