

SITUATION COMMENT

The vets have been crazy busy the last 8 weeks, finishing up the last of the preg scanning and straight into teat sealing and dry cow. We in the office have only glimpsed them passing through.

Due to them never managing to be in clinic for more than a few minutes you are stuck with my ramblings for this months situation comment.

We have had the privilege of having a Locum Vet, Naomi Brand in Riversdale clinic with us since the 19th May till the 6th June, Naomi has been covering smallies during this time and has been amazing. We will be sad to see her go. Our next Riversdale Locum Katie Williams will be starting on July 7th. Te Anau clients may have also noticed a familiar face in their local clinic with Nigel Dougherty filling in for Jill while she is away.

Rebecca and Nuria have started their maternity leave and we have already had exciting news of another NSVets baby fight club member. Welcome Florence McIntyre and congratulations to Rebecca, Caine and Hazel. We are so happy for you all.

Winter training is coming up with the first seminar on Tuesday 17th June—see the next page for more details on this seminar, The rest of our seminars will be in July, keep an eye out for more info.

On a sadder note we acknowledge the passing of Graham Shearman. Graham was the first Vet employed by the Northern Southland Vet Club back in 1965 and worked out of a clinic consisting of only a double garage, we appreciate his contribution to NSVets and our thoughts are with his friends and family.

Here's to winter—tracks in the snow from boots, hooves, and paws alike, animals huddled close together, and wet weather gear covered in more mud than fabric.

May your homes stay warm, your water troughs unfrozen, and your critters stay out of trouble.

Hopefully a vet will be available by the end of July to write the August update (fingers crossed)—See you then.

Julie Black

Deer Reminders

- Pregnancy scanning
- Weaners—drench for lungworm
- Liver copper & selenium check dry hinds
- Drench stags

Pet Reminders

- Check diet for winter
- Check bedding warmth for winter
- Arthritis and senior wellness month—book your senior pets for their check up today.

ARTHRITIS

Arthritis is one of the more common conditions that we see at our clinic. It is caused by the gradual destruction of the protective cartilages within a joint, leading to pain and swelling. Although it is often associated with elderly animals, younger dogs can also have painful joints as a result of trauma or abnormal bone development (eg: hip dysplasia). Many of the working dogs that we see, develop signs of arthritis earlier simply due to their excessively active lifestyle.

Signs of an arthritic animal include:

- Slowing on walks
- Difficulty or reluctance to jump into the car or onto the bed
- Reduced use of cat scratch poles
- Limping or stiffness in a particular leg
- Licking at a joint

Fortunately for us, there are many products on the market for improving joint health and alleviating pain. Improving the joint health of your animal may be just as simple as changing their diet, adding a supplement to their current diet or for more extreme cases, giving a daily pain relief tablet or monthly injection. During June, NSVets are offering arthritis check-ups for only \$50. This is a great time for us to check over your animals in the lead up to the cooler months where symptoms often worsen. All associated xrays to investigate problem joints are also discounted to \$114.



Kate Taylor DVM, BSc-Hons

Horse Reminders

- Supplementary feed horses over winter
- Clip horses for hunting
- Lice treatment

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Mastitis AND Lunch Learn

Practical advice on how farmers can save money, produce more milk of higher quality and achieve milk premiums





- How to effectively minimise, monitor & manage mastitis
- Learn how thousands of NZ farmers have reduced antibiotic usage by >20% and improved their mastitis cure rates
- Using herd test data to reduce bulk milk somatic cell count
- Tips on how to manage Staph. aureus
- Insights from >100,000 New Zealand mastitis test results
- What's happening in the area with mastitis/local insights from mastitis data in your area

Riversdale
WHERE: Tuesday 17th June
11.30am—1.30pm
 followed by lunch
WHERE: Riversdale Hotel,
 74 Newcastle Street,
 Riversdale
WHO'S INVITED
 Dairy farm owners and managers interested in practical tips and tricks to improve their mastitis management and make more milk of higher quality

RSVP BY 16th June: email - rachael@agrihealth.co.nz
 or call/text 021821545
 NSVets Riversdale 03 2025636



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NSVets Riversdale 03 2025636

Evidence based vet medicines 0800 821 421 www.agrihealth.co.nz



Cattle Reminders

- Lice control
- Milking machine annual check
- Calf rearers (organise suitable housing and milk powder requirements)
- Rotavirus vaccination
- Salmonella vaccination
- In calf fertility focus review
- Preferentially feed light cows
- Teat seal heifers

WORMWATCH JUNE 2025

Winter is officially here, but it has been a much warmer autumn than last year and conditions as I write this are still very good. This has meant that larval challenge on pasture has remained high and we are still seeing high faecal egg counts coming through. It will continue to be worth monitoring for parasites until stock are settled on crop or a longer spell of cold winter weather slows parasite development. Resistance to drenches has continued to plague many farms this season, but the worst impacts of this were reduced by a favourable growing season and higher pasture covers. Management of parasites needs to be more than just reaching for the drench gun, planning for next season will begin soon so consider where summer/autumn crops could fit into your farming system.

If you would like advice around a more sustainable approach to parasite management and/or a review of your current practices give us a call at the clinic and we can sit down and work out how this might look for your property.

