

MILK FEVER / GRASS STAGGERS

We often get questioned at this time of the year as to whether a beef cow is suffering from grass staggers or milk fever.

As a rule of thumb:

- Both conditions are more likely to occur in older cows especially cows with lots of milk.
- Milk fever cows tend to occur close to calving. Cows will appear weak and stagger for this reason (lack of calcium affects muscle strength) or they may be down and seem quite depressed.
- Grass stagger cows normally appear after calving for up to 6 weeks. They stagger because of nervous problems (lack of magnesium affects the nerves / brain). They can also be excited or wild / aggressive. Affected cows can die quite quickly especially when they are stressed or agitated.

Treatment:

For **milk fever** give 1 or 2 bags of Calpromag under the skin or slowly in the vein, plus oral calcium (Calol or Calstart etc) when they can swallow.

For **grass staggers** give one Calpromag 500ml and one Mag Sulphate 500ml under the skin. Cows can also be drenched with Moremag or given access to magnesium oxide powder on hay, silage or grass 50 or 100 gms / day or magnesium salt licks such as Danmix. If one cow is affected, others are also likely to be in danger, so ongoing supplementation for the cows is a good idea. Ring the clinic for further advice.

CALF SCOURS WITH BLOOD

While dehorning calves recently I noticed blood in the faeces of the 6 week old calves. The owner commented that the calves were not doing quite as well as expected but the bloody faeces had not been noted.

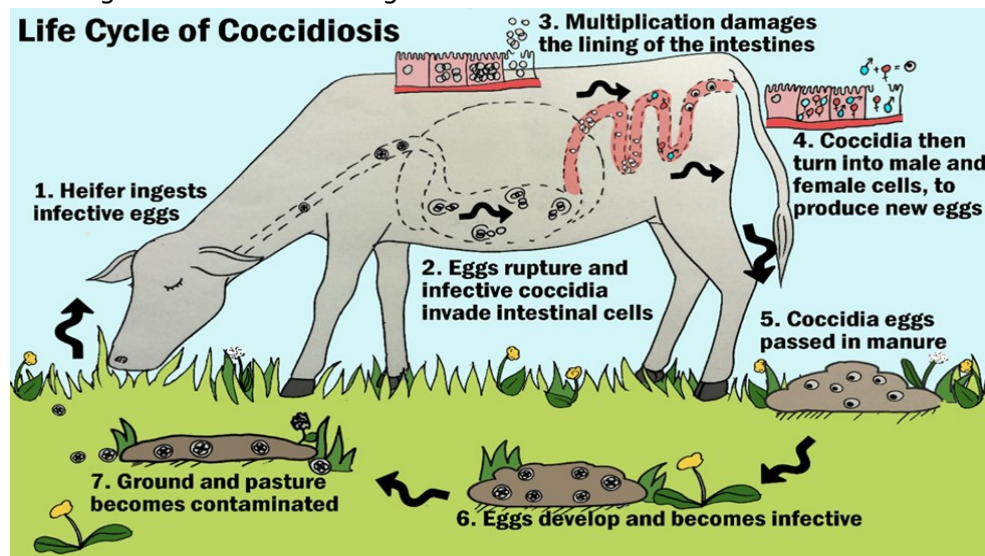
Blood in the faeces of calves from 6 weeks of age can be a sign of coccidiosis and is more likely to occur where calves are being hand reared in sheds and paddocks that have seen a lot of calf rearing over the years. A faecal test proved positive for a heavy burden of coccidiosis and drenching the calves with a coccidiostat (Toltrox) was recommended.

Most calf feeds contain a coccidiostat (rumensin or bovatec) which should control coccidiosis but does rely on calves eating enough meal to get a high enough dose. In my experience problems can be seen where calves are not eating 1kg of meal per day.

Problems can also occur when calves are weaned off meal and grazed in environments heavily contaminated with coccidia from past calves.

Coccidiosis will cause significant reduction in live weight gain and even death in some instances. Treatment when diagnosed is recommended and on some properties calves are routinely drenched with coccidiostat.

If rearing calves watch out for signs of blood in the faeces of older calves.



CIDRS AND NON CYCLING COWS

Just a reminder if you are giving consideration to using CIDRs and treating non cycling cows this year all the trial data shows early intervention will give a better economic result than waiting 'to see what happens' and then intervening when cows have still not cycled. CIDRs don't get more cows in calf, they get them in calf earlier!!

So if you are going to use CIDRs, cows should be tail painted by now and pre-mating heats should be being recorded. This will allow you to begin your CIDR programme to coincide with the start of mating.

We are happy to discuss the pros and cons of non cycling cow programmes with you but don't delay calling.

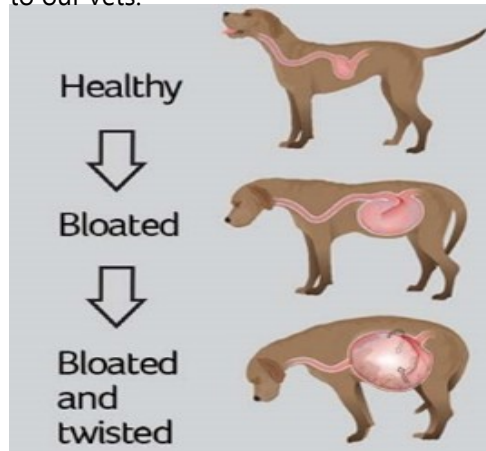


TWISTED STOMACHS & INSURANCE PAY-OUTS

As most of you are aware, twisted stomachs are a life threatening emergency and how early you can get your dog here for surgery is often the difference between life and death. It happens most commonly in large, deep chested dogs (i.e. huntaways) and they will be depressed with a large bloated stomach.

It is the most common cause of sudden death we see in huntaways; however, it is not usually covered by accidental death insurance policies as twisted stomachs are not considered an accident. It would pay to check your policies to see if there is a clause for twisted stomach and if not talk to your insurance company and get it added or change provider to someone who covers it.

We can do a preventative surgery to fix the dogs stomach to the body wall so it cannot twist. If you are interested, talk to our vets.



CHEQUES NO MORE

With banks moving away from cheques we are taking this opportunity to remind clients that we accept payment both by direct debit and direct credit. If either of these options are something you would like to explore further please give us a call and we can talk you through the options.

Likewise if you would like to get your account emailed to you rather than posted we can set that up at the same time.

VELVET AUDITS

Velveting is underway on many deer farms. Remember we need to get your supervisory visits done, ideally before we get too far into the season!! Also please ensure your facilities are clean and tidy and meet the game industry boards standards for velvet removal this season.



STAFF CHANGES

We would like to wish Anna all the best with her relocation to the South Island. Your smile will be missed by all of our small animal clients I am sure.

With that we would like to welcome Amy Caldwell to the position of Head Vet Nurse. Amy has a back ground in Vet Technology and has been working on our conveyor this season. She fits in really well to our team already!

Another face that some of you may recognise from the past is Renea Leary. Renea is filling in vet nursing while Jo is away having her ankle fixed. It is great to have Renea back in the mix.

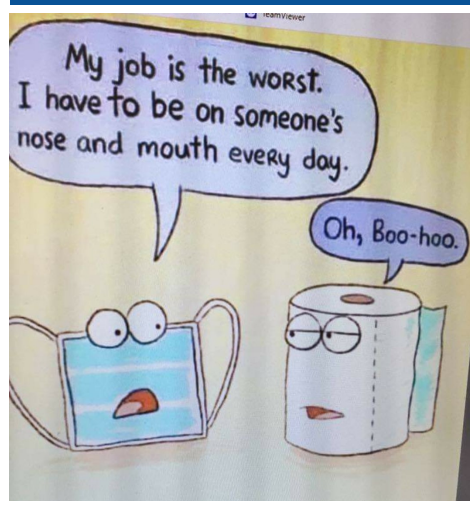
Save the date...

VET CLUB AGM

Thursday November 5

Rangatira Golf Club, 7.30pm

RSVP to the Vet Club by 30.10.20 for catering purposes



SHEEP MEASLES

This is the time of the year that dogs are most likely to scavenge dead ewes / lambs and pick up the tapeworms that will result in your dogs infecting new seasons lambs with sheep measles.

The best advice is to dose dogs every 4 weeks with Droncit through to December or until you are comfortable that your dogs are unlikely to come across dead ewes / lambs.

Also remember that other dogs entering your property are a risk. Ensure they have also been dosed appropriately within the last 4 weeks.



JUST A LAUGH!!!

Paddy and Mick are trying to estimate the height of a flag pole. A builder walks past and they explain their problem.

He says, "That's simple fellas, watch this". He unbolts it, lies it flat and measures it.

Paddy says to Mick, "Thick bugga! We want to know the height, not the blimmin' length!"

A little boy tells his teacher he has found a dead cat. "How did you know it was dead?", asked the teacher.

"Because I pissed in it's ear and it didn't move", says the boy.

"You did what?", shrieks the teacher.

"You know," the boy explains, "I leant over and went Psssst and it didn't move!"

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz