

**Can My Pets Make Me Sick?**

In medicine, the term zoonosis refers to a disease which humans can pick-up from animals. As vets, we diagnose these types of diseases fairly often. I have even experienced a few of these diseases personally – one of the perks of the job I guess! Listed below are a few common conditions that we can get from our pets:

**Fleas**

Perhaps the most common cause of itchiness in dogs and cats is a flea infestation. Fleas are very good at hiding in an animal's fur so you may not necessarily be able to see them until they are present in very high numbers. Adult fleas can sometimes mistakenly bite us when our furry friends are not in close proximity. Flea bites often look similar to other insect bites, usually presenting as small, itchy, red dots on the skin. Fortunately fleas will not last long without a canine or feline host so the infection is often self-limiting (but annoying nevertheless).



**Ringworm**

As with fleas, ringworm can affect our skin and cause us to become intensely itchy. Additionally, this fungal infection can also make our hair fall out! People can acquire the fungus from many different animals but for some reason, we commonly see it in cats and cattle. The fungus is highly contagious and spores can hang around on clothing, bedding and grooming supplies for a long time.

**Intestinal Worms**

Many of the same worm species that affect our pets can also affect us. Roundworms are particularly gross – these are the ones that look like noodles in our dog's poo. Infected dogs will constantly shed eggs into the environment each time they go to the toilet, potentially exposing us to these eggs. After we ingest the eggs, the larvae from these eggs migrate in our tissues and can form granulomas. This is referred to as visceral larva migrans, and is good enough reason alone to have a good worming programme with young puppies.

**Sarcoptic Mange**

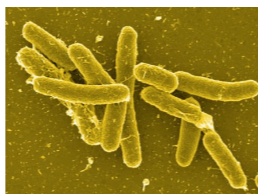
Sarcoptic mange in dogs is very contagious to other dogs but oc-



asionally spreads to humans to cause Scabies (note most scabies comes from a human mite). Close contact is required (like sharing the bed!).

**Campylobacter/Salmonella**

Campylobacter, Salmonella and E. Coli are common bacterial causes of diarrhoea in young animals in particular - pet lambs and calves included. Unfortunately, they can also cause diarrhoea and gastric upset in people too. Any direct contact with poo can potentially predispose you to disease.



So in short – yes your pets can make you sick! The good news is that most of these diseases can be prevented by good animal husbandry and basic hygiene practices including:

- Treating your pets for fleas at regular intervals
- De-worming your pets regularly – speak to us about protocols for your animal
- Regularly wash dirty bedding
- Wash your hands after handling animals
- Remove poo from your backyard before it builds-up!

And remember, if in doubt, give us a call.

Kate Taylor DVM

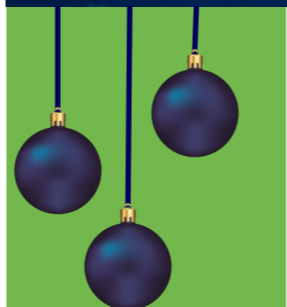


**Pet Reminders**

- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding at kennels
- Check for barley grass
- Worm and flea cats and dogs



The team at NSVets would like to thank all of you for your support throughout the year and we wish you a very merry Christmas. Enjoy the holidays and have a productive and prosperous 2017.



**Situation Comment**

The election of Donald Trump has not had any great effect in Northern Southland as yet. On the plus side Morgan was able to celebrate the Irish rugby teams' victories over all of the Southern Hemisphere teams this year.

The increase in dairy pay-out is a good piece of news. Weather conditions which were so good through spring have been pretty unsettled since, making it difficult for ground work and conserving feed.

We would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and all the best for 2017. It has been our pleasure to work with you this year and we look forward to the next twelve months.

