

SHOULD YOU VACCINATE YOUR DOG AGAINST CANINE COUGH?

Canine cough (formerly called ‘Kennel Cough’) is a widespread, highly contagious disease that most commonly presents as a dry hacking cough with retching, as well as loss of appetite and fever. While the vast majority of healthy dogs recover without intervention, some dogs will develop more severe disease such as pneumonia (especially very young and old animals). It is an unpleasant disease that can last several days and may have a large impact on working dog populations as dogs are unable to work while they are infected and usually multiple dogs are affected.

The vaccine we use is given intranasally (directly into the nostril), which protects against *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and canine parainfluenza virus for one year. These are two of the most common organisms that cause this disease. Vaccination may not completely eliminate the risk of catching Canine cough but, if they do get infected vaccinated animals show less severe symptoms.

If your dog is in contact with other dogs (at parks, trials, shows or kennels), then we recommend vaccinating your dog against Canine cough. Please ring the clinic to book an appointment, or for working dogs we can do this when the vet is on farm doing ram rounds if it is more convenient.



Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

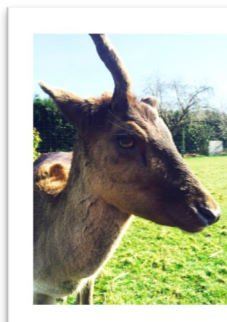
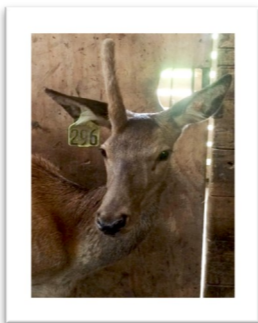
Pet Reminders

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

VELVET ANTLER - THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Antlers are unique to our cervine friend and in themselves really are fascinating. They have the ability to grow at 200g/day, phenomenal when compared to the fastest growing bone at around 34g/day and requiring triple the amount of calcium as skeletal bone deposition. It's ability to regrow nerves and blood supply each year is unlike any other tissue known to man and is the only example of an entire organ regenerating itself each year.

Here's something different: this is a female animal which has grown an antler similar to a spiker, however you will notice there is no pedicle here. This animal likely received an injury to the pedicle site on the frontal bone (bone on the top of the skull) causing growth of an antler, even despite her lack of testosterone.



This is my own pet deer. He's a male fallow deer who was castrated after pedicle development and so he is in a permanent state of velvet antler (although very hard feeling velvet). The lack of testosterone prevents antler calcification but the velvet does grow slowly. It has taken shape of knobby ball of velvet, through to one stick like is seen here, and is often knocked off and regrows again.

Sometimes velvet from castrated deer can become clumped and grow like a cancer on the head of the deer called a 'perruque'. These need to be dealt with by a veterinarian as they can penetrate into normal tissue on the head. On that note, a timely reminder that whilst pet stags start off harmless, they have potential to be VERY dangerous. Please ALWAYS castrate pet stags.

Parapox virus can be a nightmare for velvet producers and is a virus which enters through wounds on the velvet and face. Once affected, the velvet looks scabby and usually lesions are also found on the face and muzzle. Often there is secondary infection of these areas as well, making the velvet rot away. Parapox virus is highly contagious and if you see lesions quick action is required. Velvet must be harvested to prevent spread (and it is an unsaleable product) making this a very costly disease. Please also note parapox is in the same family as scabby mouth or orf in sheep and the painful lesions can also be contracted by humans!

Samantha Edgar BVSc

SITUATION COMMENT

It has been wet. It still is wet. Let's hope it doesn't suddenly get dry. Grass growth has been pretty good and most prices are ok. Ivanka Trump did not learn about email accounts from Hillary Clinton and the All Blacks did learn about rugby from Ireland. Hopefully someone will teach the Wallabies. Teresa May wishes she had learned about Europe from either Napoleon or Queen Victoria. A land war in a Russian winter or having nine children to marry off to foreign heads of state would be easier than Brexit. With the outcome so uncertain, the potential impact on trade for New Zealand is anyone's guess. Despite that, most farming sectors still look positive. Deer may well be the star performer with strong venison and velvet prices.

