

STAFF COMMENT DECEMBER

Welcome to summer, well for the next few moments anyway. Ours kicked off with the staff Christmas party held this year at Real Country where we shot, threw and cracked our way through the afternoon, followed by a fabulous meal at Kingston hotel. It is always great to get the clan from all the clinics together for this. The Te Anau bunch enjoyed Lochie's rendition of the Pogues Fairytale of New York. Apparently the first one was better than the 10th!



We are thrilled to have Becky back from maternity leave this month, but with great sadness accepted that Sam Elder will not be returning next year, instead continuing on at home focusing on the farm and Madelyn (and Andy). There is still opportunity for contract work which is great to hear. We will welcome another vet after the new year, introductions to follow.

We all wish you the very best Christmas surrounded by good people, in this magnificent part of the world.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Holiday Hours 2023-2024

Monday 25 th December	
Tuesday 26 th December	
Wednesday 27 th December	
Thursday 28 th December	
Friday 29 th December	
Weekend 30-31 st January	
Monday 1 st January	
Tuesday 2 nd January	
Wednesday 3 rd January	
Thursday 4 th January	
Friday 5 th January	

Pet Reminders

- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding kennels
- Get pets Christmas presents
- Check for barley grass
- Keep them cool and hydrated over summer

GOOD COMPANY



Our Riversdale vet Lochie had some good work mates the other day in Mossburn.

Mother daughter team, Rosie and Sophie patiently waited for more pats while the people did some develvetting at Anderson's.

Also a reminder for velvet books – Please get supervisory signed by 15th December.

Contents

Pg 1:
- STAFF COMMENT
- GOOD COMPANY

Pg 2:
- CHRISTMAS BAUBLES
- JOKE
- WORMWATCH
- HORSE POULTICE

Pg 3:
- CANCER EYE & TRAVEL CERTS
- ERGOT POISONING

Guess who is coming to
NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE RIVERSDALE
Come and get your photos with Santa on December Thursday 21st
10am - 12.30pm
pets and kids welcome
Donations to St John
Free BBQ from 11.30am
Give us a call to book your spot on 03 202 5636



WORMWATCH DECEMBER 2023

It's been a mixed bag of weather throughout Spring, but as we enter summer and weaning season we can expect parasite burdens in young stock to be on the rise. Most of you will have started drenching lambs and dairy calves by now and if we continue to get regular rainfall it would be prudent to stick to a 28 drench interval. However, faecal egg counts can help guide this and are a useful tool to assist decision making around drench intervals (especially as our drenches become less effective). Weaning drenches for lambs are arguably the most important drench they receive and should be a triple combination drench. This will ensure they get a good clean out during a particularly stressful time. Make sure you consider refugia, especially if these drenched lambs end up on a "clean" paddock such as any recently cut hay/baleage paddocks.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT) and drench checks

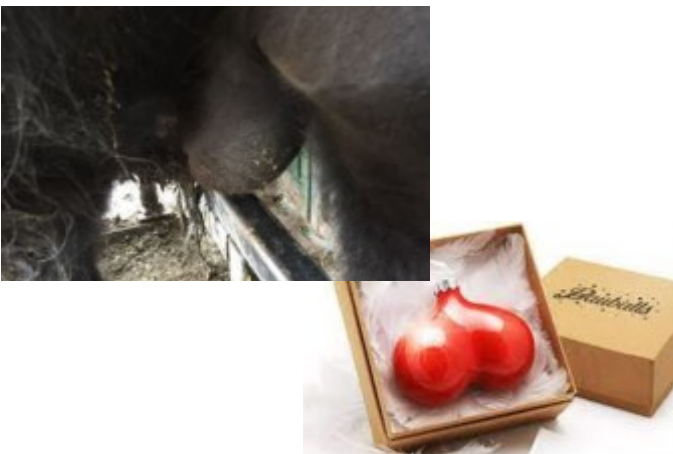
You need to know which drenches work on your property, you will not see resistance until it is much too late. If you are interested in finding out what drenches work on your farm, please get in contact ASAP.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

CHRISTMAS BAUBLES

It seems around this time every year we see a disease outbreak in yearling steers.... Cryptorchid castrations! This has been due to usually one but occasionally two truffles not being included in the package under the ring a year earlier. Either the adornment hasn't been checked for two baubles after the ring is on, or perhaps one has slipped back up, wagyu in particular seem to have slippery jewels. These can be a real pest. Not only do they still portray pesky bull traits, they are generally still fertile, a problem if running with heifers! Correction requires veterinary castration and can be a tad tricky as there is no longer a hanging purse to grab hold of, access and visibility can be an OSH hazard for the hand without the scalpel.

Hope you have a great xmas, and take time and care when castrating calves this year.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

APPLYING A POULTICE TO A HORSE'S FOOT

Applying a poultice to a horse's hoof is a great skill for all horse owners to have. They are generally used when you suspect the horse has an abscess deeply embedded in the foot, or when an already lanced abscess is draining copious amounts of discharge.