**1. Lamb Finishing**

**2. A Bent-Legged Calf, Scaled Skin**

**3. Gastrointestinal Parasite Damage in Deer, Avoid the Temptation**

**4. Can My Pets Make Me Sick?**

**Sheep Reminders**

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

**Lamb Finishing**

The average post-weaning growth rate of lambs in NZ sits around 100g/day which leaves plenty of scope for improvement. The advantages of growing lambs faster are well known and to achieve these requires forethought and planning, beginning as far back as timing of mating. With weaning now upon us, the focus is on weaned lambs and therefore pasture quantity and quality should be the main consideration. Much of your lambs post-weaning growth will be determined by the energy level of the feed you provide, with green leaf and clover having the most impact. Many of

you would have seen first-hand the impact limited clover has on lamb growth (i.e. clover root weevil), hopefully for most of you those days are over. Specialist forage crops can be useful at improving quality of lamb feed but present their own set of management difficulties as well. With the spring we have had the two most important tasks, for most of you, will be controlling pasture quality and parasite burdens. Ryegrass over summer months drops significantly in quality and careful planning will be re-



quired to ensure that quality pasture (particularly new grass and clover) is available to finish lambs on. Furthermore, if forced to eat more than the top third of pasture, lambs will be consuming stems and leaf sheaths (as well as parasite larvae) which have lower energy values. Trace elements (Se and B<sub>12</sub>) should not be forgotten, but feed has to be right first. In Southland most of you should be capable of achieving in excess of a 200g/day growth rate, I suggest that if this doesn't sound like you then it's time we had a chat. Andrew Cochrane BVSc



**Horse Reminders**

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care
- January - worming treatment for foals





### A Bent-Legged Calf

A four day old Pinzgauer heifer calf presented for bent legs and unable to stand for an adequate period of time to be able to drink off its mother. The calf was diagnosed with contracted tendons. The reason contracted tendons occurs in some calves and not others is not fully understood. Some possibilities are genetic causes, nutritional deficiencies, BVD or the mother eating toxic plants such as hemlock in early pregnancy.



This calf was treated with physiotherapy and intravenous oxytetracycline for three days. Oxytetracycline is an antibiotic that has shown to have properties that help relax the connections between tendon fibres, therefore allowing the tendons to stretch out and straighten the limb. Physiotherapy involves stretching out the limbs several times a day and getting the tendons to gradually stretch.

This is the calf after one day of treatment. You can see the improvement in the straightness of the legs and the way the foot is orientated to the ground.



This is the calf after 4 weeks of physiotherapy and is now back out with the mother in the paddock with nice, straight legs.

Megan Reidie BVSc

### Scalded Skin: Have you seen this on your farm?

Occasionally we see cases of photosensitivity (sunburn) in sheep or calves and cattle. Most have probably seen some cases in lambs on rape. However, have you seen cases in young lambs before weaning? Lesions may vary from puffy ears, mild crusting to ears falling off and wool falling out. If so we would like to hear from you. Researchers at Massey University are currently investigating this troubling condition. Contact the clinic.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

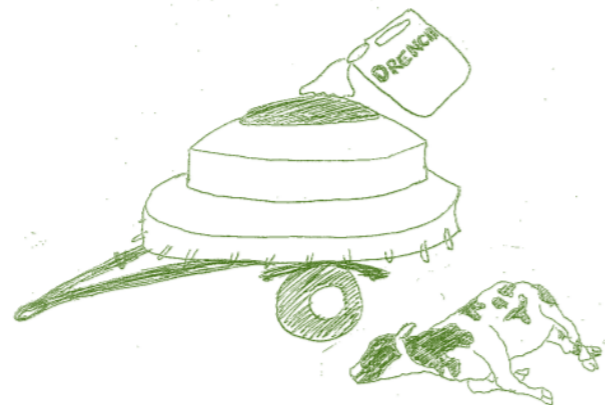
### WARNING: Avoid the temptation!

**Don't pour drench into the milk nor drench on the feeder. It will cost you.**

**Death:** Drench in milk or even while on the feeder, is more potent as it goes through the bypass (oesophageal groove) making toxicity more likely. You can-not control the dose rate – some animals will get too much, some none at all.

**Resistance:** Improper use of drench can promote drench resistance. Do you want to be able to depend on drenches in the future?

**\$\$\$\$:** Drench is expensive, but costs are astronomical if not used correctly, make every drench count.

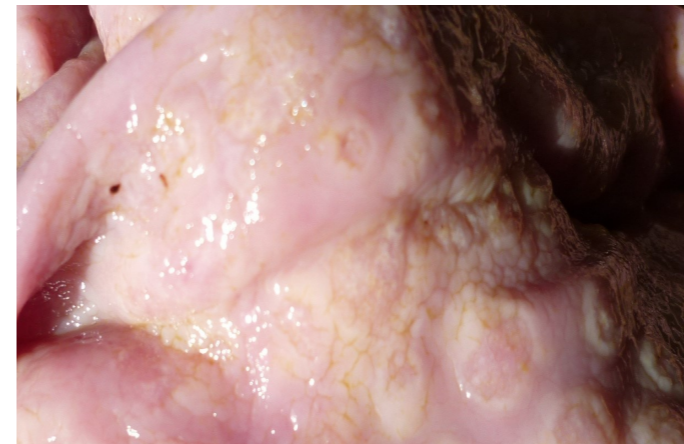


### Deer Reminders

- Fawning
- De-velvetting - 2yr olds

### Gastrointestinal Parasite Damage In Deer

Recently I was asked to post mortem a rising 3 year old hind. She had lost a significant amount of weight and was just starting to show evidence of a scour. The rest of the mob were in optimal condition and were being set stocked for fawning. My client was well aware of the risk of Johnes disease and suspected this hind may be succumbing to Johnes. The post-mortem showed the lymph nodes of the small intestine were in fact normal and there was no gross signs of Johnes disease in the small intestine. The abomasum (stomach) had multiple ulcers and scarring/nodular hyperplasia covering two thirds of the inner surface. Below is a photograph of the abomasum illustrating the ulceration and hyperplasia on the mucosal surface.



This is typical damage seen from chronic ostertagia parasite damage. The abomasum is much like our stomach – its function is to secrete acid to start the digestion process of food. Any parasite larvae ingested burrow into the lining of the abomasum. This disrupts the acid producing cells. If large numbers of cells are affected the lining becomes thickened with scar tissue and the abomasum loses the ability to secrete enough acid to digest the food. The damage sustained can be cumulative over a number of months or years and is affected by how high the challenge is from incoming larvae, concurrent condition of the animal and the quality and quantity of food available.

When the damage extends to the majority of the abomasum surface the deer will not recover and will progressively lose weight. At this stage the damage is irreversible. The focus must be on prevention with the strategic use of effective drench; managing pasture quality and quantity and special attention given to stags (esp wapiti) post rut.

Jill MacGibbon BVMS

### Cattle Reminders

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

### Helicopter Ride

Walter took his wife Ethel to the state fair every year, and every time he would say to her, "Ethel, you know that I'd love to go for a ride in that helicopter." But Ethel would always reply, "I know that Walter, but that helicopter ride is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."

Finally, they went to the fair, and Walter said to Ethel, "Ethel, you know I'm 87 years old now. If I don't ride that helicopter this year, I may never get another chance." Once again Ethel replied, "Walter, you know that helicopter is 50 dollars and 50 dollars is 50 dollars."



This time the helicopter pilot overheard the couple's conversation and said, "Listen folks, I'll make a deal with you. I'll take both of you for a ride; if you can both stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word I won't charge you! But if you say just one word, it's 50 dollars."

Walter and Ethel agreed and up they went in the helicopter. The pilot performed all kinds of fancy moves and tricks, but not a word was said by either Walter or Ethel. The pilot did his death-defying tricks over and over again, but still there wasn't so much as one word said. When they finally landed, the pilot turned to Walter and said, "Wow! I've got to hand it to you. I did everything I could to get you to scream or shout out, but you didn't. I'm really impressed!" Walter replied, "Well to be honest I almost said something when Ethel fell out but, you know, 50 dollars is 50 dollars!"