

## MAKING ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT FADING EWES

As the pressures of winter hits, fading ewes can begin to appear in the ewe flock. After the autumn we have had, it will be very easy to pass these off as "the effects of facial eczema". This may not always be the case!

As most know, Johnes disease, chronic pleurisy, liver fluke, teeth problems and cancer can all cause ewes to fade away.

Where the number of fading ewes is greater than normal (if you know what is normal for your flock) doing a few post mortem examinations can be very worthwhile.

Identification of liver fluke problems can be addressed.

Where Johnes losses amount to more than 1.5% of the ewe flock, vaccination of 2-2ths can be very cost effective and other management strategies can be put in place to limit the spread of the disease.

Ewe deaths from the problems mentioned above can creep up on you. How often have you attempted to explain the deaths and missing numbers to the accountant!! Ensure you and your staff keep records of ewe deaths and causes so that problems can be identified and addressed.

**HVC**  
**JUNE 16**



## CALF REARING SEASON APPROACHES



## THE FUNERAL

A well known cardiologist passed away and was given an elaborate funeral. A large heart, covered in flowers, stood behind the casket during the service. Following the eulogy, the heart opened up and the casket rolled forward inside it. The beautiful heart then closed, sealing the doctor inside forever.

At that point, one of the mourners burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him he said, "I'm sorry, it just made me think of my own funeral...I'm a gynecologist."

The proctologist fainted.

For those of you rearing calves, hopefully calf sheds have already been cleaned out from last season and disinfected. If this has not happened, it needs to be done **ASAP**.

With current beef schedules and milk powder and meal prices, calf rearing numbers are likely to increase. As a result peelings, sawdust etc for calf rearing are likely to be in short supply. If you haven't sourced your supply, once again it needs to be ordered. Ensure what you source is dry or can be spread out and will dry sufficiently by the time the sheds need to used.

If calf scours have been an issue in your operation, rearing calves from cows that have been **vaccinated** for calf scours can be a great advantage.

For Dairy farmers, this means vaccinating part or all of their herd. For calf rearers talk to your calf suppliers. If you source calves direct from the dairy farm it makes sense to offer a premium for vaccinated calves (or offer to pay for the vaccine to be used in the herd).

Just remember it is no good vaccinating cows unless the calves receive good levels of the colostrum containing the antibodies against calf scours in the first few hours of life. This does not always happen on today's dairy farms. Many of the sick calves we attend to have problems directly related to poor colostrum intakes on day one of life.

## REMINDER

Get in early and book your conveyor dates for pre-lamb treatments. This should mean the conveyor is available on your preferred dates.

## AFTER HOURS VET

**Emergencies - 06 322 8058**

**Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm**  
Monday to Friday

**Email - [huntermvillevetclub@xtra.co.nz](mailto:huntermvillevetclub@xtra.co.nz)**

## WINTERS COMING

### Specials for June

#### Kaiwaka Clothing Deals -

Stormforce Jackets

**RRP \$398.00inc - Now \$350**

Stormforce Leggings

**RRP \$255.91inc - Now \$225**

Stormforce Bib Over Trousers

**RRP \$290.44inc - Now \$250**

#### Dog Food Deals -

Hills Puppy H/D 18.1kg

**Normal \$132 - Now \$115**

Eukanuba Work Endure 20kg

**Normal \$128.10 - Now \$112**

Eukanuba Puppy Large 18kg

**Normal \$128.47 - Now \$112**

Eukanuba Puppy Medium 19kg

**Normal \$136.20 - Now \$121**

## DOG MATTERS

With winter at our doorstep, cool conditions and cold kennels can affect the health of your dog team. Dogs with arthritis from working, injuries or just old age will be affected by the cold - just like their human owners! Joints, backs and hips can all tighten up and be stiff and sore, especially in the mornings. There are things you can do about this!

Firstly ensure kennels are warm and as free from drafts as possible. This won't just help arthritic problems, it also helps keep condition on your dogs as they use less energy keeping warm. Consider putting bedding in the kennels for added warmth.

Arthritic dogs can benefit from daily treatment with **anti-inflammatories** (similar to Voltaren) which will free joints up and slow deterioration of the joints. These drugs can be used for prolonged periods with minimal side effects. **Mobilise**, a product developed from velvet, green lipped mussels and other ingredients known to assist in joint health is another option for some dogs. **(Note however that human anti-inflammatories should never be used in dogs as these will cause liver and stomach problems).**

Dog jackets, not always practical for the whole team but will keep older dogs and "favourites" warm and comfortable overnight and are surprisingly well tolerated by the wearer.



## RAT BAIT POISONING

As the rats move in for the winter, the rat baits tend to go out and we expect to see the results when dogs or cats get access to these baits or the rats they kill.

We already have treated dogs for rat bait poisoning.

Ensure you place your baits where dogs can't get them and don't put too much bait out at one time as rats will just carry it off and store it. Consider nailing baits down to prevent this.

Dispose of any dead rats you find and handle with care. In this area rats carry leptospirosis and as we have reported previously leptospirosis in dogs has been associated with transferring from rats.

As a reminder the signs of rat bait poisoning are the result of blood loss which can occur anywhere in the dog. Possible symptoms include:

- Depression and loss of energy
- Coughing / Breathing difficulties
- Bloody or dark faeces
- Pale gums and mucus membranes
- Stiffness and sore joints

## TREATING FOR LICE

With winter shearing underway it is an excellent time to consider lice control.

All lice treatments work best on short wool lengths and some work best off shears. If treatment needs to be carried out 3-4 months after shearing, pour on options become limited and it is difficult to saturate sheep with jetting units.

Treating your sheep for lice while wool lengths are short, will not only give you the best results but is also the most cost effective option as less costly products and lower dose rates can be used. Treating woolly Ewes or Hoggets in August/September can cost 80 cents or more and lice kill rates can be compromised. As opposed to 40 cents for short wool lengths with excellent control of lice.

Contact the clinic to discuss options for products and prices.

## WISE ADVISE

My neighbour discovered that her dog could barely hear so she took it to the veterinarian. He found that the problem was hair in its ears so he shaved both ears and the dog could hear fine.

The vet then proceeded to tell the lady that if she wanted to keep this from recurring, she should go to the pharmacy and buy "Nair Hair Remover" and rub it in the dog's ears once a month.

The lady goes to the store and gets the 'Nair Hair Remover'.

At the counter the pharmacist tells her, "If you're going to use this under your arms, don't use deodorant for a few days."

The lady says, "I'm not using it under my arms."

The pharmacist says, "Well, if you're using it on your legs don't shave for a couple of days."

The lady says "Well, I'm not using it on my legs either. If you must know, I'm using it on my schnauzer."

The pharmacist said, "Stay off your bicycle for a week."