

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 2020



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STAFF COMMENT

Thanks to everyone who donated to our annual Movember efforts. We were able to contribute \$3,040 to the Southland Charity Hospital.



A special thanks goes to Paul and Mike who both grew Ghoststaches, and to Julie for her excellent photographic skills. Morgan is still concerned about racial profiling. He does not believe an Irish accent needs to be associated with drunkenness, green clothing or diminished stature. The words may have been "I'm not a Leprechaun" we think. Unfortunately Shaun was talking at the time about the pot of gold he had just found so we missed a lot of it, it just sounded like "fiddle de potatoes" to us.

We would like to wish Sammy and Dale well for the upcoming birth of their first child. Tamie and Terry got engaged, which was delightful news, we are all very happy for them. Julia Molloy may have got engaged but Matthew forgot her birthday and is now going to be too scared to ask. Oh well, you can always earn more brownie points and Julia hardly mentioned it to anyone. There is a book running on who will be next, Andrew is the early favourite in the betting. Of much more significance to me, my truck has been rebuilt and is back in service. Easily the highlight of the last few months.

All in all, it has been a pretty eventful year, and a challenging one. It is great that it is ending on so many positives, engagements and babies, after the accident in the middle of the year.

We would like to thank all our clients for the support and help we received from you this year. We hope you and your families have a safe and happy Christmas. See you in the New Year.

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Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves - copper, selenium
- Dairy calves - worm control & boost clostridial & leptospirosis vaccination
- Bulls - watch for unsoundness
- Cows monitor SR and NRR

STAFF PET CORNER



This is Rochelle's happy place! Enjoying some sun! In order of heirarchy, this is Jack, a 16.2 hh 12 yo level 4 Hanoverian gelding by Dream Boy (who is sadly available – apply within). Followed by Diva - a future Olympian -who Rochelle bought as an unbroken 5 yo (not her brightest move). She is rising 6yrs, 15.3 hh by Donnerubin. 'Charlie four legs' is some sort of welsh rat bag in his late teens, who has been made redundant. Their purpose is to turn perfectly good grass into copious amounts of compost. Rochelle spends most of her spare time picking up after them, but tries to ride dressage when daylight and paddock conditions allow.

Pet Reminders

- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding at kennels
- Get pets Christmas presents
- Check for barley grass
- Santa photos—Dec 23rd 10am-12.30pm



DO HORSES NEED ELECTROLYTES?

Depending on what you are expecting your horse to do this summer, it may be something to consider. Electrolytes - namely potassium, chloride and sodium - are essential for proper muscle function. They control the amount of fluid that is available within and around each cell in the body. When a horse sweats, electrolytes are lost to the skin surface in an effort to cool the horse down. Without replenishment, the horse can rapidly become dehydrated and a whole cascade of debilitating symptoms can occur as a result.

It is generally accepted that horses participating in most equestrian sports do not require electrolyte supplementation. This is because any electrolytes that are lost via sweat, can be quickly replenished upon eating hay/grass and drinking water whilst cooling down. It is only when we expect horses to perform prolonged periods of exercise (ie: endurance, cross-country) that supplementation can be beneficial. Unfortunately there is no hard and fast rule about supplementation - all horses are different. Only you know your horse - constant vigilance is key. Electrolytes are definitely something to consider when you are working your horse this summer.



Kate Taylor DVM, BSc-Hons

WORMWATCH DECEMBER 2019

With weaning upon us for many of you, larval intake in lambs will be climbing. The mild autumn/winter and spring rain will have resulted in good larval survival, therefore larval challenge can be expected to be high. Weaning drenches should ideally be a triple combination drench, to get lambs off to a good start and to improve the likelihood that any resistant worms are killed. Refugia needs to be considered, especially if these drenched lambs go straight onto a “clean” paddock. Refugia can be a difficult subject, but is very important from a resistance point of view. There are several ways of providing refugia but at its simplest, a proportion of the mob (approx. 5%) should remain undrenched. These animals should be marked and monitored.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

This is becoming more and more important in order to make informed decisions on farm. If you are interested in finding out what drenches work on your farm, remember to contact us and ensure you mark 100 - 120 lambs and leave these undrenched at weaning – we need worms to test worms.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc BApplSci Ag

Horse Reminders

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care

DECEMBER DAIRY UPDATE

Bulls: You should have enough bulls to allow for teams to have several consecutive days of rest, to allow for swapping out any light, or lame bulls and to allow for the influx of expected heats 21 days following a synchrony program. Remember to check daily for lameness, or servicing issues and swap out that same day. Don't allow bulls to become too fat or too thin. If possible don't allow bulls to travel the lanes or enter the yard, the risk of injury and lameness is too great.

