

## STAFF COMMENT

If I were writing this on time I would be talking of our sunny September, but I am not, it is now October and it is snowing!

We farewelled Anne over a lovely dinner – some will have already met Anne’s replacement in Lumsden, Jan McFadzien who is fitting in splendidly. Jan aptly juggles her new role with nursing (humans), calf rearing, child rearing, husband management etc! We are delighted to welcome back Kate Taylor to the vet team returning from parental leave during one of our busiest months of the year, YAY! We are also thrilled to soon have the effervescent Julia Tayles back part time on reception in Riversdale. Shelley Cavanagh has settled in well into the receptionist role in Te Anau. Some may recognise Shelley from Mossburn as she is also talented in the art of café goods, something I am sure our staff are benefiting from! As warned previously we will farewell Bev from Mossburn, after 45 years, at the end of this month. We are glad to announce Alicia Watson will be learning the ropes from the 24<sup>th</sup>.

*Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS*

## PUPPY NUTRITION

Improper nutrition can have serious consequences for puppies. They require the correct balance of minerals and vitamins to support the rapid growth of their bones and muscles. In particular, the calcium-phosphorous ratio must be balanced in order for bone growth to progress correctly. An excess or a deficiency of calcium can cause the leg bones to become weak. This can result in bent legs (see picture) and brittle bones that are easily broken. Feeding a diet consisting solely of meat (calcium deficiency) or supplementing puppy biscuits with a calcium supplement such as BoneGro (calcium excess) may both result in this condition. This can easily be avoided by feeding your puppy a good quality commercially available puppy food which is specially formulated to contain the correct balance of minerals and vitamins your puppy needs. Talk to your vet about all of your pet nutritional requirements.



## Cattle Reminders

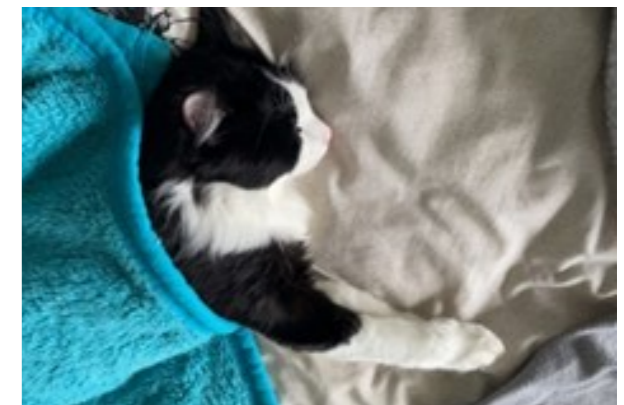
- Dairy—pre-mating check of ‘at risk’ cows
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Tailpaint—4 weeks before PSM
- Organise mating programme—cows and heifers
- Treat non-cyclers one week before PSM
- Metrichk late calvers
- PAR Renewal—fill in and return forms
- Book Lepto consults

## STAFF PET CORNER

Sylvester’s diary Day – 176

My captors continue to taunt me with bizarre little dangling objects. The only thing that keeps me going is my dream of escape. In an attempt to disgust them, I once again vomit on the carpet. Today I decapitated a mouse and dropped its headless body at their feet. I had hoped that this would strike fear in their hearts, since it clearly demonstrates my capabilities. However, they merely made condescending comments about what a “good little hunter” I am. Idiots!

Until tomorrow....



*Ashleigh Stewart*

## Horse Reminders

- Brush out last of winter coat
- Selenium & Vitamin E to new born foals
- Watch for founder in ponies

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**COMMONLY ASKED TAILING QUESTIONS**

**Should I give B12?**

B12 is needed to complete the process of getting energy (glucose) out of grass. Without it a chemical (methylmalonate) builds up causing ill thrift, watery eyes, washy wool, and lost appetite - the appearance of starving despite adequate feed.

Suching lambs don't need extra B12 as they get their glucose directly from the milk. The time to supplement is when lambs are eating more grass than milk – which isn't usually the case at tailing but may well be the case before weaning! My point being short acting treatments given at tailing may well be a waste of time. If you are going to supplement, then you need to use a long-acting product. A second option is supplementing between tailing and weaning which is feasible as many will be doing a pre-wean drench (see below).

