

Now is the time for EWE to sort it out

Do you remember your ewes, particularly 2 toothed being a little behind the 8 ball at mating? Do you remember last autumn's small or dying hoggets or that annoying case of pink-eye in summer that just kept on grumbling? These are common occurrences which can be mitigated NOW.



-Weaning condition – Ewe condition at mating starts now. The 1.5 kgDM of relatively cheap grass saved for every kg you allow her to lose now will cost you 6.5 kgDM of relatively expensive grass to get back in autumn. Base decisions around feed availability and BCS of ewes - wean earlier if feed is short to avoid competition and reduce overall farm feed demand, but if feed is plentiful delay weaning as lambs will grow better and ewes will be more efficient at putting on condition.

-Pink eye and pneumonia – there is a lot of yarding at this time of year and conditions are usually dry and dusty. Pneumonia deaths that occur in autumn are often seeded now. Pink eye is also increased with dusty conditions and yarding. Avoid long musters in the heat of the day, reduce time yarded, wet down yards if possible. Avoid sudden changes and reduce the risk of long transports, nutritional stress, parasitism and deficiencies.

-Parasites – Drench resistance is farm specific and shouldn't be generalised. We often do post drench checks for our clients which is great however the only way to know the full resistance status of your farm is to do a full FECRT. This starts after weaning (most lambs will still get a pre-wean drench) so that we get a broader range of parasites present. A proportion of lambs are left un-drenched (marked but not drafted) allowing them to get sufficient burdens before drenching with nominated drench families and monitoring the success. Samples are sent to the laboratory to identify which parasites are present (pre and post). We can then tailor drench families for times of the season achieving better results in efficacy, growth rates and bottom lines. Pop in or give us a call to discuss any of the topics mentioned here.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



Sheep Reminders

- FEC lambs - drench check test
- Flystrike prevention
- Wean lambs
- Have FECRT carried out on lambs
- Palpate ewes udders 2-4 weeks post weaning - cull hard or lumpy udders

How to cook a turkey.

1. Go buy a turkey.
2. Take a drink of whisky (scotch) or JD.
3. Put turkey in the oven.
4. Take another 2 drinks of whisky.
5. Set the degree at 375 ovens.
6. Take 3 more whiskeys of drink.
7. Turn oven the on.
8. Take 4 whisks of drinky.
9. Turk the bastey.
10. Whisky another bottle of get.
11. Stick a turkey in the thermometer.
12. Glass yourself a pour of whiskey.
13. Bake the whiskey for 4 hours.
14. Take the oven out of the turkey.
15. Take the oven out of the turkey.
16. Floor the turkey up off of the pick.
17. Turk the carvey.
18. Get yourself another scuttle of botch.
19. Tet the sable and pour yourself a glass of turkey.
20. Bless the saying, pass and eat out.



Situation Comment

A lot of areas have had over 160mm of rainfall in November so no surprises then that we are all sick of the rain. Temperatures are a little below normal as a result. All in all it has made for a pretty miserable month weather wise especially when howling gales sales replace the rain temporarily.

Grass growth is back. Tractor work delayed and paddocks cut up where silage has been made.

To top if off dairy prices are back but the downside to the poor weather of poor milk production has been offset by good submission rates. Lets hope conception rates are ok. On the positive beef prices are great - its been a while since a kg of beef has been work more than a kg of milk. The big issue for sheep farmers has been the problem with certain batches of Scabine. Results have been varied but generally poor. All sheep farmers will have received information on the issue. It may now be time to consider whether the advantages of Scabine application outweigh the second major issue with Scabine performance in 8 years. There are alternatives available. There are plenty of foals on the ground at our horse studs and many mares back in foal already. It has been a challenge for them too with the weather.

Summer is now officially here lets hope the weather realises this too. Hopefully Santa will be kind.

1. Staff comment, situation comment and pamper your pooch
2. Post operative physiotherapy and donkeys = long eared horses?
3. Feeding for performance
4. Now is the time for EWE to sort it out

Staff Comment

We are delighted to announce that Andrew Cochrane will be joining the veterinary team at Riversdale in the New Year. Andrew was a classmate of Becky's, has worked at Oamaru for a few years and is currently finishing off his O.E with his wife Tarryn. We know that you will all make him very welcome.

Congratulations to Nicole and Logan on the arrival of Max a little brother for Trelise. We are all thrilled for you.

Shelly has sent us a postcard from Mexico and has managed to find some Chihuahuas that are larger and more hairy than Dora. We thought all Mexican men were larger and hairier than Dora!!

Pamper Your Pooch

Bring your pooch into the Riversdale clinic this December to be pampered by our lovely nurses!

Your beloved pet will be bathed, dried, brushed and have their nails clipped. They will also receive a full check over from the top of their nose to the tip of their tail (teeth, ears, eyes, skin and weight check. You will also go into the draw to win a pamper pack for your pooch. Have them looking their best for your Christmas photos!



Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

Horse Reminders

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care
- Worming treatment for foals
- Dental check horses not holding condition

Summer Training

Following on from the success of our winter training program we are delighted to bring you our next group of seminars.

-December
Lameness in Practice: Identifying and treating



-January
Nutrition: Turning Grass to Milk
BVD: A B**CH of a disease
Stock Sevice: An Introduction to Animal Husbandry

Dates and venues are yet to be confirmed For more information ring (03) 202 56 36 or keep an eye on our facebook page.



Post Operative Physiotherapy

Recovery from major injuries and surgery in people always involves trips to the physio. Targeted exercises to build up damaged muscle, stretches to increase joint mobility and general exercises aimed at ensuring normal use and balance returns to affected limbs. The benefits of these programs are well researched and well recognised.