When to stop – Most farms are shortening their mating periods. While we don't encourage late calving cows, be prepared for the possible increase in empty rate (see table below)

Before Christmas is a good time to paddock BCS your herd to assess the changes over mating and to plan for the autumn. Scanning – Early scanning will be starting on heifers this month. Be sure to book early to get the dates you want. Remember pregnancy is most reliably detected after 6 weeks, and foetal aging is best from 6-12 weeks of pregnancy.

Table 1: Expected not-in-calf rate, given 6-week in-calf rate and length of mating period.

6-week in-calf rate	Total weeks of mating (AB period plus bull mating period)			
	9	10	11	12
50%	34%	30%	27%	24%
55%	30%	26%	24%	23%
60%	26%	23%	21%	19%
65%	22%	19%	17%	16%
70%	19%	17%	15%	14%
75%	17%	15%	13%	12%
80%	13%	12%	11%	10%



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Deer Reminders

- De-velvetting
- Fawning

YOUNG FAWN HEALTH AND DISEASE

Fawning is underway and although we always talk about the causes of disease in weaner deer, seldom do we deal with diseases of newborn deer, likely because the difficulty in identifying a problem even exists! You'll wonder why I bother, but I'm forever hopeful that someone will read my articles and find something interesting so I'll keep trying! Some of the issues young fawns can face are obvious, like starvation/exposure, dystocia or mismothering, but the following are pathologies they can face.

Cryptosporidium

Crypto is a protozoal parasite which can affect all livestock species (and humans!). Ingested parasites affect the gut lining meaning they lose fluids easily from the body in diarrhoea. Dehydration and death can result. Outbreaks are not all that common and usually only occur when there is exposure to the parasite (contaminated runoff etc) and is predisposed by a wet environment, poorly drained soils, high stocking density, poor hind-fawn bonding resulting in insufficient colostrum intake and high faecal contamination of calving area.

Colobacillosis

This is similar to “watery mouth” in lambs. It is an infection with E.coli which is picked up from the environment (particularly when hiding in contaminated areas). Diarrhoea is seen in some cases, however septicaemia (blood infection) and meningitis are other symptoms caused by E.coli. A big factor is how much colostrum a fawn consumes in the first 24 hours of life, to kick start their immune system (which is true for all disease!).

Ticks

Our friends in the North Island have a few extra diseases to contend with, and one affecting fawns is ticks. Small fawns hiding in the cover can be exposed to large numbers and each can suck up to 1ml of blood, so many that they can make the fawn anaemic and even kill them!

Samantha Edgar BVSc (dist) DipSciTech

BIT OF A LAUGH

Three older ladies were discussing the travails of getting older.

One said, “Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, in front of the refrigerator, and I can't remember whether I was taking it out or putting it away.”

The second lady said, “Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs, and I can't remember whether I was on my up, or on my way down.”

The third lady chimed in, “Well, I'm glad I don't have those problems. Knock on wood.” With that, she rapped her knuckles on the table, then said, “That must be the door. I'll get it.”

KENNEL COUGH

Kennel Cough (recently renamed Canine Cough or Canine infectious tracheobronchitis) is a highly contagious upper respiratory disease of dogs that we see outbreaks of every year or so. It is a multifactorial disease that is caused by a number of infectious pathogens, including the bacteria *Bordetella bronchiseptica* and the viruses Parainfluenza and Adenovirus-2. Other pathogens involved include *Mycoplasma*, *Streptococcus*, coronavirus as well as environmental factors such as dust, humidity and stress.

Picking up Kennel Cough is through contact with an infected dog or discharge from an infected animal – so any dog that mingles with other dogs is at risk, not just dogs going to boarding kennels like the name suggests! It normally takes 3-10 days before clinical signs become apparent and dogs may shed kennel cough for some time after recovering.

The main clinical sign is a dry hacking cough that may cause retching and is often described as a honking cough, although other signs include sneezing, ocular or nasal discharge, fever and lethargy.

Vaccination protects against some of the main causes of Kennel Cough, so the best protection is for your dog to be fully vaccinated. Vaccinated dogs may still get some clinical signs but clinical signs are generally much milder and recover faster. Vaccination is yearly and strongly advised for any dog that is likely to come into contact with other dogs, including at dog trials.



Rebecca Morely BVSc BSc

Sheep Reminders

- FEC lambs—Drench check test
- Flystrike prevention
- Wean lambs
- Consider leaving some lambs undrenched for FECRT this year
- Palpate ewes udders 2-4 weeks post weaning
- Cull hard or lumpy udders