Note, adult sheep and cattle have ruminant bugs that make B12 out of cobalt. B12 supplement in adults is only usually required if the area is cobalt deficient. Note also, the supplement in oral products is usually cobalt, which is of little use to the animal without a developed rumen to process it.

**What drench do I use at tailing?**

None! For several reasons.

- Parasites generally live in the bottom of the grass plant. Lambs, if they are eating grass, tend to only nip off the top of the leaves. So even if they are eating grass, they are probably not consuming any worms.
- In order for worm larvae to complete their lifecycle they need to be stimulated by a chemical in the rumen. Lambs don't really have a functioning rumen at tailing, therefore no chemical, so any worms they are eating are not able to develop anyway.
- It is certainly possible to kill a lamb (or 50) with drench at tailing age
- With drench resistance on the rise, the fewer drenches we can give the better.

Lambs may however need a drench prior to weaning to combat Nematodirus in particular. This will be regardless of whether you drenched at tailing or not. So, you haven't saved yourself any work by going too early.

Now of course things may differ depending on tailing and weaning age/dates on your farm. If in doubt, feel free to call us to discuss.

Tail length – some people may have gotten a bit carried away with the tail length rule last year being extra cautious and leaving half the tail behind when in fact, the majority of people were already tailing to the correct length – to the bottom of the side skin folds, to cover the vulva or equivalent in males.



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**BLOAT – ARE YOU PREPARED?**

This is a serious and at times, unpredictable problem with significant economic loss.

In adult cattle we see two types of bloat, primary “frothy” bloat and secondary “free gas” bloat. They may present similarly but have different causes. Primary bloat is most common, sudden, and severe and can affect many animals in a group – a true emergency. It is caused by lush young feed, high in protein, and/or soluble carbohydrates, water, and sugar. The digestion of these creates a stable froth which traps the gas made by the gut bacteria. The cow can't burp out the gas and the rumen continues to expand. In the end the pressure of the gut on the chest prevents the animal from breathing and they die from suffocation or heart failure, usually within an hour (or minutes). Secondary bloat usually comes from an obstruction in the oesophagus (like a turnip or a lesion in the gut) or from other conditions like milk fever or gut dysfunction.

**Control options include**

- antifoaming agents – anti bloat oil to break down the foam
- detergents – (generally these are added to water). These may work faster and are more persistent. They can be toxic if overdosed or given to calves.
- rumen modifiers – these prevent the foam forming by changing the microorganisms in the rumen e.g., monensin in feed or as capsules for longer protection

**Methods**

Slow-release capsule

- 100-day cover
- Need to be 1 week before challenge
- Fine for moderate to medium challenge but may need to use anti-foaming agent as well in the first week, or at severe challenge periods
- BEWARE THESE CAN BE TOXIC TO DOGS AND HORSES

Drench

- Most reliable method during high challenge
- Required daily, maybe twice in severe challenge
- Can overdose – never use detergents in calves
- Low price, high labour

Trough

- 2-3 weeks before risk
- Need to ensure no other water source
- May need to alter dose if water intake varies
- Intake can be variable
- Care with other animals accessing trough

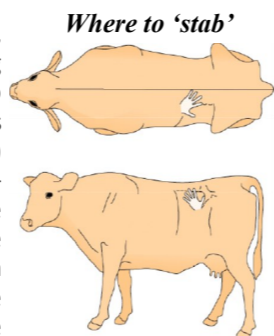
Pasture spray

- Oils or detergent with sticking agent
- Can be time consuming and costly as more product used
- Must spray total grazing area

Bloat blocks. Licks

- Variable intake

When prevention hasn't worked, the cow is having trouble walking and breathing, you may need to 'stab' the cow. The site to 'stab' is the **LEFT** side flank ('left gives life') below the short ribs, and a hand-span in front of the hip bone. The skin is tough so it will take some force, but the cow's life depends on it. Sometimes it is necessary for the vet to come after, and close the wound.



