

SITUATION COMMENT

2019 is here. Yay! As always, a new start causes reminiscence of the way things were in the good old days. Here is a brief summary of the lie of the land 19 years ago when Morgan and I (Mike) started working for NSVets. America had just elected its “worst president ever”, a man who had lost the popular vote by a record margin but still ended up in the Whitehouse. New Zealand had a popular, female, Labour, Prime Minister. Tracey was in Te Anau, Bev was in Mossburn, Anne was in Lumsden and Paul was in Riversdale. Funny how the more things change the more they stay the same.



Mike and Morgan Approx 19 years ago (some things change)

Commodity prices have been strong for most sectors, with prices in the deer industry leading the way. This is the case despite uncertainty in global financial markets, political instability and a complete mess in Brexit. Shame things aren't more settled. Rainfall, while slowing down through December, has been good, feed levels are great but quality is hard to maintain.

The Australian Cricket team have followed the outstanding example of the Wallabies and lulled everyone into a false sense of security in the lead up to the World Cup, hence the patriotic use of **Gold** sandpaper.

We are saying goodbye to Brittany Webb at the end of January, She is off to Scotland with her partner. We wish them both the best. Brittany's departure has opened the way for Shbourne to return and we are delighted to welcome her back.

Pet Reminders

- Check for barley grass - especially between toes, under arms and around ears.
- Worm & flea prevention and treatment

Cattle Reminders

- Calves worm treatment
- Remove bulls—beef
- Pregnancy test

STAFF PET CORNER

Garfield is a 5 month old ginger puss with lots of attitude. Garfield belongs to Ashley McDonald and he keeps busy during the day chasing and catching flies all around the house. In his spare time he likes to explore the outdoors, climb trees and chase his toy mice in preparation for his chance to catch a real one someday! When his humans are home Garfield likes climbing up their legs to “help” them cook tea, chasing them around the house, giving lots of cuddles and pretending not to like his canine brother Rocky!



WORMWATCH FEBRUARY 2019

Whilst things have dried up a little, there has still been reasonable levels of moisture to keep parasite larvae happy. Some FECs we have been doing in lambs have been reasonably high so keep drench intervals to 28 days to avoid production losses and further larval contamination.

Faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)

Those of you partaking in a faecal egg count reduction test, now is the time to collect 10 faecal samples from your undrenched lambs to test whether levels are high enough. Please bring these in ASAP after collecting them to keep our results accurate. If you have any questions, please give us a call at the clinic.

Horse Reminders

- Check teeth
- Hoof care

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COPPER TOXICITY

A case was presented at our last sheep and beef vet conference that highlighted the importance of correct trace element testing. It was a case of ill thrift and deaths in bull calves. While several things were going on, the calves - which arguably looked copper deficient - were suffering from copper poisoning. This was only detected on liver biopsies not on blood tests.



Prior to the vets visit the calves had been orally drenched, and given B12 / selenium injection and a 10 gram copper bullet. Blood samples were taken. Two calves were euthanised due to emaciation and were submitted for post mortem. Calves tested negative for BVD and internal parasites (although some previous parasite damage was present) but positive for Yersinia so treatment was initiated for that. **Blood** results showed normal/adequate selenium and B12, but **low copper**. **Liver** was also tested for copper with **extremely toxic** levels shown.

	Serum (blood) copper	Liver copper
Live 1	9	-
Post Mortem 1	7 (low)	41400 (V. High)
Post Mortem 2	7 (low)	27860 (V. High)
Normal reference range	8-20 Umol/L	95-3000 nmol/kg

After much investigation the source of copper was found to be a batch of meal given before weaning. (Luckily in this case some was still left in the calf shed feeders to test). Copper levels were 530 mg/kgDM. A calf requires around 10 mg of copper/kgDM/day. As they were eating several kgs of meal they were ingesting around 50 times their daily requirement. It is not known how the copper was so high in the feed but it was most likely a mixing error. If blood tests alone were used in this case, further copper may have been given. When investigating copper levels, **liver**

is always the sample of choice. It may also be worth testing bought in feed (or keeping a sample and recording batch dates) as accidents can happen.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

BARLEY GRASS

It is summer and barley grass season again, lately we have seen a lot of dogs with barley grass wounds and would like to remind you to check your pets regularly.

Barley grass sticks to our pet's fur and wiggle their way through the skin. They are capable of invading your dog's skin and into your dog's body through the feet, eyes, ears, nose, mouth and under arm. Seed heads can be fatal if they travel to the wrong place so treatment and prevention is very important.

Long haired animals are particularly at risk, especially Golden Retrievers, Spaniels, Labradoodles, rural or working dogs, particularly if they enjoy rooting through long grass or bush.

So what should you look for? Head-shaking, limping, constant licking and nibbling at an area (especially the feet). If you wish to lessen the chance of a barley grass seed "invasion" or indeed any foreign body, what should you do?

- Check your pet's coat daily
- Brush or comb them regularly
- Trim around the foot pads and feel between toes
- Check and carefully trim hair in and around ears and under arms

Prevention is the key to avoiding any unnecessary harm to your pet. If you are worried or suspect they may have barley grass, please give us a call.



Sheep Reminders

- Inject Toxovax
- Inject 1st dose campylobacter vaccine
- Inject Androvax
- Faecal egg count lambs
- Check & exercise rams
- Palpate rams
- Treat ewe lambs with B12
- Dipping
- Inject iodine at least 4 weeks pre-tup

Deer Reminders

- Sex and tag fawns
- Copper supplementation, pre-mating & weaners
- Weaners—Yersiniavax first injection
- Clostridial vaccination

NZ COMPANION ANIMAL REGISTER

Is your pet registered on the NZ companion animal register (NZCAR)?

This is a national database where you can register your pet for a one off payment of \$15 (there are no ongoing charges). More than 600,000 pets are registered on the database and it can be accessed 24/7 by more than 850 agents (including vet clinics, the SPCA, local authorities and shelters). During the summer months, as people go away on holiday, we see an influx of lost pets presenting to the clinic. There is nothing more frustrating than scanning their microchip, only to find that their number isn't on our system and they are not registered on the NZ companion animal register. Having your animals on the NZCAR means you are more likely to be reunited with them if they get lost.

As an added bonus, all profits from the database go into a trust to further animal welfare in NZ.

Once registered, it is also crucial to keep your contact details up to date, so if your animal is found we can return them to you as quickly as possible. We can add your pet to the database when we microchip them, or you can register them directly by going to... <https://www.animalregister.co.nz/>



BIT OF A LAUGH

A farmers young son was in class and his teacher asked him a question.

She said, 'If you have \$5 and you ask your dad for \$5, how much money would you have?'

He said 'Er..... \$5'

'You don't know Maths' she said 'No' he replied, 'You don't know my Dad.....'



CLINICAL IODINE DEFICIENCY DIAGNOSED ONCE AGAIN IN NORTHERN SOUTHLAND

In spring 2018, we diagnosed two more cases of clinical iodine deficiency. This presented as an increased incidence of still born lambs and weak lambs that died in the first few weeks of life. Both instances had lambs born with large swellings under the throat as seen in the picture below. One farm also noticed lambs that were born with less wool than normal. This was just the tip of the iceberg as numerous other lambs had subclinical deficiency (died without clinical signs). The overall consequence is poor lamb survival, but the good news is that we can prevent it from happening again.

Supplementing iodine throughout pregnancy can prevent deficiency and improve lamb survival. The easiest way to do this is giving a long acting injection before mating with a product such as Flexidine. This injection will provide iodine supplementation for 10 months and protect the new born lamb from conception to birth. Call the clinic to discuss with our vets or to place your order for mating this year.



Young lambs with severe clinical goitre.



Andrew Cochrane BVSc