The performance of our clients and staff has also been stellar, with the Movember push raising, at last count, over \$4000 for men's health. Thanks to everyone who contributed and the wives and partners who tolerated.



STAFF COMMENT

We have had a couple of newbies join the team in Riversdale. Shaun Campbell has returned to Otama from overseas (Auckland) and Ashley McDonald is now working closer to home. She had been crossing the border and working in West Otago. Shaun had been in Auckland for 10 years, working in a predominantly horse practice.



We have also welcomed Bev back fulltime in Mossburn. While we are delighted she is back on deck we were sorry to say good bye to Debbie, who will hopefully still do a few days in Lumsden and Mossburn.

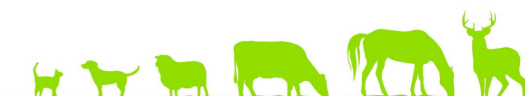
We would like to wish you all a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Please take care if you are travelling.

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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 2019.



FLY STRIKE

Ask about fly (or lice) treatments and people duck for cover. The seemingly large range of products and actives and combos makes heads spin (it doesn't help that the names are unpronounceable!).

There are many things to consider. What to use (killing and preventing are two separate issues), how to apply it (and what difference that makes), how long will it last, what is the with-holding, and of course, environment and operator health and safety impacts.

Resistance issues are creeping in perhaps due to application methods (some jetting races/electrodips/napsacks have been proven to be poor), as well as cross resistance between products and at times the temptation to try to take care of fly and lice at once, likely ending in poor results for both! Resistance often presents not as complete failure, but reduced persistence of action which develops rapidly e.g. 12 weeks protection one year, 4 weeks the next!

To make sheep less attractive to flies, reduce dags! Tail, crutch/shear, prevent and treat internal parasites, consider feed management (e.g. less dags on Lucerne). Control dermatophilus, scald (and footrot in other areas), pick up dead stock, avoid grazing near dead holes, etc. On that note, does anyone use fly traps??

Culprits: There are three main ones in Southland...

Lucilia Cuprina: this you may know more fondly as the Aussie Green Fly, which hitched a ride to Southland quite literally in the late 90s. It caused us issues due to its OP resistance, which has led to some cross resistance with diflubenzeron.

L sericata: the common European fly is not just focused on sheep. North island strains have shown high level of triflumuron resistance.

Calliphora stygia – native, brown fly, is active all year round but generally December and January.

Products in general

Organophosphates (OPs) (e.g. Maggo) have been used for treatment of active strike, but have shown L cuprina resistance.

Synthetic Pyrethroids (SPs) (e.g. Blaze or Vanquish) affect egg laying, and are for prevention only and don't treat active strike. There is wide spread resistance in both fly and lice.

Insect Growth Regulators (IGRs) of which there are two main groups. These kill juvenile stages (maggots) but don't kill adult fly (or adult lice).

1. **benzyl phenyl ureas BPU**s – Diflubenzeron and Triflumuron (e.g. magnum, zenith, Zapp)

These can be quite persistent for 8-12 weeks protection, but this does depend on application techniques. There is some fly resistance to diflubenzeron, (and widespread lice resistance in Oz which will likely develop here too)

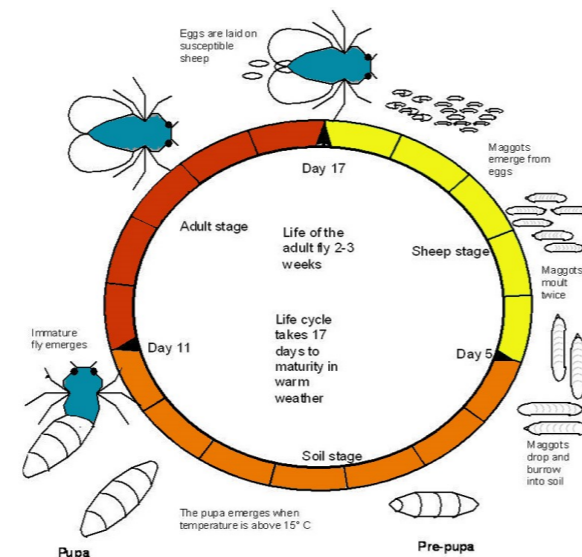
2. **Triazine and pyrimidine derivatives** – Cyromazine and Dicyclanil

These are narrow spectrum for fly only (no lice) and again only affect juveniles not adult fly. Protection can be 6-12 weeks depending on volume for cyromazine and 18 weeks for Dicyclanil.

Spinosad (extinosad) treats active strike in 2 hours and flies in 24 hours, but is very short term only (2-4 weeks). The 'Nil Withold' should be your clue there! There is no known resistance.

Combos

Using combos of an IGR with an SP (Exit extreme) or imidiclopramid (ZappEncore) or spinosad (Cyrex) can give rapid knockdown followed by prolonged protection and are likely the best choices if there is already some strike present. With all products, just be sure the with-hold period fits in with your drafting plans.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

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

PINK EYE

Keep an 'eye' out for signs of pink eye in your calves and lambs. This is a highly contagious condition that you do not want to take hold in your mobs.

In our area we have two separate risk periods – summer due to dust, uv light, pollen, flies etc. And winter due to eye damage from stalky feed and close head contact with feeders and break-fencing.

The bugs are different for cattle and sheep but the signs can be the same.

What to look for:

- Weepy eyes
- Avoidance of light
- Squinting or excessive blinking
- Milky coloured eyes
- Yellow coloured eyes
- Apparent blindness
- Inappetence
- Weight loss

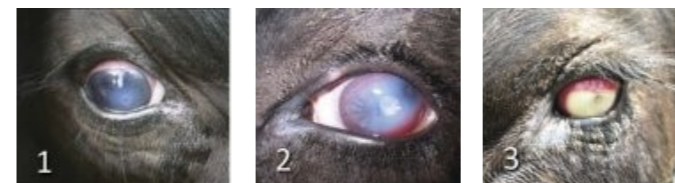
Treatment can be challenging as every yarding is an opportunity for spread, however if left untreated eyes can be permanently blind or even rupture requiring removal. In the early stages, treatment with topical antibiotics can be successful. For more advanced cases a vet visit is necessary to save the eye.

As this is highly contagious, separation of affected animals is often required, however due to the incubation period (14 days) the main mob must continue to be checked for new cases. As well as this, 'healed' animals can still be shedding bacteria and spreading the disease so a three mob system is employed – normal, treatment, and healed.

There is a vaccine available for cattle administered 3-6 weeks prior to the expected onset of risk. Contact us to discuss if this is right for you.

Some of the other conditions that can appear similar to pink eye or cause blindness include silage eye/Listeria, Malignant Catarrhal fever, and Polio.

Figure 1: Progression of Pink Eye



Deer Reminders

- Fawning
- De-velvetting - 2yr olds

Weaning Reminders

- If grass is short – wean earlier
- Short acting B12 given at tailing will be gone
- Once drenching starts, regular drench intervals of 21-28 day (and good pasture management) will lower the autumn larval explosion
- The pre-lamb 5 in 1 protection from mum will be falling. Vaccinate lambs now if you haven't already.

DAIRY TO DO LIST

Weigh calves to assist weaning decisions – ensure they are eating over 1.5 kg of meal or pellets before weaning and continue on with this for several weeks post wean. Continue to weigh them every 1-3 months to ensure they hit targets for mating success next year! You can't manage what you don't measure!

Make sure they have had at least their first Lepto vaccination, ideally with clostridial vaccination as well (7 in 1).

Consider drenching program – Oral drenches should be given every 28 days, contact us for advice on the best products to use.

Book your pregnancy testing now – to get the scanning dates you want arrange them now, before the vets book out holidays! Aged scanning is the norm but accuracy is best early on (6-12 weeks). The info can then feed into your fertility focus report.

Ensure your bulls are safe and sound before bringing onto the property – M bovis free, lepto vaccinated, **BVD TESTED AND VACCINATED**. Don't forget extra numbers for rotation, and to cover the return spike if CIDR programmes were used.

If trucking on with AI ensure heat detecting champions are rostered to avoid fatigue.

Speaking of fatigue have you had a break! It only *seems* impossible. Get off the farm for a day or three and ensure your staff can do the same.

Horse Reminders

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