The internet is full of poultice 'recipes'. They can be applied hot or cold. Wet or dry. Medicated or unmedicated. You can use fabric, cotton wool, special bandages or even a baby's nappies! There really is no right or wrong answer. The purpose of any poultice is (1) to facilitate drainage of infection, and (2) to protect the hoof from the environment whilst it heals.

I personally like to use a product called AnimalIntex which can be cut to the shape of the horse's hoof. This is a special dressing that contains tragacanth and boric acid. When activated by water, tragacanth helps draw out infected wounds and the boric acid acts as an antiseptic. I dip the cut Animal Intex into a bowl of clean, warm water and then, after squeezing excess water from the bandage, fit it to the hoof as shown in the photo below. It is then a matter of making sure it fits securely to the horse's foot with bandaging. My go-to is (1) poultice, (2) layer of softban for padding, (3) layer of vet wrap for security and finally, (4) tensoplast for its sticking ability. You may also put an additional layer on, like duct tape, to help protect the bandage from the weather.



Poultices should never be on for more than 24 hours. Regular changes are necessary but generally, they are not required for any more than a few days.

Kate Taylor DVM

Deer Reminders

- Fawning
- De-velvetting

BIT OF A LAUGH

Scientists have developed a breed of transparent cattle. Unfortunately they're super aggressive.

Steer clear.



Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves—copper, selenium
- Dairy calves—worm control & boost clostridial & leptospirosis vaccination
- Bulls—watch for unsoundness
- Cows monitor SR and NRR

CANCER EYE AND TRAVEL CERTS

With the days getting longer and sunnier, many will be starting to pull out the sunscreen to protect them from the increased UV. Cattle unfortunately cannot do the same, leading to a commonly encountered problem, cancer eye.

Lack of pigment around the eye and on the third eyelid (commonly in Holstein/Friesians, Herefords and Simmentals) allows chronic sun exposure, leading to the development of cancer in these regions. Often these do not become blatantly obvious until they are of relative size, at which stage they may be too large to transport. Any cancer eyes that are either >2cm/bleeding or discharging/extending past the normal eye tissues cannot be transported. They then require either an eye enucleation or humane slaughter on farm. Any cancer which has spread to other regions is not worth removing, and therefore needs to be culled.

We are also seeing an increase in vet certs with people wanting to get animals off farm before summer. Vet certificates allow us to use our discretion for cases which fit into the “grey area” of transporting animals, but do not mean we can override the regulations!

Examples of animals we cannot vet cert:

- A dairy cow with a burst udder from mastitis
- A cattlebeast with a horn ingrown into its skin
- A bull who has been dehorned the day before slaughter
- A cow <BCS 3,
- Any wound which is bleeding or discharging, or may do so after transport

Often it is worthwhile getting us out to look through a few different animals which you may be suspicious of transporting. We may not be able to certify all or any of them, but it will give piece of mind rather than potentially getting a nasty phone call and hefty fine from MPI. We can also do our best to try and get the animal to a stage where it is transportable.

Lochie Chittock BVSc

Sheep Reminders

- FEC lambs - drench check test
- Flystrike prevention
- Wean lambs
- Consider leaving some lambs undrenched for FECRT this year
- Palpate ewes udders 2—4 weeks post weaning



ERGOT POISONING

In the Middle Ages, a new disease started to emerge in humans where toes and fingers began to lose feeling, turn cold and eventually die. Known as ‘holy fire’, there were small epidemics throughout the early 19th century. After some time, it was discovered that ergot was the cause and thankfully it is rare to see ergotism in humans today.

Since animal feed is much less regulated, ergotism can still be seen in the odd animal.

As grass completes its lifecycle and goes to seed, the fungus (*Claviceps purpurea* which means black clubhead) commonly known as Ergot may invade the plant. As the plant develops, the seeds are replaced by the fungus and can be identified as large, elongated, black ‘seeds’.

Ergot can be found in all manner of feeds such as standing grass, hay or grain feed. Once ingested, the toxins within the fungus cause constriction of blood vessels. This is especially seen in the extremities such as ears, feet and tail. Once blood flow is lost, these areas die, become gangrenous and eventually fall off. In less severe cases there may be lameness, poor production and weight loss. In pregnant animals, it can result in no udder development and cows may be dry after calving. Horses are particularly sensitive to ergot poisoning so care should be taken to only feed hay or roughage from good quality sources.

There is no treatment for ergotism so prompt attention to reducing exposure to the toxin is necessary. Regular checks of feed to ensure there is no fungus in it is important, especially if you’re grazing or feeding pasture that has gone to seed.



Holly Gardyne BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care

MERRY



CHRISTMAS

The team at NSVets would like to thank all of you for your support throughout the year and we wish you a very Merry Christmas.

Enjoy the holidays and have a productive and prosperous 2024.