NS VETS TOTAL VET CARE

April 2023

VetTIMES

Contents

STAFF COMMENT

So it seems after a long summer, we decided to skip autumn and head straight to winter, with snow on all the domes! While Te Anau restaurants battle with staffing, our Te Anau clinic staff remain pleasingly static. Sadly in Riversdale we farewelled Shaun Campbell after deciding to leave clinical practice. Shaun had the ability to lighten everyones day (except maybe Julia's) his antics and humour will be missed. He still lives in the area so never say never? For those of you that follow our Facebook page, you will have already seen introductions for Lochie, and as promised in our December edition, we welcomed Holly Gardyne from Canterbury in March. These two exceptional new grads from Massey are already impressing us with their skills and have slotted in very well.

Very soon we welcome back Ashley to reception following maternity leave, and you may have seen Julia Tayles in clinic too. Rachael Beaton has also rejoined the crew to help… well in all areas really, covering staff holiday leave and will be back on the teatseal trailer this season. It is so good to have returning crew members. But just when you thought it was safe to drink the water, the second wave of babies is on its way with Samantha, Shbourne, Julia (Tayles), Boy Sam('s wife) and Andrew all expecting before the year is up. Lucky there's still enough of us oldies to even things out.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

BIT OF A LAUGH

Rookie chicken farmers

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

EQUINE WORM MANAGEMENT

Horses ingest eggs and larvae from pasture. Inside the gut, larvae develop into adults, then new eggs are shed in the faeces to reinfect pasture. This restarts the lifecycle.

Worm Impact:

- Ill thrift (potbelly, coughing, diarrhoea, dull coat, tail rubbing, body condition loss, poor performance)
- Colic, intestinal damage or impaction/blockage

Purpose of Drenching:

- Manage parasite load to prevent a high burden resulting in disease
- Reduce pasture reinfection with eggs, by killing adults in the horse

FECs (faecal egg counts) help determine the worm burden for individual horses. Gather 3 fresh faecal balls into a ziplock bag or egg carton, labelling each horse's sample. Drop them to one of our clinics, they can be stored in the fridge for upto 5 days.

Adults

- FEC each horse 2-4x annually (drench if >200epg)
- Every horse should have at least 2 drenches annually, in spring and autumn

Foals

- Drench mare 2-3 weeks pre-foaling
- Avoid grazing foals on same paddock year after year
- Most foals will require at least 4 drenches up until 15 months old:
  1. Start drenching at 2-3 months old with a product containing benzimidazole (avoid products containing moxidectin)
  2. Drench again just prior to weaning
  3. Yearlings at their first spring (>4 months old can use products with moxidectin)
  4. Midway through first grazing season as a yearling
- Please check your foal's regime with a vet, as different foal rearing environments will affect the worming protocol

It is important to understand how we can reduce the parasitic load on pasture, so we can lower the necessity of drenching. As in sheep, parasite resistance to drenches in horses is on the rise. We can identify if you have resistant worms by performing a reduction test – please contact one of us if you are suspicious your drenches are becoming less effective.

- Remove faeces twice weekly
- Cross grazing with other species e.g. sheep and/or cattle (act as 'vacuums' to remove and not pass on some worm species)
- Avoid overstocking pasture
- Feed supplements off the ground (hay nets & buckets)

Laura Gardyne BVSc

LICE

Many will remember statutory annual lice dipping (from 1839 to 1994) and remnant of facilities are scattered around NZ. Over that period farmers were very good at working together to control lice. Some of the methods used for treatment would never be allowed today (like damming creeks) but were highly successful. Partly this was due to the chemical (where nothing could survive e.g., arsenic) but also treatment achieved **full** saturation.

Today, no longer compulsory, and without recognition for wool's value, lice control has wavered. The production loss via wool damage is fairly well known (yield quality and colour) as well as pelt damage (cockle) but is of lower relevance for some given the current market. The effect on other production though is less clear. The trials done showed NO EFFECT on lambing % or lamb growth, HOWEVER, these studies were done in the 80's and early 90's on Romney ewes with a very low lice burden, lambing around the 90% mark. One can assume that today's high-octane flocks may indeed show a production loss if lice infestation was to be higher. No more recent studies have been done.

Main transmission occurs in late summer/autumn when lice are on the tips of the fleece, not in the winter when they are cold and stay close to the skin. Part the wool to look for lice along the flank, withers, and brisket. Adults are all brown, juveniles are white with a brown head. This can be important when checking if treatment has worked as some products only kill the young stages, and not adults which then die of old age – this is usually around 2 months but can be 20 weeks!

Around 90% of lice can be removed by summer shearing, but only 50% if using a cover comb for winter shearing. Lice treatments are best used off shears (without shearing cuts). The oils on the wool in the 24 hours after shearing help to distribute the pour on products. Dipping and jetting must achieve saturation to work. Avoid the temptation to go too fast – in general a minimum of 2L of product must go on the animal, not the ground! Failure is more likely from technique, than chemical.

Review your lice plan now as it is not uncommon for lice to be identified in ewes with long wool close to lambing. Dipping then may be too much stress to the ewe, saturation is unlikely, and emergency long wool treatment will only reduce numbers, not eliminate lice so will require a follow up off shears. Remember too the lambs born to infected ewes **will** have lice within 24 hours and can also be a source of reinfection.

Also remember general principles, don't mix treated and untreated stock, quarantine treat bought in stock, maintain secure boundary fences, and continue to inspect for lice.

A note on cattle

Lice are precise – sheep lice only live on sheep; cow lice only live on cows.

In both, there are biting and sucking lice. Injectable drench products can kill sucking lice, but these may only 'aid in the control of' biting lice, so pour ons are better in this regard. However, pour on does not distribute far from where it is applied, so it really needs to go from the poll to the tail - not easy with many lower dose pour ons! Most products in general last only 5-7 weeks, so re-infection from other untreated cattle is a risk.

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.

WORMWATCH APRIL 2023

Well the rain has certainly arrived and there has been a significant drop in temperature as well. We are now well into the autumn parasite challenge and this is likely to be high following the recent rain after a dry summer. A triple combination oral drench should be the drench of choice for lambs during the autumn larval challenge, with intervals of 28 days most likely needed. Now is also the time to be doing a knockout drench if you haven't already – this can prolong the life of the drenches you currently use. Drench all remaining lambs with Zolvix or Startect to give them a good clean out.

Calves should also be getting regular drenches and for those of you using an oral combination this should also be at 28 day intervals. Combination drenches with a "mectin" should be used in calves during autumn to control lungworm *and* cooperia. Feel free to call us at the clinic to discuss if you have any questions.

FECRT results:

One of the properties we did a reduction test on this year showed resistance present to every drench except the triple. The results from these drenches ranged from 84% to 97% effective. All of you should be checking your drenches are working – take samples 10 days after you drench and bring them in for us to check this autumn.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate foals for Salmonellosis, Tetanus & Strangles

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

STAFF PET CORNER

Margo McFadzien

Margo came to live with us in February 2023, she is very quiet and timid puppy and was immediate hit with all of us, Margo's day consist of eating, chasing her toy duck, sleeping, chasing her toy duck, sleeping and more sleeping.

Here is a picture of her getting her vaccination last month, weighing in at 11.5kg and meeting Lachie for the first time. Margo has just been in for her final vaccination and is growing up fast, she has managed to gain 4.5 kg in 30days!

Now she is a bit older her day consist of eating, sleeping, socializing with farm dogs, and trying to be friends with the cats.

Hopefully Margo grows up to be our new Duck dog, so this week she has been learning to sit and stay while she is waiting for her food and eat on command. Most importantly Margo is learning not to snatch, and instead taking small treats gently to get a nice soft

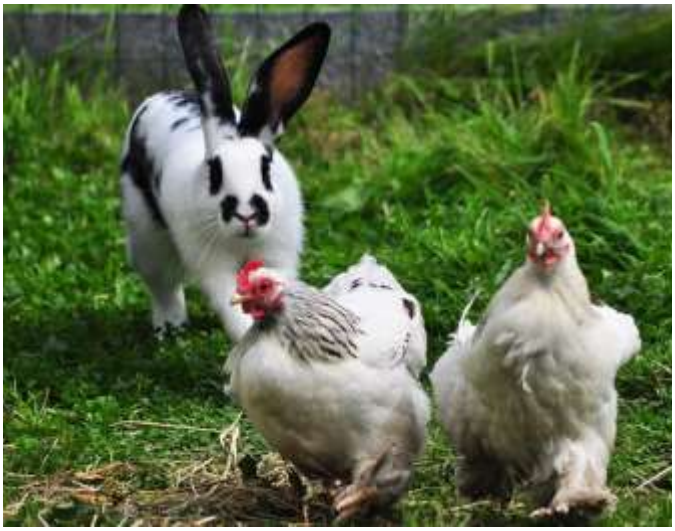
Some of you may have met Margo at the Lumsden Clinic she comes to work with me a couple of times a week and spends most of her time sleeping under the counter.

Jan McFadzien

Pet Reminders

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

BUMBLEFOOT



In time for easter, it is worth mentioning something that affects both bunnies and their egg-laying companions. Bumblefoot is something that affects a variety of animals – including rabbits, guinea pigs through to chickens and even penguins! It is an infection of the lower limbs and feet, but is due to multiple factors. Sedentery lifestyles, which may be due to obesity, cages or pain, lead to increased pressure on the skin on the back of the legs. This, combined with dirty hutches (a great place for bacteria to live) and rough surfaces mean that these sores often become infected. This causes substantial pain and discomfort, so if you suspect your animal has this it is worth bringing in. Treatment includes cleaning the wound, along with antibiotics and pain relief. Management at home is also of importance. Increasing cage size and laying solid flooring in cages are both effective at reducing pressure sores. Cleaning litter, as well as managing your animals weight also help to reduce risk of developing Bumblefoot.

WARNING

Label change on Penicillin products.
Intracillin 300 dose 6.7 ml per 100kg,
milk WHT 96 hours or 8 milkings (Meat is still 10 d)

Deer Reminders

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