

## STAFF COMMENT

I apologise for the lateness of the vet times – entirely my fault for not finishing my end of the deal. A staff smoko shout may be required if I am to remain the favourite vet!

I was delighted to see that Fraggles is having a comeback on tele – I am certain this was sparked by our own 'Uncle Travelling Mike [Matt]' segment in our vet times. We are so woke! It was great to see Mike again during his brief visit for Becky and Caines much awaited wedding which was a splendid occasion.

You will see a few fresh faces around the clinics. The locals will know Shevaun Taberner who started her part time role in Te Anau as receptionist. In Riversdale we welcome another local lass Rachael Beaton as our technician/jack of all trades who will fill our seasonal role over the teat sealing and disbudding season, and India Glen, who hails from Whakatane, to fill the shoes of Ashley when she leaves us soon to become two people.

We have managed to avoid an influx of absences from covid with only a few clinic cases so far. Thanks to the team for digging in when we get a little light on the ground, and to our clients for your understanding and compliance, enabling us to keep the doors open.



This is a staff comment so I will not mention the weather, other than that it rained as writing this so hopefully the dry has moistened. All the best for April.

*Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS*

## SUMMER FOOTY

NSVets had a landslide win in their final game against the Rusty Cans, everyone is looking forward to next season.



## UNCLE TRAVELLING MIKE

From yesterday to tomorrow and back again  
Dear Nephew Gobo

It was great and strange to travel back to the future, without a Delorean, for Caine and Becky's wedding. The chance to see what you all look like in the future was great, although I can only say it was good that Shaun had not reached the bald-headed stage yet. Still, I hope, as I am sure you do, that his head is an egg and a brain will hatch at last. And that he avoids the fate of Aeschylus (look it up).

It was nice to see so many familiar faces and add a few new ones, the NSVets baby season was well under way. Unfortunately, didn't get a chance to meet them all, and not much chance to catch up with anyone. That is another problem with time travel, the threat of the wormhole in space-time closing, and you miss your aeroplane. As it was we had to go to Dunedin to have the holes in our noses probed, painfully, to make sure we were COVID free. We were. I was a bit surprised, to travel the first time I had to be free of syphilis and AIDS/HIV (I am), this time it was just COVID.

Getting back to yesterdayland was good too. It has been a busy couple of weeks, first in Rarotonga, then setting up for and going to, Aitutaki for a spey clinic. I was very lucky to have a couple of vets to take care of everything while I was away and help out at with the spey clinic and large animal calls in Aitutaki. The clinic there ran for a week and we got through a good number of animals. It is hard to concentrate on a cat's uterus when you have a view like this.



Our regular spey-neuter clinics will recommence in Rarotonga from the 6<sup>th</sup> of April, and we have a reliable stream of volunteer vets from mid-April

until the end of August. That will be nice.

### **Uncle Travelling Mike.**

PS – If you are interested in supporting the clinic out here, please consider a donation to our Sponsor a Spey programme.

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## SPONSOR A SPEY

To keep the dog population under control in Rarotonga the Te Are Manu Vet Clinic provide free dog desexing. Spaying and neutering prevents unwanted puppies being born into short lives of suffering. Te Are Manu relies on donations to provide this service.

FOR A \$50 DONATION YOU COULD BE MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIFE OF A PET IN NEED.

Te Are Manu  
Veterinary Clinic

SPONSOR A SPEY

\$50

For every \$50 donation you will receive a personalised certificate for the dog you gifted desexing to.

Please visit [www.tearemanu.com/donation](http://www.tearemanu.com/donation)

## CHOCOLATE POISONING

As irresistible as chocolate is, many of you will be aware that chocolate is toxic to dogs. An easy rule to go by is the darker the chocolate, the more toxic it is. This is because higher cocoa-content varieties have more **theobromine** – the undigestible caffeine derivative causing dogs to be sick. The high fat and sugar content can also cause some dogs to develop pancreatitis – inflammation of the pancreas.

### Clinical signs

- Hyperactivity
- Tremors/seizures
- Panting
- Racing heart rate
- Increased drinking/urination
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea

It is rare, however in severe cases death is possible. Please contact us immediately if your dog ingests any chocolate. If we can make them vomit soon after ingestion, then further absorption and side effects can be prevented.

With Easter just around the corner, please be mindful of chocolate accessibility and remind the kids why we don't share chocolate with our canine friends.

