

## SITUATION COMMENT

Autumn has begun and it is either hot or wet. Prices have held on well for most commodities. The weather has been ideal for parasites and for flies, so we have seen some pretty high worm burdens and a fair bit of flystrike, often body strike in clean ewes.

Brexit continues to be a waiting game. The Europeans are waiting for the British to decide, the British are waiting to “regain their national sovereignty”, the Irish are waiting for the resumption of “The Troubles” because the border gets rebuilt and the Scots are waiting for it to all turn so sour that they can try for independence again. Theresa May is waiting to see if she is still Prime Minister in May. We are waiting to see if we will be able to trade with anyone. Isn't it great?

We would like to congratulate Becky on completing her Masters in Veterinary Medicine, achieving high marks in each of the six sections. An amazing effort. In keeping with our new theme, we have a photo of her taken the year Morgan and I came to Riversdale. She has aged far better than either of us! Must be a reflection of how hard she makes our lives.



Rebecca Morley—photo from 2000

Michael Baer BVSc

## **Cattle Reminders**

- Pregnancy test
- Drench beef weaners
- Review mastitis control—plan dry cow therapy
- Vaccinate for salmonella
- Liver biopsy check for selenium
- Lepto herd
- Drench cows at least 4 weeks pre dry off
- Dry off poorer condition cows and culls
- Lepto booster for calves vaccinated early

## STAFF PET CORNER



Hi, my name is Doofy Cameron, but sometimes my humans call me “no, you are too big”. They also call me “OUCH get off my toes!”

I am a two year old 50kg and meant to be huntaway x mastiff buuuut turns out the milk man was a Great Dane!

I am a very bouncy, hyperactive chipmunk on speed a lot of the time. My favorite things are my ball, my stick and my humans.

I have had a trip or two to the vets so far, one time I ate 4kg worth of biscuits. The vet Becky made me vomit it all up! They were worried about GDV or something but I was just really hungry at the time, turns out it wasn't my best move.

Another time I fell out the window of a moving truck! That hurt but I was ok. My humans were more surprised that I could even fit out of it.

My latest event was when I ate a great big stick, unfortunately it broke and got stuck to the roof of my mouth and wedged between my teeth. That one really hurt!

I am also really good at donating blood for sick dogs, so far I have saved 3 lives! The best thing about that is after they have taken it I get heaps of food and a new toy.

My life is very busy and full of trips to the park or the river, which I have just got back from. Now I need a nap, so talk soon Northern Southland clients....Stay safe.

## **Horse Reminders**

- Vaccinate foals for Salmonella, Tetanus & Strangles

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### WHY DO SOME HORSES GET LAMINITIS?

Why do some horses get laminitis while others on the same pasture do not? 90% of laminitis cases have underlying hormonal disease. Whilst grass is an important trigger factor, grazing alone does not tell the whole story. Horses with underlying disease show abnormally high levels of insulin hormone (needed to move carbohydrates from the blood into tissues) after eating soluble carbohydrates. The high insulin results in laminitis in horses and ponies with PPID and/or EMS. In normal horses, without an underlying hormonal disease, grazing pasture is unlikely to cause laminitis. ACTH lab testing is Free this month. What is PPID and EMS??

Same and Different	PPID Pituitary Pars Intermedia Disease	EMS Equine metabolic Syndrome
<b>What is it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degeneration in the brain, resulting in an overactive pituitary gland releasing too much stress hormone (cortisol) and ACTH</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associated with Insulin resistance (similar to type 2 diabetes in humans)</li> </ul>
<b>Clinical signs</b>	<b>Laminitis – repeating +/-</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Longer coat</li> <li>Excessive sweating</li> <li>Increased appetite, drinking and urination</li> <li>Lethargy / poor performance</li> <li>Recurring infections (eg: sinusitis)</li> <li>Loss of muscle condition, and/or a pot-bellied appearance</li> </ul>	<b>Laminitis – repeating</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overweight and/or having abnormal fat distribution</li> <li>Abnormal oestrus cycles</li> </ul>
<b>Testing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single blood test = ACTH elevated</li> <li>Or dexamethasone suppression test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fasting insulin = high insulin</li> <li>+/- glucose challenge</li> </ul>
<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Management only</li> <li>Pergolide mesylate may help regulate the pituitary gland</li> <li>Maintain regular worming, dentistry, foot care, quality balanced diet.</li> <li><b>Check for EMS also</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diet management</li> <li>Medications are questionable but main one is metformin – glucose scavenger used in humans</li> <li><b>Check for PPID also</b></li> </ul>

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

### Deer Reminders

- Drench weaners
- Check copper & selenium status and treat if necessary

### WORMWATCH APRIL 2019

I'm writing this on a day that has weather conditions perfect for worms (and mushrooms, ergot, fly...), wet and warm! Larval challenge remains high which is going to be important as we head into mating. Despite this, faecal egg counts from ewes have generally been low, which emphasises the role immunity plays in adult stock. If you are considering a pre-tup drench at all, the greatest benefit is likely to be from doing the lighter ewes or 2-tooths only. In regard to lambs, keep the drench interval to 28 days and if you haven't already done a 'knockout drench', now is the time to do so. A one-off lamb drench with a novel active such as Zolvix in autumn has been shown to slow the development of resistance on farm.

#### FECRT – resistance results

These have all been completed now and results are being collated. Some resistance has been diagnosed, in both a combination drench and to Moxidectin (the long acting drench used in ewes pre-lamb). Whilst this is concerning, we continue to remain in a much better state than our friends across the strait. There has been instances in the North Island where FECs in lambs increased after a drench with Matrix! During testing we have also diagnosed the presence of haemonchus (barbers pole) on farms in Northern Southland. This worm is a major problem in the North Island where it thrives in the warmer climate. It is responsible for significant production losses in stock due to its ability to suck blood, resulting in blood loss, anaemia and at times sudden death. Whilst it is too early to panic, this will be worth monitoring going forward and is an example of the effect global warming could have on us down here (consider also facial eczema and liver fluke amongst others).

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

### Pet Reminders

- Worm cats & dogs
- Duck dog W.O.F -call us to make an appointment.

### BIT OF A LAUGH

Farmer Evans was driving his John Deere tractor along the road with a trailer load of fertilizer. Tim a little boy of eight was playing in his yard when he saw the farmer and asked, 'What've you got in your trailer?' 'Manure,' Farmer Evans replied. 'What are you going to do with it?' asked Tim. 'Put it on my strawberries,' answered the farmer. Tim replied, 'You ought to come and eat with us, we put ice-cream on our strawberries.'



### MILK QUALITY REVIEW & DRY OFF

The end of the dairy season is fast approaching, final pregnancy scans are being booked in and drying off is just around the corner. **Have you booked your Milk Quality Review (MQR)?**

You'll have seen several of our articles now talking about BCS so some light cows are hopefully already being dried off. The main herd though, will require some extra thought and lots of planning.

**Who:** Decide early who will be involved in dry off and what their roles will be. Many hands make light work but too many helpers can lead to mistakes too! Never assume anything, be sure everyone knows what is expected, and are trained, capable and confident to do their jobs well. We can assist with staff training.

**What:** Which product? Whole herd or part herd? Antibiotic or combinations with a teat sealant? All of this will be discussed and decided on at your MQR using information from the seasons mastitis cases, BTSCC and herd test data.

**When:** Most aim to reach the end of May to dry off but we are all aware that Mother Nature influences the best of plans. Be prepared with your MQR and product in supply earlier so you can have some flexibility. In general dry off when producing between 5-10 L/cow/d (<5 L risks inhibitory grades next season, > 10 L may increase mastitis after drying off.) Never try to dry off all cows in one day, have several days available on the wall planner. Dry off should occur immediately after the cows last milking. But be sure dried cows are well marked and kept well away from the shed.

**How:** DCT is time consuming and expensive but pays for itself in benefits over winter and the following season, provided it is done well. You will receive a refresher at your MQR on correct techniques but do take the time early to train staff, and have a clear plan in advance of how the session will go. We are only too happy to assist with staff training, and supervising of administering DCT.

- Book your MQR in now
- Have staff trained in the procedure – hygiene is key
- Have all of your supplies ready – antibiotic, teat sealant, gloves, teat wipes/meths, teat spray
  - Clean the teats furthest from you first and the nearest teats last.
  - Treat in reverse order.
  - Insert only 3 mm into teat
  - Teat spray after treatment
  - Record and mark treated cows, especially noting WHP
- Restrict feed to dried cows, but increase roughage, **don't** withhold water.
- Check daily through the paddock and then through the shed no sooner than 7 days after drying off to look for new cases of mastitis.

#### Do not

- Don't soak tubes in water prior to use, this creates a soup of bacteria – consider hot water bottles if necessary
- Don't use old or dried teat wipes
- Don't treat blind quarters or blind quarters
- Don't bring cows back to the shed within 7 days

### DUCK DOG W.O.F

With duck shooting rapidly approaching it's time for the hunters among us to put some thought into their number one hunting companion.

To make sure your bestie is in tip top shape for the upcoming season why not bring them in for an annual warrant of fitness. It's a great time to check weight and discuss diet which is extremely important for our hunting dogs— premium food can help maintain energy and peak performance, not to mention help prevent unwanted injuries, obesity and arthritis. It is also a fantastic opportunity to talk over any issues they may be having, check vaccination and worming records, and just a great chance to keep on top of your dogs over all health.

Any dog booked in for a Duck Dog W.O.F in April will receive a full physical exam and a chance to go in the draw to win the price of their consult back so give us a call today to book your appointment.



### Sheep Reminders

- FEC ewe lambs
- Record mating data
- Check and change ram harnesses
- Foot conditions in rams
- Teasers out with hoggets 17 days before ram

### WORMING REMINDER

If your horse hasn't received a drench this calendar year it would be advisable to do so. While moving away from over drenching using egg counts (FEC) in clinic, and good pasture management (mucking out, cross grazing). We still recommend **drenching with a moxidectin and praziquantel combination in Autumn** to prevent encysted cyathostomes ('red worms') which are not seen in faecal egg counts as these can cause a lot of damage, particularly in young horses.