

How Successful Are Lamé Cow Treatments?

There have been a couple of interesting recent studies undertaken in the UK on the effectiveness of different treatment regimens for lamé cows. Up until now there have been very few scientific studies undertaken to investigate how well the treatments we commonly use work when treating lamé cows.

The first study looked into the outcomes of four different treatment options in acutely lamé cows (cows that had become lamé within the last 2 weeks). As these lameness cases were identified early they were mostly of mild severity.

The treatment groups were therapeutic trimming vs trimming and hoof block vs trimming and NSAID for 3 days vs trimming, hoof block and NSAID for 3 days.

Treatment Group	Trim	Trim+Block	Trim+NSAID	Trim+Block+NSAID
% improved 35 days following treatment	24.4%	35.9%	28.6%	56.1%

Conclusion

- The best shot at having a positive outcome is to treat lamé cows as soon as you see them and go all out with trimming, block and a NSAID.

The second study looked into treatment outcomes in chronically lamé cows (of > 2 weeks duration). Three treatment groups were compared- trimming alone, trim and hoof block, and trim, hoof block and Ketoprofen for 3 days.

Treatment Group	Trim	Trim + Block	Trim + Block + Ketoprofen
% Improved 42 days Following treatment	15%	15%	16%

The second study is probably more representative of the New Zealand situation, where it has been shown that lameness is likely witnessed for the first time at a later, more severe stage.

Conclusion

- If you (or we) are treating a chronically lamé cow that you have watched hobble around the crop paddock all winter, do not expect miracles.
- Even though it didn't reduce the presence of lameness, hoof blocks and NSAIDs should still be used for improving the welfare of lamé animals.

The authors of this study mentioned that at the follow up visit, many cows were lamé on the opposite foot to that treated. If one foot is lamé, you should probably pick up the other foot or feet as well.

These findings are not revolutionary I know, but do give scientific backing to what we often see in practice.

Justin Hogg BVSc



1. Situation comment, Coruba Collins.

2. Optimise your velvet growth, Hospital swab testing.

3. Lambing Potential, Diabetes in dogs.

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Situation Comment

The winter started well with mild weather and reasonable growth. The cold snap in early July was preceded by rain and has been followed by wet, snowy miserable winter weather. Hopefully that doesn't continue into lambing and calving!

Stock condition for the most part is good and despite a lot of cases of acidosis in the early transition period there are not too many problems at present. If stock are coming through yards soon it is a good opportunity to check for variation in body condition and separate lighter ones off for special treatment.

Let us all hope that we have a mild spring with no storms and an American President who isn't divisive. If we can't have that surely good prices aren't too much to ask for?

Cattle Reminders

- Magnesium supplementation
- Yearlings - worm drench
- Vitamin A, D, E to milk fever prone cows
- Worm cows post calving
- Booster dose BVD vaccine to heifers
- Monitor condition post calving
- Blood test bulls for BVD & vaccinate

Coruba Collins

In July 2015 Coruba Collins decided to be a very naughty boy. He did what he shouldn't and ended up as a serious ACC claim. He broke his front leg badly between the elbow and wrist but was determined to save the use of his leg, despite the likely road to rehabilitation being long. Paul Langford was able to give him valuable advice, having been through a similar experience. Hopes were high that Coruba would not need 2 years to come right and Paul was sure he would recover more quickly; his fall was only into a moving trailer not off a church roof.

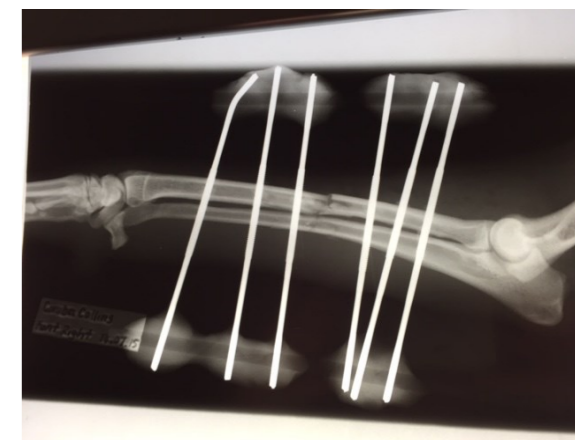
Coruba had an external fixator put on his leg. The idea of this repair is to support the bone while doing as little as possible to disrupt the blood supply that will aid in healing. The pins are driven through the bone and connected outside the skin with a bar.

The pins and bar then bear all of the weight allowing the broken bone to heal. One year on Coruba's life has completely changed. He is enjoying an extended stay at Nanny and Grandad's while also enjoying spending time with his friend, Diesel, who is often unimpressed with his antics. His leg is fine, he never even limps, not even for sympathy.

Michael Baer BVSc



Coruba's leg after the accident. You can see it is severely broken.



Post operative x-ray.

Pet Reminders

- Check teeth and clip nails
- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Flea prevention



Optimise Your Velvet Growth

Button drop is nearly upon us. Any restriction in feeding (energy and protein) over this period can adversely affect velvet growth. Often stags are casting buttons while still on crop supplemented with silage or baleage, certainly before there is significant spring pasture growth. At this point the diet can be low in energy and protein. Silage or baleage is typically only 9-11ME and Protein



of 12-17% depending on quality. Lucerne has the advantage of generally being higher in protein at 20%. Deer nuts are an excellent food source to supplement stags over this period. Spring grass by definition will be of good quality with typical ME of 12 MJ/Kg DM and protein of 20-30% DM. It is beneficial to supplement from 3-4 weeks prior to button drop, during button drop and until there is significant spring growth to cover for any shortfall over this critical period. Once grass is growing well and about 13cm long there is no benefit in supplementing the stags.

Don't forget about your spikers – they are your future. Pedicle development starts when the spiker reaches puberty usually around 5-7 months of age. Precise timing is highly correlated with body weight which itself is related to nutrition. Underfeeding during this period can limit pedicle size and future potential.

Jill MacGibbon BVMS

Hospital Swab Testing

As part of keeping our hospital clean we recently conducted swab testing in 10 different areas of the clinic.

Swabs were taken and sent to the lab to test for cleanliness and sterility.

Our results were outstanding and passed in every area swabbed.

We will continue to do routine testing.

Janece Collins Head Nurse



Deer Reminders

- Copper as required
- TB test
- Supplementary feed stags
- Weaners - check parasite levels
- Sort stags into velvetting mobs

Northern Southland Trotting Club Cup Meeting

On March the 12th 2016 at the Northern Southland Trotting Club cup meeting NSVets sponsored one of the undercard races.

The winner was "Mackenzie" an outstanding three year old filly trained and driven by Mark Purdon (in the sulky). Also shown here in the photo is the owner W.R Feiss (left) and representing NSVets, Paul Langford (right) holding the presentation rug.



Horse Reminders

- Hoof care reminder & check for lice
- Dental check
- Boost pregnant mares diet
- Arrange brood mare consorts for coming season

The Irish Angler

The rain was pouring down. And there standing in front of a big puddle outside the pub, was an old Irishman, drenched, holding a stick, with a piece of string dangling in water.

A passer-by stopped and asked, "What are you doing?"

"Fishing" replied the old man.

Feeling sorry for him the gent says, "Come in out of the rain and have a drink with me." In the warmth of the pub, as they sip their whiskeys, the gentleman cannot resist asking, "So how many have you caught today?"

"You're the eighth" says the old man.

Lambing Potential

Benjamin Franklin was not a farmer. **Three** things in life are certain. Death, taxes and a storm at lambing!

But if your lamb losses are greater than 18 % there is definite room for improvement.

Lamb loss calculated as: (Scanning % - lambing %) / scanning %

SEM is still the leading culprit for lamb loss but there could be some clues to improving survival hiding in the lost lambs at the gate. Why waste this opportunity by not looking?

Give us a call to find out how.



Feed intakes

Lactation is the most expensive physiological state your ewe will go through. Lots of quality feed needs to be available from the start to reach a high milk peak. A Romney near peak lactation at just 2-3 weeks will likely produce 2.2 kg of milk per day for a single, 2.7 kg for twins halving by week 8 of lactation. To do this a 70 kg ewe will need to eat around



2.8kgDM per day in the first 6 weeks of lactation. This is near her peak intake. Be sure that stocking rates suit the pasture height and pasture growth rates over the early lambing period so that intakes are not limited. The 4 cm minimum pasture heights you will

see referred to are absolute minimum **throughout** lambing, not just at set stocking! If quality or quantity are limiting intakes it might be time to look at specialist lambing feed e.g. herbs. The cost of these could be returned in earlier weaning or more off mum.

Don't forget the basics:

- Provide shelter from wind
- Select drier areas for lambing – a sheltered swamp is not much use
- Watch stocking rates especially in triplet paddocks
- Avoid slopes greater than 30 degrees
- Leave alone for 2-6 hours and try not to disturb a birth site for 24 hours
- A hungry ewe will almost always desert her lamb for food.
- Dextrose on hand for revival

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Diabetes in Dogs

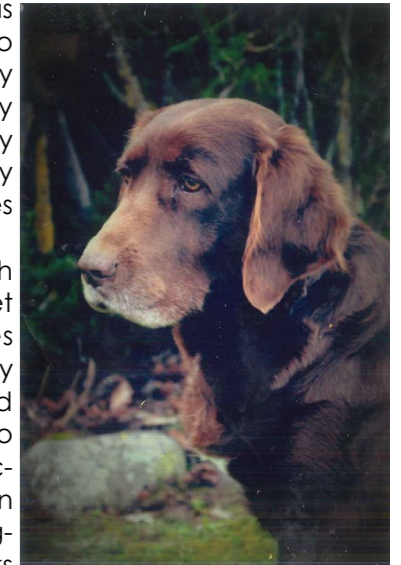
Did you know, just like people, our furry friends can also suffer from diabetes? Meet Havarna, one of our clinic's first ever long-term diabetic patients. Havarna is a 10 year old Labrador who first came to us in April when her observant owners noticed that she was losing weight and drinking excessively. A quick blood and urine test revealed that she had diabetes mellitus, a disease state by which the body is unable to respond to the hormone insulin. As a result, much of the food she was eating was unable to be used effectively by the body as an energy source and she rapidly lost weight as the body turned to her fat stores to compensate.

It was not all smooth sailing trying to get Havarna's diabetes controlled. Initially Havarna responded really favourably to twice daily insulin injections which are given to lower the blood sugar levels. A few weeks

into treatment however, she stopped responding to the insulin injections and developed a false pregnancy. With her hormones going wild, the decision was made to spay her, not a mean feat given her age and health status – but she recovered well and began responding to the insulin injections again within days of the surgery.

Havarna's owners are now able to effectively control her blood sugar levels at home with twice daily insulin injections. Her quality of life has significantly improved and she is slowly putting on the condition she lost. With the support of her caring and dedicated human family, we expect that Havarna will be healthy and comfortable well into her twilight years.

Kate Taylor DVM



Sheep Reminders

- Order lambing requirements
- Blood test ewes metabolic profile
- FEC ewes
- Vaccinate ewes clostridial vaccine
- Reassess ewe feed levels
- Vitamin E/selenium to brassica fed hoggets
- Assess spring feed budget
- Iodine drench ewes
- Anthelmintic treatment of ewes
- Ensure PAR/RVM authorisation is current