How many of the people receiving these physio sessions are (or were) as active as any working dog? If physio helps the people, could it help the dogs? The answer, of course, is yes.

In the past 12 months we have focused on this and have had great success getting dogs back to work. As with human physio there are a range of exercises and activities but the results are often spectacular. Don't be surprised if we talk to you about physio sessions for any injured dog...

Michael Baer BVSc



Our Vet Nurse Michelle doing physio on one of our patients.

Pet Reminders

- Worm cats and dogs
- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding at kennels
- Flea prevention and treatment
- Watch pets around the festive season for example chocolate
- Check for barley grass
- Get pets christmas presents

Michael and Natalie's Menagerie - an update

No sooner had we sent out last months newsletter than we had more animals; a rabbit and a donkey! At least neither of them will ever be productive!

Michael Baer BVSc

Deer Reminders

- Fawning
- De-velvetting 2 yr olds.
- Cut velvet re-growth (January)

Donkeys = Long Eared Horses?

Whilst donkeys and horses share many similarities in anatomy and disease potential, there are some key differences.

-Donkeys are prone to obesity and lay down large fat pads along the neck, back and rump. Obesity predisposes them to the life threatening disease hyperlipidaemia, as well as cushing's and equine metabolic syndrome. Weight control is important!

-Donkeys have the tendency to spread lungworm to horses. If you have horses and donkeys grazing together, regular drenching is essential, regardless of faecal egg count results.

-Donkeys have cheeky attitudes and can make very amusing additions to your paddock! Horses are usually scared of them at first but they can become great paddock mates once they get used to each other.
Natasha Leamy BVSc



Becky and her adopted Orphan donkey Dermot! Dermot's mum died of colic when he was just 2 weeks old.

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves -copper, selenium and worm control
- Bulls— watch for unsoundness
- Cows monitor SR and NRR

Feeding for Performance

NRM Feeds have a broad range of feeds that can help your horse with different issues. Below are a few tips about certain issues that may help you and your horse.

Ulcer Dietary Control

- Up to 80% of eventers, dressage horses and show-jumpers can have ulcers.
- The more grain a horse is fed the more prone it is to getting ulcers due to not enough buffering from saliva. Ulcers are caused from long periods of non-grazing such as whilst being stabled or constant dieting of overweight horses and ponies.
- Acid from the stomach splashes up during work and can cause further irritation. Create a fibre mat before work by feeding 500g-1kg of lucerne 30-45 minutes prior.
- Ad-lib hay or pasture will help prevent ulcers.
- The best roughage for horses with ulcers is Lucerne.
- Hay or pasture DM should be 1.5%BW. Hay is 90% DM, grass is 20%DM and Lucerne is 60%DM.
- Create a fibre mat in the horse's stomach before work.
- Divide feeds, meals greater than 2.5kg grain are risky.
- Oats are more digestible than barley.
- Horses will not eat more than 1 cup of oil per meal. 1 cup of oil can be substituted for 500g equi-jewel.
- Corn, sunflower, and rice bran oils are good for ulcers. Equi-jewel is made from rice bran oil.

Grass Staggers

- Caused by an endophyte in the leaves of grass or hay which produces mycotoxins.
- Seen as a stiff gait and loss of control of movement.
- Treatment is to remove from pasture. Prevent by not grazing too low.
- No evidence mycotoxin binders are only fed twice a day so when a horse grazing for 16 hours has food continually moving through the gastrointestinal tract it is hard to bind the toxins.

Calming Supplements

- Thiamine, tryptophan, magnesium, herbal supplements.
- None are scientifically proven, may have more of a placebo effect.
- Always keep parasite control and dental checks up to date to rule out any other issues.
- Feed fibre and fat to keep blood glucose levels low. Fat is a calming energy source. NRM Equi-jewel and NRM Low GI Sport provide low sugar energy.
- Use lower quality hay or soak to remove sugars.



Selenium Requirements

- Important antioxidant for muscle health, cell membrane integrity and thyroid function.
- Pony in light work – 1.5mg/day.
- 500kg horse in light work – 2.5mg/day.
- Moderate work – 3.0mg/day.
- Heavy work – 3.5mg/day.
- Broodmare in late pregnancy – 2.5mg/day.
- Breeding stallion – 3-3.5mg/day.
- Deficiency causes muscle myopathy, weakness, lameness and cardiac and respiratory issues.
- Chronic (or ongoing) selenium toxicity causes hair loss of the mane and tail and loss of hoof
- Acute toxicity (large one-off overdose) causes blindness, abdominal pain and colic.
- All NRM feeds are supplemented with an adequate dose of selenium if fed at the correct levels.



Omega 3 Supplementation

- Good for intense work, horses that have bled previously, high grain diets and joint inflammation.
- Also if you have fertility concerns of a mare or stallion around breeding time as well as pregnant and lactating mares.

Electrolytes

- Sodium, potassium and chloride are lost in the sweat and urine. Small amounts of magnesium and calcium are also lost.
- Loss of these cause fatigue and muscle weakness.
- Horses in heavy work need supplementation.
- All horses should always have ad-lib salt supplementation – rock salt ideal. Eating dirt is a sign of salt deficiency.
- A balanced diet should not need extra minerals.

Good Doers

- Don't forget they need vitamins and minerals too! Hay does not provide enough of these.
- A vitamin/mineral balancer such as NRM Equine Balancer is ideal to supplement the ponies on a hay-only diet.

The NRM range of feeds are available through the clinic and have been scientifically balanced by extensive research by Kentucky Equine Research to meet your horses needs.

Megan Reidie BVSc



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