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February 2022

VetTIMES



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STAFF COMMENT

Several staff managed to get away for a wee break over the holiday. We have been doing some shuffling around lately and are delighted to have vet nurse Juaane relocate to the Riversdale team. Juaane had been covering Tash's maternity leave in Te Anau (welcome back Tash!) She will now fill the gap left by Lauren who will venture bravely on her OE. Lauren has been part of our team since training in 2017 we wish her all the best with her future ventures and will miss her ultra-conservative ways!

On Bay(by)Watch... Andrew and Nicole welcomed baby Oliver, and Julia and Matthew welcomed baby William – two more beautiful boys for baby fight club – Baby James is my current tip displaying his 'planking' skills at a recent clinic visit at just 7 months.

Morgan has rallied the fit and willing staff members for Friday night's social soccer. Going on previous form there will be several shots and superb dribbling – and then we play soccer. Hopefully knees and achilles stay intact!

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

SUMMER SOCCER

NSVets has once gain entered a social(ish) team in the Gore Wanderers summer soccer league. A change to the schedule has seen a 5-a-side competition rather than 7-a-side. Two weeks in has seen a one win, one loss record so far. Covid restrictions have lessened some of the after-match rehydration activities unfortunately, however nobody has suffered too badly from dehydration thus far. The nature of the smaller pitch has lead to more goalscoring opportunities and first career goals for Sam(antha), Sam(uel) and Taylor. Social commitments and baby-daddy duties have meant no sign of Laura and Andrew so far this season but the good-cop, bad-cop combination of Rebecca and Caine have provided a solid midfield sector along with some help from the team at Glenaray. Looking forward to the rest of the season....



Morgan Greene BVSc

Cattle Reminders

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

STAFF PET CORNER

Much to Bix's delight There is a new addition to Taylor's household, meet Fred! Fred is now 8 weeks old and Taylor rescued him when he was about 3 weeks old. It didn't take long for Bix to adjust to the new changes and the pair have become inseparable. Fred has turned into a savage little cat and loves to attack anything that moves especially feet, hands and poor Bix's tail.



PINK EYE

We are seeing a few cases of pink eye in young calves – we have written on this previously but do remember to look for early signs (tear staining, squinting then milky, or pink or yellow spots on the eye) when moving stock as infection, once it takes hold, can be prolonged and result in the loss of an eye! Contact us if you have any concerns.



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

Contents

- Pg 1**
 - Staff Comment
 - Staff Pet
 - Pink Eye
 - Summer Soccer

- Pg 2**
 - Equine Health
 - Pyometra

- Pg 3**
 - (PEM)
 - Worm watch
 - Bit of a Laugh



Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

EQUINE HEALTH

This can be a busy time of the year for the horse owner. If you have had a new arrival your foal will need vaccinating and wormed from 12 weeks of age. Your vaccination choices include the essential **Tetanus** (2 vaccines 4 weeks apart) and/or **Strangles** (3 vaccines 2 weeks apart).

Keep an eye on how your foal is growing. Those long gangly legs work better if they are straight. If you have any concerns give us a call and we can take a look. There are many small tweaks that can be made from a farriery standpoint that can make a massive difference later on.

For your older horses now is a great time to get their teeth done before winter. Your mares can be safely sedated whilst feeding a foal so get their teeth done before you get them in foal again.

We are coming into autumn which is a time of heavy worm burden. Consider a maintenance drench with a good quality product in conjunction with a faecal egg count (to establish if you have a major issue). If you have any questions, give our team a call.



Shaun Campbell BVSc BSc

Pet Reminders

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

PYOMETRA

Pyometra is a life-threatening disease, but fortunately is treatable if caught in time! Entire/un-speyed middle-aged to older females are our at-risk cohort. We see a range of breeds affected, particularly large ones such as working dogs, labs, etc.

Clinical signs commonly occur a few weeks after being on heat. This is because progesterone (hormone maintaining pregnancy) rises, and in some dogs, causes an overgrowth of the uterus's inner glands and their secretions, resulting in extra fluid accumulating within the uterus. Bacteria can travel their way from the outside, through the vagina and cervix, into the uterus and grow rapidly in the perfect, environment of the uterus. E. coli is the most common culprit, and releases endotoxins in the blood while also causing sepsis/fever.

Signs to watch for:

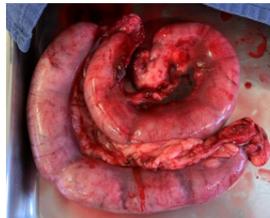
- 'Off colour' (depressed, quiet, lethargic/slow, lying down a lot)
- Not eating
- Fever
- Sometimes discharge/pus from vulva/vagina
- Tense/sore abdomen

As soon as you recognise one or more of these signs, please contact the clinic ASAP for your dog to be seen. These signs indicate emergency treatment and should not be left until the next day.

We will likely run blood tests to check for infection and any other complications that will help us plan treatment. Our ultrasound scanner helps us rapidly detect pus in the uterus. The treatment is surgical removal of the uterus, in which we effectively perform an emergency spey. Non-surgical management would only be considered if the pyometra was 'open', meaning pus is able to drain through the cervix, and the dog was not septic. Even then, surgery is the preferred option.

After recovering from surgery and anaesthesia, these very sick dogs bounce back within a few hours to their energetic selves. Below is a uterus packed with pus! Once removed, this girl bounced back rapidly and was eating again a few hours post-op!

Pyometra uterus



Normal uterus



Laura Gardyne BVSc

Deer Reminders

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

POLIOENCEPHALOMALACIA (PEM)

Post weaning calves and lambs/hoggets, (especially good doers,) are at risk of developing PEM over summer. PEM is associated with feed changes or high sulphur intake. Subsequently, different rumen bacteria proliferate, producing a thiamine destroying enzyme, *Thiaminase*, causing B1 deficiency.

Thiamine is produced by certain rumen bacteria daily and isn't stored in the body long term. Thiamine is a vital component of an animals' ability to meet daily energy requirements, particularly for the nervous tissue. If thiamine is low, then there is no energy to pump out sodium from brain cells. Water follows salt, so these brain cells are loaded with sodium, then swell with water and die as they are compressed against the skull! This explains the following neurological clinical signs:

Blindness	Depression
Incoordination	Staggering
Rigidity/stretched out limbs	'Star gazing'/looking skyward
Recumbent	Neck arched back
Eye flicking	Muscle tremors
Seizures	Sudden death

What to do? Call the vet! Faster we treat with B1 injections, the better chance your animals have for a full recovery. Mortality is 25% if caught early, and close to 100% if recumbent before treatment. Response to treatment in 12-48hrs is often our best diagnostic, however residual blindness is not uncommon. If an animal has died, we can remove its brain. UV light can reveal fluorescence in an affected brain. Just be aware there are other diseases that produce the same neurological clinical signs, such as lead and salt toxicity, so we often need to differentiate these from PEM.

Prevention involves avoiding sudden feed changes, e.g. grass flushes, stalky to lush pasture (or vice versa)!

Limit sulphur access, paying particular attention to water (ideally <500ppm) and diet (brassica crops, molasses, and fertiliser). Preventing acidosis with high concentrate feed is important, as low rumen pH increases hydrogen sulphide production.



Laura Gardyne BVSc

WORMWATCH FEBRUARY 2022

Ground conditions are definitely drier than this time last year but with some rain still falling and dewy mornings beginning, parasite levels have been relatively high. With this in mind it will be important to still aim for a 28 day drench interval for young stock on pasture. Note: Drench intervals may be able to be extended if lambs are on summer crops, talk to one of our vets to discuss if this might work for you. If you were hoping to extend drench intervals consider using a FEC to decide whether lambs are needing drenched. 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 have started these already and for those of you that haven't started yet, 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.

BIT OF A LAUGH

After a talking sheepdog gets all the sheep in the pen, he reports back to the farmer: "All 40 accounted for."
 "But I only have 36 sheep," says the farmer.
 "I know," says the sheepdog. "But I rounded them up."

