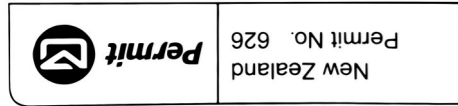




Photo by: S Stevens



PO BOX 65 • Riversdale 9744 • Southland
NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE

www.nsvets.co.nz
 Mossburn Ph (03) 2486053
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 Te Anau Ph (03) 249 7039
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**SITUATION COMMENT
NOVEMBER 2021**

Following on from the NSVets wedding season this time last year the NSVets baby boom is just about to kick off. Good luck to all involved!!

The recent lift in milk price forecast is very positive for farming as is the projected lamb price. However, the increased regulatory environment puts a negative spin on everything. Best of luck to the Groundswell team for their “Mother of all Protests” later in the month. In my opinion there must be kickback against the excessive and overly hasty change that is being foisted upon rural communities. Fortunately, we have been able to work relatively unfettered over the past few months, unlike those in Auckland. It will be interesting to see how the whole Covid-19 situation plays out over the next few months.

Grass growth has taken off in a big way the last couple of weeks after being well behind average for most of the Spring. Nice to see the sun and a little bit of heat – puts a smile on everybody’s face. Mating is underway on dairy farms and seems to be ticking along nicely so far. Tailing tallies in general so far appear to be a little back which is likely to be reflective of the short supply of feed early in Spring. Everywhere appeared to be pretty tight going back to the Autumn. Hopefully better days are ahead.

Stay safe on those tractors out there.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

Contents

Pg 1 :
-SITUATION COMMENT
-STAFF PET CORNER

Pg 2 :
-COCCIDIOSIS IN CALFS
-EAR MITES IN CATS AND DOGS

Pg 3 :
- ITS FLY SEASON
- WORMWATCH

WE WISH YOU A WOOLY CHRISTMAS

It may be summer here in Southland but we are supporting our farmers by giving away some amazing NZ woollen products.

For every \$300 you spend on selected Boehringer drenches from November 1st 2021 up until 24th December 2021 you will automatically go in the draw to win.

1st PRIZE
1st prize: Honest Wolf wool Weekender bag valued at \$419 and a Honest Wolf wool Tote valued at \$399.00

2nd PRIZE
2nd prize: Woolkin toy package including The Big Red Tractor, Brave Dave the Fire Engine and Dash the High Flyer valued at \$369.70

3rd PRIZE
3rd Prize: 100% Lambs wool Herringbone Navy Throw Valued at \$190.00

Exquisite wool blankets

Woolkin

Cattle Reminders

- Treat non-cycling cows
- Mating
- Dairy Calves—clostridial & leptospirosis vaccination
- Review drench plan for calves
- Attend to lame cows
- Monitor reproduction performance and review fertility focus
- Review mastitis control

STAFF PET CORNER



This is Bellatrix a.k.a Lester. Lester belongs to Mike Baer and Natalie but is currently staying at Julie Black’s house while her Mum and Dad are away.

Lester is a very friendly 4 year old British Short Hair, She loves a good chin scratch and cuddles with her flat mates Grayson & Harvey.

She has made friends with Willow, Julies Golden Retriever and loves to meow like she is starving, only to trot away once food has been given to her.

She has adapted to her new flatting situation so well and Julie and family are loving having her stay with them.

Don't forget to treat your pets for fleas this month!

Pop in store to find the right product for your pets.

Don't forget to pop in and collect a colouring and competition. 3 x \$50 Paper Plus vouchers up for grabs.

Horse Reminders

- Best month for breeding in Southland
- Show time
- Hoof care

COCCIDIOSIS IN CALVES

Coccidiosis is caused by a parasite that infects the cells lining an animal's intestine. Animals get infected by swallowing the parasites. This can happen by eating infected pasture and feed, drinking contaminated water, or by grooming themselves.

We have been seeing a number of weaned calves with both internal parasites and coccidia issues in recent weeks. The coccidiostats in calf meal inhibit coccidia growth however when the meal is removed the coccidia will continue their development and complete their life cycle which can result in disease.

Trial work in NZ has shown that calves treated with Diclazuril (Turbo® Initial) when meal is removed are 3-5 kg heavier 5 weeks post meal removal than those that aren't treated. Turbo® Initial is an oral drench specifically designed for weaned calves. It provides broad worm parasite coverage as well as helping to protect against coccidiosis. This bridges the 'susceptibility' gap after calves come off coccidiostat-treated meal and before they develop natural coccidiosis immunity.

If you have had calves in previous seasons that just don't do well at weaning or when meal is removed it would be advisable to consider the use of Turbo® Initial. For best effect Turbo® Initial should be given 15-20 days after weaning off meal (if the meal contained a coccidiostat).



Sam Less BVSc

Deer Reminders

- De-velvetting
- De-velvetting supervisory visits
- Hinds—set stock for fawning
- Fawning

Pet Reminders

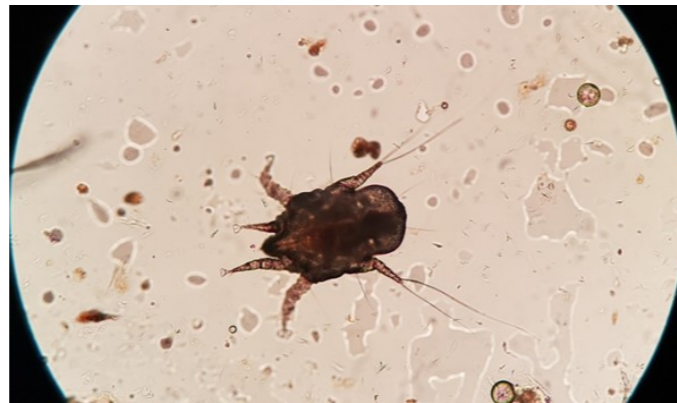
- Flea treatment
- Clip and groom pets for summer

EAR MITES IN CATS AND DOGS

The most common, and well known, ectoparasite we see in small animals are fleas. The second most common ectoparasite are, the lesser known, ear mites. Ear mites (*Otodectes cynotis*) can cause very itchy ears, often leading to secondary bacterial and fungal infections from scratching and shaking. They are most commonly seen in young kittens and puppies, although adult animals can be affected too. Sometimes they can be seen as small specks moving away from the light when we are looking down the ear with the otoscope, but they are most commonly diagnosed on an ear swab examined under the microscope. They are often seen swimming around on the slide (much to the delight of the vet and disgust of the owner!)

Ear mites are contagious between animals, so multiple animals in the same household can be affected. There are very effective products to treat ear mites, although a few treatments may need to be given as the lifecycle takes about 3 weeks and the products kill the adult mites and larvae but not the egg or pupa stage. Adult mites can live for up to 2 months!

If your pet has itchy ears it is best that we see them, it may be from lots of causes including ear mites.



Rebecca Morley BVSc

Sheep Reminders

- Topping paddocks
- Pre-weaning drench lambs (nematodirus alert)
- B12 injection lambs
- Monitor lamb growth rates

ITS FLY SEASON

(and unfortunately I don't mean fishing)

The code of welfare states a) All reasonable steps must be taken to prevent, or identify and manage the risk of flystrike in sheep. (b) Affected sheep must receive appropriate treatment at the earliest opportunity.

As with all things animal health, a preventative rather than reactive approach is desired – first make sheep as unattractive to flies as possible and then use of chemical products.

Reducing Moisture is critical

- Shearing and crutching - reduce fleece moisture and contaminants.
- Reduce scour/dags – through internal parasite control and feed management
- Reduce footrot, pizzle rot, urine stain, blood, fleece rot, and dermatitis - major fly attractants
- Tail length - too short (of course they won't be this year!) and females will have an increase in urine stain and can be 2-3 times more likely to get struck. Too long and they are likely to become daggy, resulting in increased attractiveness to flies.

Dead stock – Remove promptly as flies are attracted to any carcass' in the first three days – ideally bury them under at least a foot of well tramped soil, put down an offal pit, or burn as soon as they are discovered.

Farm Hotspots – avoid sheltered scrub lined gullies, thistle patches, bush margins, shelter belts, sheep camps and intensive grazing. When fly risk is high, if possible, stock should be moved to windy exposed cooler pastures which flies don't favour.

Genetic improvement - Selectively breeding for sheep with reduced dag scores and low worm egg counts and clear breech will be beneficial in reducing strike.

Treatment choice and timing

Consider timing, local challenge, wool cleanliness, shearing dates/wool length, sheep breed and class of stock, application method, holidays(?!), and labour availability and withhold times.

Lambs at marking - a low volume spray-on cyromazine or dicyclanil formulation to the marking wound will protect the area treated from being struck through to weaning or shearing, depending on the product used.

Lambs for slaughter. – Can possibly get away with shorter protection lengths (and WHT) Both low volume spray on and saturation products are available with 0-14 day meat withholding periods.

Ewes and Ewe replacements. - Products which provide reliable long-term protection are preferable here. Note that ewes/hoggets that get struck are very unlikely to get in lamb.

Rams also need to be treated, including application of a flystrike preventative to the poll.

Have realistic expectations of the likely protection period provided by any product. Protection period claims have typically been based on the most thorough method of application, being done very carefully. Flying through an

automatic jetting race will apply less product and reduce the expected protection period, but then saturation application done poorly can be worse than the result from an AJR or jetting wand. For low volume spray on/pour on products the correct applicator must be used and recommended application pattern followed. Be aware of weather patterns too that may affect protection lengths, like a downpour soon after treating.

Treatment of active strike.

Flystruck sheep need to be treated quickly. Clip back any longer wool around the struck site before treating but do not shear the struck area to the skin as this exposes it to sunburn, which will delay healing. Soak the struck area with an approved dressing. This will kill the maggots, control infection and protect the surrounding fleece from more strikes. If dipping or jetting fluid is used instead of a flystrike dressing ensure it contains a "knockdown" active ingredient such as spinosad, ivermectin or propetamphos. Because insect growth regulators act slowly, they are not suitable for treating sheep which have been struck.

Use a different chemical to treat an active flystrike lesion than used for flystrike prevention. For example if a flock was treated preventatively with a diflubenzuron jetting liquid and some animals became struck, the spot treatment used should preferably be either an organophosphate, cyromazine + spinosad or cyromazine + ivermectin.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

WORMWATCH NOVEMBER 2021

Finally after a wet and cold start to spring we are starting to get some warmth and pasture is beginning to take off (this is the same as I wrote last year). Parasite development will be speeding up and larvae numbers will be increasing just as lambs start to graze more pasture. The full impact of this will depend on your pasture covers – if your covers are still low you may find a higher parasite challenge for lambs leading up to weaning, especially given the wormy autumn and mild winter we had.

Pre-weaning drenches for lambs should be considered this month and hand-reared calves that have been weaned will also be due for their first drench. Pre-weaning drenches of lambs in Southland are important to ensure Nematodirus is not given the chance to impact lamb growth at this time.

There is still many of you that have no idea if your drench is working effectively and now is the time to start planning a reduction test for this season. Marking 100 lambs and leaving them undrenched is the first step. Feel free to contact me at the clinic for more details.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