Laura Gardyne BVSc

## HEIFER MASTITIS AND TEAT SEAL

- Most heifer mastitis is found in the first few days after calving.
- Clinical mastitis in heifers increases the risk of light quarters, teat canal thickening, being empty, being culled and having clinical mastitis the next lactation.
- The main bacteria associated with heifer mastitis is *Strep uberis* known as an environmental mastitis as the bacteria are found in mud and faeces.
- Teat seal acts by 'plugging' the teat canal preventing bacteria entering the udder.
- Teat seal reduces *Strep. uberis* infection in heifers by 84 %.
- Teat seal is administered in heifers by the Vet team 4-12 weeks prior to the start of calving.
- As a general rule, it is well worth teatsealing heifers if heifer mastitis at calving is 15% or higher.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



## Cattle Reminders

- Pregnancy test
- Beef weaners—drench
- Review mastitis control— milk quality review consult to plan dry cow therapy
- Vaccinate for Salmonella
- Liver biopsy check for copper and selenium or check cull cow livers at works
- Lepto herd
- Drench cows at least 4 weeks pre dry off
- Dry off poorer condition cows and culls
- Lepto booster for calves vaccinated early

## BODY CONDITION SCORING DAIRY COWS

We have been busy Body Condition Scoring Dairy Cows recently.

It is not too late if you would like the same service, as all of our vets are accredited scorers. We can either score a selection in the paddock, or more ideally for this time of the year, individually score each cow through the shed and enter them on MINDA (or the Dairy NZ app) so that the data can be used along with age and pregnancy test information to tailor dry off decisions. Just call the clinic to arrange.

	Dry off cows BCS	Dry off 3 y o BCS
120 (By NOW)	3.0	3.5
90 (End of April)	3.5	4.0
60	4.0	4.5
<b>BUT Aim to dry off</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>5.5</b>
calving	5.0	5.5

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

**Don't forget to book your Milk Quality Review. Remember to have your herd test and treatment info on hand to make the process smoother. If time allows it is also an opportunity to go over your Animal Health/Wellness plans.**

## Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate foals for Salmonellosis, Tetanus & Strangles

## FELINE STOMATITIS

Stomatitis is generalised inflammation of the mouth and we see this condition in cats where the immune system makes an overzealous response to plaque found on the teeth. Cats often present not eating (this can be extremely painful) with red gums, drooling, bad breath, crying out when eating and not grooming. Sometimes the mouth is so painful we can only properly visualise the mouth when the animal is sedated or anaesthetised.

Cats can be predisposed to this condition if they are infected with FIV (feline AIDS virus) and so we recommend testing cats for this disease if they present with stomatitis.

Most animals will respond to medical management initially (steroids and antibiotics), but the most successful treatment is removal of most of the teeth, sometimes the canine teeth can be left behind. Cats do well on soft food and having their teeth extracted reduces the inflammation and pain significantly.

If your cat is showing any of the clinical signs mentioned above then please bring them in for a visit.



Rebecca Morley BVSc BSc

## WORMWATCH APRIL 2022

The regular rainfall has dried up and larval development is likely to be slower than we would typically expect at this time of year. However, the dews and misty mornings are enough to keep parasites ticking over and now is not the time to be complacent. When the rain finally arrives expect a larval boom and parasite challenge to be high. We can see significant production losses and even deaths, especially in young stock, if parasites are not adequately controlled at this time - utilise FECs if needed to aid decision making.

### ***Drench resistance update:***

FECRT results have been collated and almost all are showing some resistance to the single actives. Combination drenches remain OK on the majority of farms but some triple resistance has been identified through drench checks. Now is a good time to be collecting faeces for a drench check 10 days after an autumn drench.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

## **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

## **Pet Reminders**

- Worm cats and dogs
- Duck dog W.O.F

## HISSC MILK SAMPLES

New HiSCC testing service available at NSVets Riversdale. Here at Riversdale, we have a Mastatest machine where we can test your clinical and now also sub clinical mastitis cases. The new HiSCC test that is available can identify which bacteria is causing your subclinical mastitis, perfect if you have recently completed a herd test and you would like to know what bacteria is causing the high cell count. The Mastatest HiSCC test is extremely sensitive for Staph. aureus. Typically, what farmers are doing is bringing in milk samples from their top 10 or so high cell count cows and we can run these over the course of 1-2 days. The machine can test 8 cows every 24hrs, or 16 cows in 48h! Much faster (and cheaper) than sending them off to the lab. Each test can do 2 cows and the cost is \$21 +gst. Milk samples must be fresh milk and collected using the same hygienic method as for teat sealing. Samples can be left in the fridge for 2-3 days before bringing to the clinic. After testing, one of our Vets will give you a call to discuss the results and what some management options are for these cows. This information will also be useful for your Milk Quality Review. If you have been considering getting a Mastatest machine for your own shed, we can arrange installation.



Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

## LEPTOspirosis

Just a reminder that we are approaching a high risk period in Southland for leptospirosis. If you haven't already, arrange your herd's annual vaccination now. Also don't forget your heifers - wherever they may be - and your calves if necessary, to align them with your herd vaccination programme.



## **Deer Reminders**

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