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**NON CYCLING COW PROGRAMS**

Some of you may recall a few years ago, that we altered the non-cycling cow program from three visits/jabs to four. As much as we enjoy being on farm, I can assure you this wasn't a move to ramp up vet hours! The driver of this was the increased success seen with this extra injection, shown below with higher conception rates and 6 week in calf rates.

Program	Day 0	Day 7	Day 8	Day 9	Day 10
Basic GPG	Inject GnRH	Inject PG		Inject GnRH	Inseminate
Prosynch	GnRH + insert progesterone device	Inject PG + Remove progesterone device		Inject GnRH	Inseminate
ProM8	GnRH + Progesterone	PG + remove progesterone	Extra PG	Inject GnRH	inseminate

\* Note the progesterone device is a CIDR, cuemate or DIB  
 \*\*For all three programs, any cows that come on heat during the program can be inseminated and removed from the group. AI on day 10 for those that haven't been mated is 16 hours (12-20) after the 2<sup>nd</sup> GnRH

The GPG program lifted the 21 day in calf rate 13 % (to 48%) compared to no intervention (35%).  
 Adding progesterone (prosynch) returns \$36 more per cow than the GPG alone (\$76 vs \$40), and improves first service conception rate from 27% for GPG, to 41%.  
 Adding the extra PG (ProM8) to the Prosynch program increased CR by 4.2%, and increased 6 WICR by 3.7 %.

**Heifer Synchrony Programmes**

Why Wait	Heat detect For AI Usually for 7-10 d	PG anything not mated	AI for 3 or 4 more days to observed heat
Double PG	Day 0 Inject PG	11 to 14 days later Inject PG again	AI for 4 days to observed heat
Cosynch + progesterone	Day 0 GnRH + insert device	Day 7 PG + remove device	Day 9 GnRH and AI all heifers at the same time – no heat detection

Cosynch + progesterone has an economic benefit of \$26.90/head over the double PG program improving the 21 d in-calf rate from 63% to 76%, and the 42 day in calf rate from 82% to 89%.

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**Pet Reminders**

- Worm cats & dogs
- Flea prevention and treatment
- Enrol overweight pets in Pet Slimmers

**POISON**

Many of you will have seen our Facebook post warning of the risks of dogs eating calf milk powder. This is because many calf milk powders contain a coccidiostat ionophore which can be poisonous to monogastrics – e.g., dogs, pigs, and horses.

Other sources of ionophores include calf meal, cattle bloat preventions, rumen modifiers and feed additives. They can come in the form of capsules, powder, or liquid. Common names to look for include monensin (e.g., Rumensin, Monotec) lasalocid (e.g., Bovatec, Avatec), narasin and salinomycin.

Ionophores can cause muscle damage, targeting the heart muscle in particular. Signs of monensin toxicity vary according to the amount ingested. Horses that have eaten a large dose at one time (acute toxicity) show signs of anorexia, sweating, wobbliness, irregular heart, and possible death. An example of this is horses being mistakenly fed calf meal. Chronic toxicity from prolonged exposure to an ionophore causes poor performance, muscular weakness and stiffness and heart failure. This can occur from drinking out of water troughs supplied by a dosatron.

There is no antidote for monensin toxicity, so treatment involves symptomatic and supportive therapy. Recovery may take days, weeks, or months, but some may develop permanent heart damage and never fully recover.

Prevention is important. Horses on dairy farms should have a separate water supply to that of the cows. Horses being fed pre-mix feeds should only be fed ones that are specifically formulated for horses so ensure all calf meal is locked away.

If you suspect your horse has been exposed to ionophores in any way, please phone the clinic to ask for advice.



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**Sheep Reminders**

- Topdress cobalt & selenium
- Tailing
- Feeding prioritisation
- Pulpy kidney vaccination
- B12 injection lambs
- Scabby mouth vaccination of lambs
- 'Flockcheck' blood test on wet dries
- Blood test rams B Ovis
- FEC sample ewes & drench