

STAFF COMMENT

It certainly feels like Autumn, as I regather my woolly hat collection and start the prowling around the clinic for merino sock giveaways! Rams are nearly out; most cows have been scanned we have started our dairy 'dry off' consults and even had some early teat sealing.

Sadly, we say goodbye to Lochie who is avoiding FOMO (and winter) by joining his mates on their OE. Lochie joined us as an exceptional new grad, is a great vet and all-round good bugger. We do hope he will consider returning to our community in the future.

Soon we will also say farewell (temporarily) to vets Becky and Nuria, as they take parental leave next month. I look forward to introducing the new baby fight club members in the next edition.

Many will have met our new vet nurse Pippa who joined the team permanently after spending time with us through her nursing training. Pippa moved from Queenstown a few years ago and is keen on horses and the outdoors, It's great to have her onboard. We also welcome this season's tech, Melissa Currie. Melissa grew up on a sheep and beef farm near Mataura and has just finished her diploma in Vet Tech.

Melissa will be joined by Beatrice Freer before calf rearing on her own farm, and her AI season.

With very heavy hearts we acknowledge the passing of former head nurse Janece Collins on Valentine's Day. While Janece had left to pursue her dreams of owning her own dog grooming business, she was a valued team member for 16+ years. Our condolences go to Prudie, Ricky and Matt, and their families.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



LEPTOSPIROSIS IN A DOG

Earlier in the year we had our first case of clinical leptospirosis in a working dog. While the disease is seen in dogs in the North Island we had never diagnosed a clinical case in dogs at either our Riversdale or Te Anau clinics before. In fact, it is rarely diagnosed in the South Island.

The dog presented with lethargy, vomiting, diarrhoea and increased drinking. Blood work suggested acute renal failure with elevated liver enzymes. Testing at the lab confirmed leptospirosis. The dog was hospitalised and made a full recovery with intensive treatment. All other dogs on the farm were treated with antibiotics to eliminate any carrier animals.

Many people will be familiar with the disease leptospirosis, especially dairy farmers who routinely vaccinate stock against it. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection that can affect all mammals, including humans. Infected animals (and carrier animals) shed the bacteria in their urine and this acts as a source for other animals. There are 6 different serovars of leptospirosis in NZ, with Copenhageni being the most prevalent serovar in dogs (carried by rats). In this case, the serovar responsible was Pomona, which is carried by pigs.

The bacteria can survive in moist environments for many months, this is why flooding and stagnant water are considered risk factors. Incubation period is around 7 days. Clinical signs vary, from mild to severe and fatal. As mentioned before, people can get leptospirosis and it is a notifiable disease. Clinical signs in people range from fever, headaches, chills, muscle aches, vomiting, renal failure, meningitis, liver failure and eye signs.

This case is a good reminder that just because we don't commonly see a disease that it won't pop up from time to time. Also, that working and living in rural communities means we may be more likely to come into contact with zoonotic diseases (infections spread from animals to people) and we need to manage these risks. Early intervention is the key to a favourable outcome, if you have any concerns about your animal it is better to get them checked sooner rather than later.

Rebecca McIntyre BVSc

Deer Reminders

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

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Duck Dog W.O.F. NSVETS

Any dog booked in for a Duck Dog W.O.F. in April will receive a full physical exam. It is 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 dog's overall health.

BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A PRIZE PACK WORTH OVER \$400*.

*Prize pack may differ from picture. Terms and conditions apply.

BlackHawk **BRAVECTO**

UPDATE!! - Emergency Cover for Te Anau

NSVets is committed to providing our clients with after-hours emergency care. This is currently provided with the support of our Riversdale vets that travel to Te Anau in order to provide this service. However, due to continued veterinary staffing shortages we have made the difficult decision to cover Te Anau from our Riversdale clinic for two weekends each month, the remaining weekends will be covered as normal out of our Te Anau clinic.

Unfortunately, on the weekends that Riversdale provides cover, this will mean Te Anau clients will have to travel to Riversdale with their pet. Farm and equine emergencies will still be seen on your property, but you may experience a slight delay in the vet arriving on farm.

We understand this may cause some disruption, but we hope this will be minimal and thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE
NORTHERN SOUTH ISLAND'S VETS
Total Vet Care
TA - (03) 249 7039

Pet Reminders

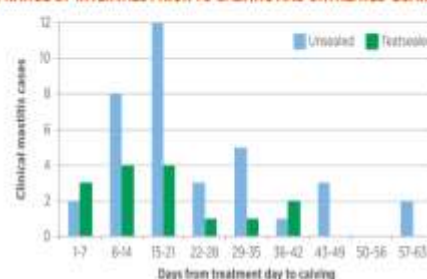
- Worm cats & dogs
- Duck dog W.O.F -call us to make an appointment

HEIFER TEAT SEALING

Had an issue with heifer mastitis last year? Want to save time and money not treating spring heifer mastitis this year? Have you considered teat sealing?

