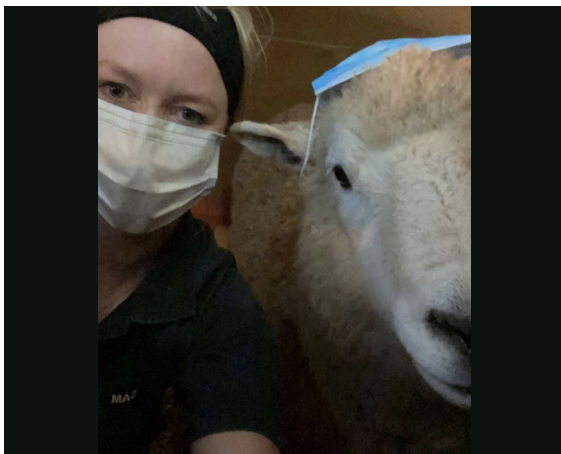


SITUATION COMMENT

Déjà vu springs to mind dealing with lockdowns, alert levels and “be kind”. The delta variant of Covid-19 is certainly a different beast to previous versions. Overseas the serious illness and hospitalisation rates have been reduced in the order of 80% and 95% respectively where people have been fully vaccinated. In Ireland at present where 86% of the adult population is vaccinated only 30% of cases are in people with at least one vaccination. Again, we are reminded about the importance of biosecurity. For example, those bulls do need to be tested for BVD, vaccinated and have a certificate signed to say they are tested clear of virus and not just depend on someone’s word! Even one chink in the armour can lead to a breakdown.

Calving generally started with a hiss and a roar with many reporting calving dates ahead of schedule. Problems to date have been on a par with other years. Feed is still tight but hopefully with daylight hours increasing the chance of grass growth increases. Woodlands pasture growth curve is well behind normal currently. Moisture is most definitely not a limiting factor at present!

We have seen a reasonable amount of *Salmonella Brandenburg* so far in lamb abortions, mainly, and rotavirus is very prevalent as usual among calf scour outbreaks.



A reminder that at alert Level 4 there are a lot of jobs that we cannot do – it is basically emergencies only or work, that if not performed, could lead to negative animal welfare outcomes. Alert Level 3 allows us to do most routine veterinary jobs but we have to maintain social distancing, wear masks and maintain our work pods and house bubbles. If in doubt give the clinic a call and we can advise what may or may not be allowed. We just have to wait and see how long the whole thing continues for.....

Keep up the good work out there everyone. As usual you’re keeping the economy going.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

Pet Reminders

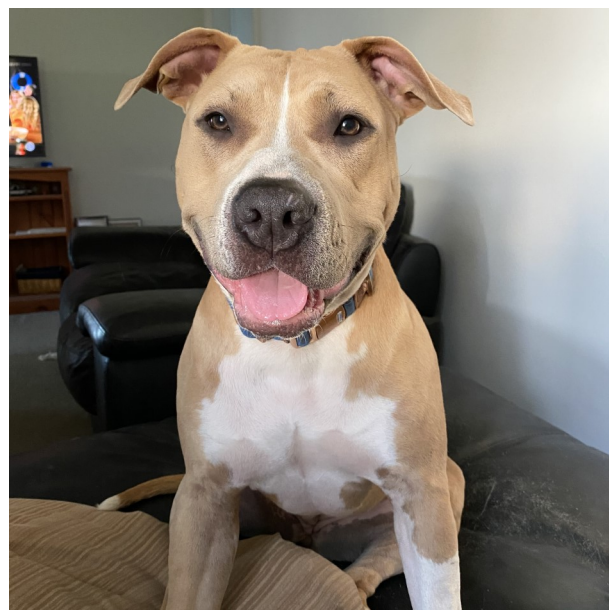
- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Flea prevention
- Groom month

STAFF PET CORNER

Hi, I’m Honey. I’m an almost two year old American Staffy. My mum is Juanne, who is always telling me that I’m getting a little chubby.

My favourite things to do is jump the fence so I can go play with other dogs and avoid going for a run in the evenings.

When I’m not getting up to mischief with my brother Bronc. I can usually be found in the kitchen looking for a little snack.



Sheep Reminders

- Lambing
- Check B12 levels in lambs
- Monitor and record lamb deaths
- Get hoggets onto pasture
- Order tailing requirements
- Order scabby mouth vaccine

Contents

Pg 1 :
 - Situation comment
 - Staff Pet Corner

Pg 2 :
 - Hip & elbow scoring
 - Brain Samples
 - Bobby welfare

Pg 3 :
 - Avoiding bull failure
 - Abortion in ewes
 - Veltrak



Deer Reminders

- Stags—copper pre velvetting
- Hinds—copper pre-calving
- Supplementary feed stags
- Sort stags into velvetting mobs

HIP AND ELBOW SCORING

Are you thinking of breeding your dog? Have you considered getting them scored for hip and elbow dysplasia?

Hip and elbow dysplasia are often seen in rapidly growing large and giant breed dogs, although they can be seen in small breed dogs and cats too. Hip dysplasia is considered the most common heritable orthopaedic disease (although environment also plays a role). Clinical signs of dysplasia include lameness (sometimes intermittently), loss of mobility and early onset of arthritis. There are no current genetic tests that we can use to screen for these diseases so we use x-rays to score an animal's hips and elbows.

In 2014 the University of Pennsylvania PennHIP system replaced the NZVA hip dysplasia scheme as it was felt that it provided a more objective measure of hip joint laxity, and joint laxity is the primary risk factor for developing arthritis. A special distractor is used to assess the laxity of the hip joints. More information on PennHIP can be found on their website www.pennhip.org. The NZVA still runs an elbow dysplasia scheme. For both schemes, x-rays are taken at the clinic and then submitted for interpretation by a radiologist.

Selecting dogs to breed from that have good hip and elbows is a tool to help reduce the incidence of hip and elbow dysplasia through successive generations. Our Riversdale clinic is accredited to take PennHIP x-rays, these can be done from 16 weeks of age or older. Dogs can have their elbows scored from one year or older. If you want to score both elbows and hips it would be best to wait until the dog is a year old. If you have any questions, please ring the clinic to discuss with one of the vets today.



Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate pregnant mares for salmonellosis, tetanus & strangles
- Watch ponies' condition for founder
- Clip horses out to remove winter coat

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves—disbud
- Plan bloat control
- Mastitis - Review control programme
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Metrichick cows
- Blood test bulls for BVD
- BVD vaccination booster

\$\$\$ FOR BRAIN SAMPLES

Biosecurity New Zealand performs surveillance to assure New Zealand's export customers that NZ is free from TSEs (*Mad Cow Disease* in cattle, *Chronic Wasting Disease* in deer, *Scrapie* in sheep and goats). They are routinely testing brain samples from cows, sheep, goats and deer that show clinical neurological signs such as non-responsive nervous disease.

*****The financial incentive for submitting samples has increased this year *****

Cattle: \$250 Deer: \$200 Sheep/goats: \$100

Eligible animals:

- **Cattle 30 months – 9 years:** Progressive non-responsive nervous disease, non-responsive metabolic disorders, dairy cattle culled for behavioural reasons, abnormal gait or stance without obvious injury
- **Deer > 2 years:** Progressive non-responsive nervous disease, progressive non-responsive illthrift, acute pneumonia or aspiration pneumonia
- **Sheep/goats >2 years:** Progressive non-responsive nervous disease

All incentives are GST exclusive. Talk to NSVets on farm or in clinic about eligibility

Sam Lee BVSc

BOBBY CALF WELFARE

All calves, regardless of their purpose, should be treated with care and respect. Bobby calf welfare is important – the following DairyNZ poster will help you meet the welfare needs of animals in your care and to comply with the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999:



AVOIDING BULL FAILURE

Every year we are asked to investigate poor reproductive performance in beef herds. This year was no different and despite a summer with plenty of feed, we seemed to receive more of these phone calls than normal. Bull failure is often a top concern and this needs to be investigated along with other factors such as BVD, minerals and body condition. Scanning results help to paint a picture and will often give us clues as to where the problem lies. This is especially true for aged scanning as we may find that the bull was working initially then stopped or conversely was only working at the end of mating (lots of lates).

There are many reasons a bull can fail and these can be broadly classified into two categories: failure to mount/achieve intromission or semen failure. Failure to mount/achieve intromission is the most common reason for a bull problem and can include poor libido, lameness, arthritis, injuries and penis defects amongst others. These defects are often permanent and in beef systems it is thought that 90% of bull failures are due to this inability to successfully serve the cow.

Semen failure accounts for the remaining 10% of bull breakdowns in beef systems and can be permanent or temporary. Temporary decreases in sperm quality are relatively common and can be caused by a range of factors such as disease, trauma and infection. With new sperm taking 61 days to fully develop, temporary impacts to semen quality can have a long impact on bull fertility. For example, if a bull is impacted by fever for 72 hrs and then recovers, his semen may still be impacted for a further 58 days, that's 8 weeks and a lot of missed matings!

Hopefully this emphasises why it is important to run bulls in teams and to consider rotation of teams to ensure cows are covered.

Having your bulls tested 6 - 8 weeks prior to mating is a useful way of checking for penis defects, testicular abnormalities, and the ability to mount/achieve intromission.



Andrew Cochrane BVSc

TEST YOUR LAMBS FOR IODINE

Those of you that don't use flexidine in your sheep, or have recently stopped doing so, should consider testing your lambs now to see if this is affecting their survival. The best test for iodine deficiency is done by post-mortem on new born dead lambs, this is much more accurate than blood testing. Now is a great time to be testing whether iodine deficiency is having an impact on your farm productivity and profitability, especially if you had ewes on brassicas over winter. We have seen several cases in the last few years where lamb survival was significantly reduced, don't let this impact you, talk to one of our vets about how we can help.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

ABORTION IN EWES

What to do if you are experiencing abortions?

- Drop off fresh – aborted lambs and placenta to NSVets for testing (call ahead)
- Rapid disposal of aborted lambs and placenta
- Quarantine aborted ewes
- Practice good hygiene of clothing, vehicles, and equipment
- Visit non-affected mobs before affected mobs to minimize transfer of infection
- Reduce stock density (spread out ewes)
- Minimize pre-lambing yarding and general stress where possible
- Contact NSVets for further advice

Several of the infectious agents that cause ewe abortions are zoonotic, so ensure good personal hygiene is implemented to help protect you and your workers from becoming ill.

Sam Lee BVSc

VELTRAK - MAKE SURE YOU'RE REGISTERED!

I know you've heard it before, but the velvetting season is fast approaching, with plenty of buttons off around the place. You need to ensure you have registered for Veltrak prior to collection of tags at the clinic as this process is now completely electronic. An additional part of this process once you have signed up is to select your preferred supplier. To do this, sign into Veltrak then click into your "Manage" tab in the top corner, and below your details is a drop-down box with "Vet practice supplying tags", scroll to select "NSVets Ltd Riversdale".

We look forward to seeing you in the next few months for your supervisory assessments, please get in touch when you have at least 3 stags to velvet. In the meantime if you have questions give us a ring on 03 2025636.

Samantha Edgar BVSc(dist) DipSciTech