Andrew Cochrane BVSc

TRANSITION BACK TO MILK

You may have just finished 'turning off the milk tap' but already it is time to plan the transition toward turning it back on! While part of this is to prevent metabolic disease it is also about setting cows up to recover fast, cycle early and reach peak milk quickly. Transition effects the liver and rumen of the animal – and effects appetite, recovery post calving, milk yield and overall health. Here are some key points with advice from Agvance our mineral provider.

BCS targets should be met (5.0 cow 5.5 heifer and 3 year old) with no condition loss pre-calving.

Intakes – feed intake is a key indicator, cows should eat right up to calving, systems need to be set up to not limit intake e.g. smaller mob sizes, equal access, reduced competition and feed must be palatable. Cows should be eating or ruminating/resting, never just standing.

Energy 80-110% of maintenance depending on condition

Protein >14% but likely 16-18%

Effective fibre (ideally >45%) essential for rumen health, available ad lib to avoid hunger stress

Calcium, phosphorous in correct forms to avoid intake drops, higher SCC and poor energy metabolism. Most springer diets are below the requirement of calcium. Calcium supplementation post calving is critical.

DCAD aim <100 meq. to help mobilise calcium and phosphorus safely. Note that an unmodified spring diet could have values over 500meq. $DCAD = (Na + K) - (Cl + S)$

To help reduce DCAD we lower Na or K intakes (e.g. lush pasture) and increase Cl or S usually by adding anionic salts like mag sulphate or mag chloride. This causes acidification which lowers blood pH and stimulates release of calcium from bones. Do note however that over acidifying can increase metabolic risk too so there is a balance. Feeds generally low in DCAD include maize silage, whole crop silage, hay whereas lucerne is high in DCAD.

Further to this, reduced stress, minimised group changes, ad lib good water, ad lib fibre, shelter, and quiet handling are all important factors. Monitor visual sights such as BCS loss, eating activity, rumination minutes, faecal consistency, as well as lab tests such as NEFA (ketosis), liver enzymes, and Ca and Mg to assess your system. Note that transition length can be 14-28 days depending on feeds used so prepare early.

The aim is for no precalving metabolics, and <2% post calving.

Contact us for advice around transitioning and your mineral requirements.



Sheep Reminders

- Vaccinate 2 toothers—2nd vaccine of Salmonella Brandenburg
- Re-evaluate winter feed budget
- FEC ewe lambs
- Introduce winter feeding
- Condition score hoggets and ewes
- Vaccinate mixed aged ewes—Salmonella Brandenburg

POSTPONE HEAT

We have had a few enquiries lately about postponing heat in bitches. The main reason to do this is if the bitch is due to be on heat during a niggly time such as a working dog trial (not allowed to compete) or over a busy period like tailing. In the good old days, there were several options including tablets or injections which did work fairly well, however for whatever reason (likely cost to produce and low demand) these have been discontinued. Now the only fail-safe way to stop your girl coming into season is to have her speyed. Of course, this is permanent and there will be no chance of any pups, but also no chance of a uterine pyometra which is life threatening, and also a reduced risk of mammary tumors developing later in life. There is also the bonus of less dog fights in the boy gang!

There is one other option that is not licensed for use in females but has been trialed. It is an under-the-skin implant for chemical castration of male dogs 'Suprelorin'. In male dogs it takes 4-6 weeks to work and lasts at least 6 months (the recommended treatment interval) with fertility returning in most cases by 12 months after last treatment.

In females it would need to be given when the girl is in dioestrus (the approx. 2 months from right after heat when she is no longer receptive to the male) and repeated every 4.5 months. There are some issues though, if given in anoestrus it may trigger a heat within 2 weeks, and return to normal cycling was varied from 1-4 years, with probability of holding pregnancies unknown.

So in summary, if you don't intend to breed your bitch, your best option is to spey her. If you do, you have the somewhat questionable option of the male implant, but otherwise its back to the bitches box for Jess.



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS



BIT OF A LAUGH

Always wear underwear in public, especially when working under your vehicle. From the 'local' paper comes this story of a Brisbane couple who drove their car to the shopping mall, only to have their car break down in the car park. The man told his wife to carry on with shopping while he fixed the car.

The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of hairy legs protruding from under the chassis.

Unfortunately, although the man was in shorts, his lack of underpants turned his private parts into glaringly public ones. Unable to stand the embarrassment, She dutifully stepped forward and quickly put her hand up his shorts and tucked everything back into place.

On regaining her feet, she looked across the bonnet and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly watching.

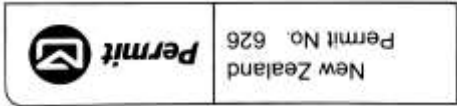
The R.A.C.Q. mechanic however, had to have three stitches in his forehead. —**Author unknown**



WINTER WOOLLIES SEMINAR

Riversdale Rugby Club
Wed 30th July 2025 - 3pm
 RSVP to julie@novets.co.nz
 Or 03 2025636 by 23/07/25

Mossburn Community Centre
Thurs 31st July 2025 - 3pm
 RSVP to julie@novets.co.nz
 Or 03 2025636 by 23/07/25



PO BOX 65 • Riversdale 9744 • Southland



June 2025

VetTIMES

WINTER TRAINING

Dairy Management Seminars 2025



- AgriHealth Mastitis Lunch and Learn
June 17th, 11.30am Riversdale Hotel
- Salmonella Talk With MSD
July 2nd, 10.30am Riversdale Rugby Club
- Critical Calf Care
July 16th, 10.30am Riversdale Clinic
- Spring First Aid
July 24th, 7.00pm Balfour Rugby Club



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