It's been shown that heifers have a higher risk of clinical mastitis in early lactation compared to older cows. This leaves them at an increased risk of having light quarters, teat canal thickening or being culled. The current incidence of heifer mastitis has exceeded over 25% on many New Zealand farms! As shown by the graph; Teatseal is proven to dramatically reduce the incidence of calving mastitis in heifers. It can reduce clinical mastitis in early lactation by 50% and it can reduce subclinical mastitis at calving by 65%.

COUNT OF CLINICAL MASTITIS CASES BEFORE 31ST OCTOBER IN QUARTERS TREATED WITH TEATSEAL AT A RANGE OF INTERVALS PRIOR TO CALVING AND UNTREATED QUARTERS



How much is heifer mastitis costing you?

We have a Heifer TeatSeal Cost Benefit Calculator which will work out the Return on Investment on your farm. This takes into account the incidence of heifer mastitis on your farm, the number of heifers to infuse with teat seal, mastitis treatment costs, teat seal infusion costs etc. If you would like to calculate your cost benefit ratio please get in touch with one of our vets today. However, as a general rule, if you have >8% heifer mastitis rate then there is a financial benefit to teatsealing.

When to teat seal?

Optimal time for teat seal to be administered is approximately 4 weeks prior to planned start of calving, to reduce clinical mastitis incidence around calving. Talk to our lovely reception team about booking your girls in today!

Kayla Burton BVSc



Cattle Reminders

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

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

FOOTROT AND SCALD

Recent warm wet conditions can be a trigger for lameness due to scald and subsequent footrot. Animals on longer or lush pastures, summer crops and stubble are particularly ones to watch.

Development:

- Continued exposure to moisture leads to maceration of the interdigital skin
- Invasion by bacteria (namely *F. necrophorum*) infection results in interdigital dermatitis often without any obvious lameness. Skin is moist and red, often with a purulent discharge
- **D.nodosus** combines with *F. necrophorum* to invade and destroy softer hoof material
- Extensive underrunning of the hoof wall and sole as infection extends up the walls of the hoof

Water Maceration

Ovine interdigital dermatitis

Early Footrot

Chronic Footrot

D. nodus can survive in sheep's feet for a long time (potentially years), but not in the ground (only 7 days).
—infected sheep feet are main source of infection (carrier animals).

Environmental conditions:

- Temperature (above 10 °C) and moisture are critical (risk greatest when grass is actively growing).
- Therefore spring and autumn tend to be the periods of greatest challenge
- Increased stocking density increases rate of spread
- Spontaneous cure is possible in dry conditions

Host susceptibility:

- Large variation both between and within breeds/flocks
- All ages susceptible, but susceptibility tends to increase with age
- Tolerance is heritable
- Sheep with healthy, dry feet will **not** get footrot

Treatment

Thankfully we don't see a lot of full-fledged footrot outbreaks. Key factors for successful management depend on facilities, and available labour and involves **keeping the clean mob clean** and isolated – this is the highest priority. As footrot is maintained in carrier animals, the only 100% effective eradication involves **culling**. **Paring** is very labourious and may only be feasible with smaller numbers. At times it can cause more harm than good, but can aid with

footbath treatments. **Topical aerosols** become costly across a big mob and efficacy is not great. **Footbaths** to be properly effective needs to be designed to hold animals for sufficient time for contact, with the animals ideally standing on a dry surface for 20-30mins following bathing (i.e. in woolshed). Formalin or Zinc sulphate are used for this. **Antibiotics** (e.g. Penicillin) can make rapid cure possible with minimal labour and when footbathing is not practical (e.g. lambing) BUT at a greater cost. **Zinc** Trials have shown that oral or injectable zinc is unlikely to provide any benefits in footrot control programmes in NZ. **Vaccination (Footvax®)** Is not 100% effective and gives short term protection depending on breed, but it can decrease the number and severity of sheep affected in an outbreak. It requires 2 doses initially 6wks apart followed by annual booster and has strict handling criteria. **Breeding for tolerance – This is the most important option for long term management of footrot.** Heritability estimates vary widely – 0.15 - 0.58. Contact us to speak to a vet if you wish to discuss your options more fully.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



WORMWATCH APRIL 2025

The autumn parasite challenge is well upon us and we can expect larval challenge to be high where lambs have been grazing over summer months. A triple combination oral drench should be the drench of choice for lambs during the autumn larval challenge, with FECs being used as a guide to drench intervals. 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 ensure the worms that have survived drenches over the summer period are cleaned out. Calves should also be getting regular drenches and this should remain as a combination drench with both a "mectin" to control lungworm and levamisole to control cooperia. Pour-on drenches should be a last resort, oral and injectable products are the preferred choice. Feel free to call us at the clinic to discuss if you have any questions.

Drench checks:

We continue to see drench checks coming into the clinic with worrying results. Make sure you are checking your drench works as Autumn is the most common time for us to see drench failure. Collect 10 faecal samples, 10 days after a drench and drop them into us – knowledge of your drench status is imperative to be able to effectively manage the parasites on your farm.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc