

STAFF COMMENT

Quite a bit of news this month!! We have welcomed Lochie Chittock to the vet team at Riversdale – some of you may have met him as a student. He is a Southerner and is already in demand from some of the local rugby teams trying to get him to join. We are confident he will have a long and successful career. Next month we will welcome Holly Gardyne (Laura's sister-in-law) and are very excited to have her join us as well. We feel like we have very much managed to secure two of the best students of the class of 2022.

A huge congratulations to Rebecca and Caine on the birth of their daughter Hazel just before Christmas. Caine felt he was well prepared for the birth after delivering so many foals over the last 15 years!! They are quickly adjusting to life as new parents, and we have been lucky enough to have already met her at the clinic. Unfortunately, she managed to sleep through her first pet day but I'm sure Becky will have her as animal crazy as she is before too long!!

Congratulations are also in order for Laura and Luke on their recent engagement. We wish them every success for their future together. Luke is one lucky guy!!

On the down side we will be saying farewell for now to Shaun next month as he pursues his dream of working for MPI at the works! His sense of humour and fun and ability to x-ray horses, get mares in foal and tell a great yarn will be sadly missed. Best of luck Shaun.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

WORMWATCH FEBRUARY 2023

Ground conditions are relatively dry after a hot January and these conditions will be slowing parasite development. It may therefore be possible to extend drench intervals for young stock on pasture, utilise FEC to help make these decisions. For any lambs on summer crops, it is likely that lambs won't need drenched at all - talk to one of our vets to discuss if this might work for you. Despite the dry, when the rain finally comes larval challenge can explode, so keep a close eye on this. Now is also a good time to be doing a drench check – collect 10 fresh faeces 10 days after drenching to check whether your drench worked as planned. This FEC is a simple and cheap way to check if your drench is doing its job.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

We are about to get started on these. Please get in contact with Rochelle or I as now is the time to collect 10 faecal samples from your undrenched lambs to test whether levels are high enough. Please bring these in as soon as you collect them to keep our results accurate. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the clinic.

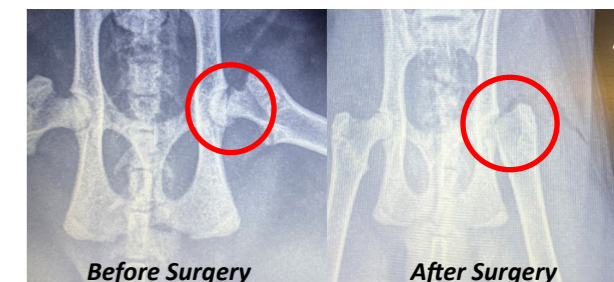
Cattle Reminders

- Calves worm treatment
- Remove bulls—beef
- Pregnancy test

STAFF PET CORNER



Taylor rescued Fred when he was about 3 weeks old. It didn't take long for him to fit right in to his new home with big brother Bix. Fred is now 14 months old and has just had to have surgery to remove his femoral head, this removes the ball of the ball-and-socket joint, leaving just an empty socket. The muscles of the leg will initially hold the femur in place, and, over time, scar tissue will form between the acetabulum and the femur to provide cushioning that is referred to as a 'false joint'. Although this joint is anatomically very different from a normal hip joint, it provides pain-free mobility in most patients. Its not clear how he was injured but he is recovering well.



Sheep Reminders

- Inject Toxovax
- Inject 1st dose campylobacter vaccine
- Inject Androvax
- Faecal egg count lambs
- Check & exercise rams
- Palpate rams
- Treat ewe lambs with B12
- Dipping
- Inject iodine at least 4 weeks pre-tup

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Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

“I’M PREGNANT.

