

HUNTERVILLE VETERINARY CLUB

NEWSLETTER—MAY 2015



BVD and Stock Purchases

If you are purchasing beef or dairy stock this autumn have you considered their likely BVD status. We constantly come across BVD problems in beef and dairy herds associated with the purchase of cows or heifers.

BVD is a very complex disease but essentially there are two major threat scenarios.

1. If your existing herd is free of BVD carriers and has had low exposure you risk purchasing a carrier animal and infecting your herd. This will result in abortions, weak calves that die at birth, carrier calves entering your herd and on-going fertility and growth rate problems.
2. If the cows / heifers you purchase have not been exposed to BVD and your herd is infected, the incoming animals are at risk of the problems mentioned above.

What should you do?

Talk to us about establishing the BVD status of your herd if you have not already done so.

Establish the BVD status of the animals you purchase either before you purchase if possible, or maintain them in isolation until you can get this done.



Sudden Deaths / Sick Lambs

In recent weeks we have received a number of calls from worried farmers about sudden deaths or a rapid deterioration in lamb condition. Investigations have revealed a number of the expected causes to be involved.

1. **WORMS**—Very high larval challenges following the rain in some cases have caught farmers out. Lambs have been knocked about by high worm burdens within 3 weeks of their last drench. Don't extend drench intervals without very close monitoring.
2. **PULPY KIDNEY**—This has caused deaths in lambs on crops or chicory / plantain swards. These lambs HAD NOT received a 5 in 1 vaccination. This problem can be solved by vaccinating lambs before they have access to high quality forages. (Vaccination of replacement ewe hoggets once an initial selection has been made is always advisable.)
3. **PNEUMONIA**—This disease can cause very rapid deaths in lambs as well as the 'shelly lamb' syndrome. Management and treatment has been discussed in previous newsletters (refer to our website www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz if you want to follow this up). Deaths can be very easily diagnosed by opening up the lambs chest and looking for lung lesions (consolidation, adhesions and pus!!).

Herd Lepto Vaccination

With drying off occurring, a late reminder to ensure your lepto programmes are being complied with.

REMEMBER

1. All cows to be carried through and milked next season need a booster (this includes cows you will milk over the winter).
2. Rising 2 year old replacement heifers require a booster pre-calving. While other autumn treatments are being carried out can be a good time to do this.
3. Rising 1 year old heifers need to have had 2 vaccinations. This should have occurred by now!!
4. Don't forget bulls that will run with cows or heifers. If you rear your own bulls ensure they are vaccinated and annual booster vaccinations are given.

After Hours Vet



Emergencies: Phone 06 322 8058

Shop Hours: 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Email: huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.huntervillevetclub.co.nz

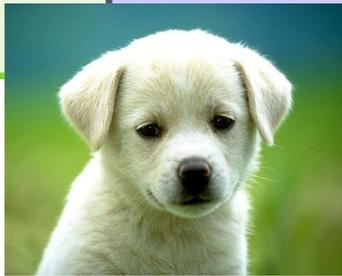
Theileria Update

A number of our vets recently attended an update seminar on Theileria. The major points to come out of this seminar were:

- Where large tick populations exist this disease will become endemic in herds. Some degree of immunity seems to develop and provided farmers learn to manage this disease and minimise stress levels in cattle, the disease can be lived with. (This is the case now in Northland, the Waikato and the Bay of Plenty.)
- The most severe disease problems occur when naive animals are introduced to infected herds / farms or farms become infected for the first time.
- The disease seems to be more severe in dairy cattle although beef calves are very susceptible to the disease.
- Where tick populations are low or sporadic the disease is likely to wax and wane in intensity. While Theileria is not prevalent in these types of areas, farmers should attempt to avoid introducing infected stock (obviously they would be most likely to come from areas where Theileria outbreaks have been seen).
- Once a tick population becomes exposed to Theileria the disease will spread rapidly between farms. Hares, deer, dogs, horses and sheep are all hosts for ticks and quite capable of giving ticks a lift to a new property several kilometres away.
- Treating ticks has limited use in preventing the disease but is helpful in preventing tick populations establishing in new areas. (This is important if you believe your property does not have ticks.)
- Ticks have now been found in areas where they had not been seen previously. (In our case ticks have been identified in Rangiwahia for instance.)
- Several cases of Theileria have been seen in the Manawatu / Wanganui areas. Most problems at this stage can be traced back to introduced animals carrying the disease. It is now very probable that the disease will spread through the region where tick populations exist.
- If you have weak, sick cattle for no apparent reason Theileria may now be a possibility and such animals may be well worth getting checked out.

Worming Pups

While vaccinating pups for parvo recently I was surprised to find that they had not been wormed regularly. It is very important that puppies receive regular worming every 2 weeks from birth until 10-12 weeks of age. They should then be wormed at 3 month intervals. Also remember to always worm your bitch 2 weeks before whelping as they will be a significant source of worms in her pups.



Lepto in Weaner Deer

We are currently dealing with a significant outbreak of leptospirosis in weaner deer. For those few deer farmers now out there this is a disease you should be thinking about.

Work out of Massey demonstrated that many deer herds are infected with lepto. This poses a threat to the deer and those who handle the deer. Massey also showed the lepto infections significantly reduced growth rates in weaner deer.

Vaccination programmes have a lot of merit for herds and farmers and are not very expensive (less than \$2 per animal). If you do not have a vaccination programme in place but want to discuss, this please call the clinic.

WELCOME

A big welcome to our new receptionist Aimee Brennan who many of you will have seen in reception learning the ropes in preparation for Anna's departure. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Aimee to our team.

Worming / Sheep Measles Programmes For Dogs and Cats

Just a few points to note about our worming programme.

- *One option is to receive Drontal Tablets only. This will mean that every three months you will receive Drontal tablets for your animals. This is primarily a dog worming programme with limited sheep measles covered.*
- *Another option is to get Droncit and Drontal tablets for your animals. With this option you will receive tablets every month—drontal tablets one month followed by 2 months of droncit tablets. This is the gold standard in protecting your property from sheep measles. If you have had sheep measles identified on your kill sheets or you are wanting to ensure you never do, this is the option to use.*
- *Use the dose rate of 1 tablet per 20kgs for the Droncit tablets. This is different to that written on the packet. The advertised 1 per 10kg rate is only used for Hydatids which are not a problem in our area.*
- *You will only get the correct amount of tablets for your animals if we have the correct number in our system. If you have any changes in your numbers of animals or animal weights or think you may be getting an incorrect number of tablets please let us know.*
- *Don't forget about your cats! We can also send you worming tablets for your cat.*
- *Another product that we can organise to come out to you in the mail is flea treatment.*

If you have any questions or need to get your mail out altered please give us a call.