

STAFF COMMENT DECEMBER

Just when I thought I was short of material for the bi-monthly staff comment the ever-helpful Ashley announces that she too has jumped on the baby band-wagon and will be expecting an arrival in May – big congratulations to her and Stew! Kate and Jarrod welcomed their beautiful boy Archie, another for the blue team of Baby Fight Club (now to get some more kiwi paraphernalia into his room to smother out the koalas and kangaroos). The lovely Julia T has fluttered off to feather the nest, while Andrew has purchased his masculine yet practical people mover in time for Nicole's confinement. Our Christmas parties of the future may look very different to the debauchery of recent times - take note Tracey and Pearl (the singer - you know who you are). I hope that all the baby's are 100% healthy but 50% naughty to enhance the many benefits of working at NSVets, hastening staff return.

Apart from the baby bizzo, I am happy to report all other staff at all branches are planning to remain on board for 2022. On behalf of all the staff at NSVets we wish you a safe and Merry Christmas and a much more normal New Year!!

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Pet Reminders

- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding kennels
- Get pets Christmas presents
- Check for barley grass
- Keep them cool and hydrated over summer

UNCLE TRAVELLING MIKE

Uncle travelling Mike's postcard from Yesterdayland (or the Land Covid Forgot, or Back to NoCovid, or The Land Before Lockdown, or the Land of No Traffic Lights).

Dear Nephew Gobo,

It looks like I escaped from Today / Tomorrowland just in time; before the whole country sort of travelled back to March 2020. Back then the steps made sense and worked. Now they seem to be able to be changed, working or not. Or get left the same but called something else. Or get explained as "a new way of doing Things". You are there you can tell me what happens tomorrow.

Not So in Yesterdayland. With no cases and 96% vaccination, the yesterdaylanders decided to close borders in a classic case of looking-after-today-at-the-cost-of-tomorrow. Unfortunately, that has affected yesterday too; population drift to tomorrow in search of future jobs.

I have been busy, we are trying to control the future spread of dogs by desexing as many as we can, mobile clinics every fortnight (that is two weeks in the past, same as in the future) on a Wednesday (Thursday in the future). We have done 160 odd operations, 130 of them since the end of September (160 and 130 in the past for us and you, September here ended when October started for you. Both are in the past, and our end of September is as long ago as your start of October, although after writing that I am not sure if it will seem that way when you read it).

We had a drive around the island looking at the amazing effort people make for Turama, All Souls Day. Google it. Was a lovely night and a far more worthwhile tradition than blackmailing people into giving you chocolate.

Do you have any news from the future? I heard there is a new grandnephew, Archie. Well done Kate and Jarrod, especially for avoiding any obvious nicknames!

Take care and enjoy Level Traffic Light Agent Orange.

Michael Baer BVSc

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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

AURAL HAEMATOMA

An aural haematoma is basically an ear blood blister. Trauma from head shaking repeatedly, scratching, or playing/fighting, causes blood vessels within the ear's skin to bleed. This blood pools and is trapped between the skin and ear cartilage.

Importantly, there is often an underlying condition causing the head shaking or scratching. If we don't find and treat this, then it is highly likely to recur. Often, there is an ear infection. We can diagnose this by performing an ear swab and cytology under the microscope. Bacteria and yeast are common culprits. We can then send your animal home on the appropriate medications.

When treating the haematoma itself, your animal will undergo general anesthetic to provide sufficient pain relief and unconsciousness. Firstly, we drain the blood out and remove any debris from between the skin and cartilage. Then we apply a special firm ear sponge to the inside surface of the ear pinna. Multiple sutures are placed to reduce any space between the ear cartilage and skin. There is no longer space available for blood to pool and the pressure provides haemostasis to stop vessels bleeding. After 10-14 days we can remove the pad and sutures, and the skin will hopefully have reattached to the underlying cartilage!

If your animal develops an aural haematoma, please bring them in to be treated. Attempting to drain them doesn't treat the underlying issue, it is painful and the blood will just continue to refill!



Laura Gardyne BVSc

HEALTH CHECKS FOR HORSES

Summer signals an exciting time for those of you with a new-born foal, or for the non-breeders: time to get horses back into work after a winter break. A few things to consider when thinking of your horses health prior to Christmas:

- Do your horses have sufficient Selenium levels?
- Have you done a faecal egg count recently? This will help determine if worming is warranted
- Are they overdue for a dental check?
- Are your horses feet ready for work?

Contact us if you require any advice or consultation regarding your horse this December



Sam Lee BVSc

WORMWATCH DECEMBER 2021

It's been a mixed bag of weather through November, but the much-anticipated grass growth boom has finally arrived with many of you taking advantage to get silage/baleage made. We should all know by now that when conditions are good for grass growth, they are also great for parasites! Most of you will have started drenching lambs and dairy calves by now and while conditions stay like this it would be prudent to stick to a 28 drench interval. Weaning drenches for lambs are arguably the most important drench they receive and should be a triple combination drench. This will ensure they get a good clean out during a particularly stressful time. Make sure you consider refugia, especially if these drenched lambs go straight onto a "clean" paddock such as the recently cut hay/baleage paddocks. There are several ways of providing refugia but at its simplest, a proportion of the mob (approx. 5%) should remain undrenched. With resistance closing in on us we need to remember to drench smarter – it's not the drenching, it's how we're drenching!

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

You need to know which drenches work on your property, you will not see resistance until it is much too late. If you are interested in finding out what drenches work on your farm, please get in contact ASAP.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc



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

FAECAL EGG COUNT REDUCTION TESTING (FECRT)

Concerned your drench isn't lasting like it used to? Have you been using the same drench for a while now? Are your lambs a bit slow to finish, and are on farm longer? Have you been (or will be) buying in lambs? Have you tested your drenches in the past 5 years? You may want to consider a Drench Test this year.

This requires leaving about 100 (depending on how many drench types you want to check) lambs un-drenched (a pre-wean is okay) and allowing them to get 'wormy' to test drench efficacy on. We measure the reduction of not only eggs but also the larva cultured from day 0 to day 10. All we need is some wormy lambs, and some weigh scales. It only takes around 2 hours at the first visit and an hour for the second, to get some super valuable information that could save you squillions.

Interested? Contact the clinic to find out more.



Rochelle Smith BVSc

Deer Reminders

- Fawning
- De-velveting

BLOAT PREVENTION

Lush pastures with high amounts of clover or lucerne makes Spring and early Summer a high-risk period for bloat (especially in young cattle.) Bloat is caused by rapid gas accumulation in the rumen which cannot be belched out as it becomes trapped in the rumen contents and forms a stable foam. When cattle are put onto a high-risk feed they can bloat within 15 minutes and die within 2 hours. If there are early signs of bloat, remove the herd from the offending pasture and feed hay or mature grass/silage.

Because of the rapid onset, the first sign of bloat may be dead cattle. This can look similar to other common causes of sudden death including clostridial diseases in unvaccinated cattle. Bloating cattle can be treated with bloat oil, however severe bloat cases may need to be resolved by releasing the gas via a stab incision in the left flank.

Nothing is 100% effective at preventing bloat but the most reliable option can be provided with **Rumensin 100 day anti-bloat capsules** given one week before the perceived risk period. Other management options include providing fibre, administering bloat oil via troughs and avoiding grazing hungry cattle on highrisk pastures.

Rumensin Capsules contain 'Monensin' which modifies the rumens microorganisms in such a way that bloat is prevented. Trials have shown that Rumensin treated cattle have 7% more energy released from their diet as well as a 15% weight gain advantage compared to untreated cattle.



Sam Lee BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care



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 2022.