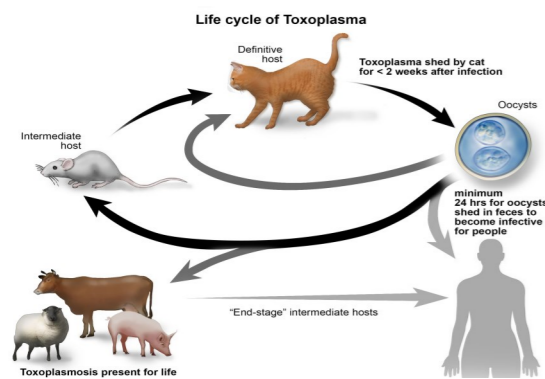
DO I NEED TO GET RID OF MY CAT?”

Toxoplasma gondii is a parasite that is prevalent throughout New Zealand. Whilst most of you may be aware that it causes abortion in sheep, it can also cause issues in human pregnancies. Historically, it was recommended for women to avoid contact with cats for the duration of their pregnancies. Now we have a greater understanding of the disease, we know that this is a massive overreaction for a relatively small risk.

The problem is that its not the cats themselves that are dangerous, its their poo! If a women can avoid cat faeces whilst pregnant, this will significantly lower chances of infection.

If you are pregnant or planning on becoming pregnant, the following may help to reduce your risk of exposure to Toxoplasma:

- Keep cats indoors and avoid contact with stray cats
- Do not adopt any new cats, especially kittens, whilst pregnant
- Make sure the litter box is cleaned out at least once a day. It takes 1-5 days for the parasite to become infectious so disposing of fresh faeces lowers your chances of infection
- Feed the cat commercial diets rather than fresh meat for the duration of your pregnancy
- Wear gloves when gardening. This is the most likely place you will come into contact with infectious poo. Wash hands thoroughly after touching soil.

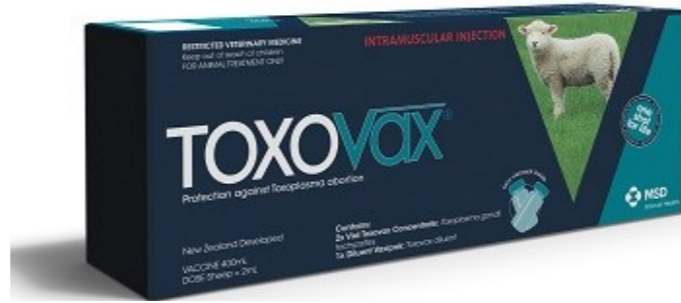


Kate Taylor DVM BSc-Hons

Pet Reminders

- Check for barley grass - especially between toes, under arms and around ears.
- Worm & flea prevention and treatment

HELP TOXOVAX® HELP YOU



Toxovax protects against abortion caused by *Toxoplasma gondii*. Toxovax improves lambing percentage, lamb viability, and reduces dry percentage compared with not vaccinating. To be satisfied with how Toxovax performs on your farm this season, here are a few things to keep in mind.

1. Timing is critical: Vaccinate maiden ewes at least 4 weeks before ram introduction. It is made to order so get orders in AT LEAST 8 weeks before ram introduction.

2. Toxovax needs careful storage/handling: It is a live vaccine, with a short shelf life of just 10 days. Keep it refrigerated (2-8 degrees) and, when out on farm, keep it in a chilly bag with cold packs. Mix only what you will use within 2 hours. The 100 dose has 1 vial, the 200 dose 2 vials to add. Mix well. Inject 2mL of the mixed vaccine into the muscle of the ewe’s neck, not under the skin, and change needles regularly. Don’t clean needles with methylated spirits, as it will kill the vaccine. If all else fails, read the instructions inside the box!

3. Set your expectations: In every animal population there will be a small number of individuals (8-10%) which fail to respond fully to vaccination. These individuals may be at risk if they are exposed to Toxoplasma for the first time during pregnancy. If the field challenge is very high (lots of young cats shedding Toxo in their poo), then this could break through the vaccine in some animals. Pest management of rodents and cats is still an important strategy to reduce the amount of Toxoplasma present in the environment over several years.

Get in touch with your vet or with MSD Animal Health if you have questions about Toxovax this season.



Deer Reminders

- Sex and tag fawns
- Copper supplementation, pre-mating & weaners
- Weaners—Yersiniavax first injection
- Clostridial vaccination

BIT OF A LAUGH

Andrew is walking on a downtown street one day, and he happens to see his old school friend Sam, a little ways up ahead. "Sam, Sam how are you?" he greets his old buddy after getting his attention.

"Not so good," says Sam.

"Why, what happened?" Andrew queries.

"Well," Sam says, "I just went bankrupt and I've still got to feed my family. I don't know what I'm going to do."

"Could have been worse," Andrew replies calmly. "Could have been worse."

A month or so later, Andrew again encounters Sam, in a restaurant. "And how are things now?" he asks.

"Terrible!" says Sam. "Our house burned down last night."

"Could have been worse," says Andrew, again with total aplomb, and goes about his business. A month later, Andrew runs into Sam a third time. "Well, how goes it?" he inquires.

"Oh!" says Sam. "Things just get worse and worse. It's one tragedy after another! Now my wife has left me!"

Andrew nods his head and gives his usual optimistic-seeming little smile, accompanied by his usual words: "Could've been worse."

This time, Sam grabs Andrew by the shoulders. "Wait a minute!" he says. "I'm not gonna let you off so easy this time. Three times in the past few months we've run into one another, and every time I've told you the latest disaster in my life. Every time you say the same thing: 'Could have been worse.' This time, for God's sake, Andrew, I want you to tell me: how in Heaven's name could it have been any worse?"

Andrew looks at Sam with the same little wisp of a smile. "Could have been worse," he says. "Could have happened to me."



INFECTED UDDERS HIT A SORE SPOT

Pain relief for mastitis helps recovery, reproduction and longevity

They may be too tiny to see without a microscope, but the bacteria that cause mastitis can (literally) be a huge pain at this time of the year.

These microscopic bugs have no respect for your bank account, your workload, nor your cows. While they often turn their toes up in the face of appropriate veterinary treatment, they rarely leave gracefully.

Antibiotics may kill the infection, but they don't immediately reduce the common effects of mastitis – swelling, heat, inflammation, fever, loss of appetite, depression and lethargy.

Almost all of these symptoms are associated with pain and reduced productivity. Even though cows have naturally evolved over hundreds of years to mask signs of pain from potential predators, the udder is most certainly sensitive!

When one or more quarters are inflamed as a result of mastitis, your normally stoic cow may be restless at milking, kick the cups off, won't lie down in the paddock to chew her cud, or walks awkwardly to avoid banging her udder with her hind legs.

We know udder pain can persist after the mastitis is initially treated. That means delayed cow recovery, lost production, potential problems at mating time and even a shortened life span.

In fact, there's plenty of good data that shows using pain relief as part of mastitis treatment benefits in-calf rates, through earlier conception, and cow longevity, through significantly reduced culling.

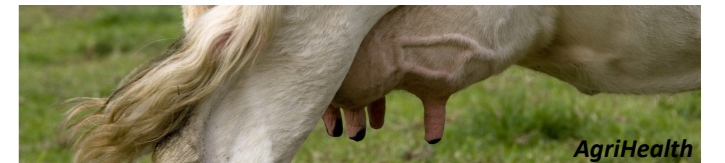
That's why we recommend an injectable non-steroidal pain killer such as KetoMax 15% or Rheumocam for cows with mastitis, in addition to the prescribed antibiotic therapy. *(Remember to extend the with hold period by 24hrs when using pain relief in conjunction with an antibiotic)*

It's like a chain reaction – the simple act of minimising the pain of mastitis infection leads to a compounding sequence of positive outcomes.

The faster sick cows start feeling better, the sooner they are back with their herd-mates, eating properly, milking to potential, cycling well and having a long, healthy lactation.

That's good for your bottom line, both now and next season. It's also good for animal welfare, and for keeping our industry socially sustainable in today's global market.

Call the clinic today to find out more about using pain relief to speed the recovery from mastitis and get your girls back to their best with minimal down time this spring.



AgriHealth