HVC YOUR CLUB

JUL 21

PREVENTING COCCIDIOSIS

Coccidiosis is a protozoal disease commonly encountered in calf rearing systems. Affected calves can have a black scour sometimes with blood in it and suffer from reduced growth rates. On occasions death can occur.

Problems with coccidiosis appear to be overlooked in some calf rearing operations. Last year while dehorning calves I diagnosed coccidiosis on 3 occasions where experienced operators were unaware they had a problem.

In many calf rearing systems the addition of a coccidiostat (rumensin or bovatec) to the calf meal is used to control coccidia. However the results can be somewhat hit and miss depending on how much meal is being fed and individual calf intakes.

Turbo Initial is a drench launched last season for young calves (less than 150kgs) which contains eprinomectin and levamizole for worm control and diclazuril for the control of coccidia. This is the first drench to combine these 3 drugs. It is convenient and safe and at $3 per 110kg calf, very cost effective. What's more, farmers using the product last season reported very good results following its use.

With calf rearing just around that corner, think about the use of **Turbo Initial** for your calf rearing operation.

INSOMNIA

Martin was having trouble sleeping so the doctor told him to try counting for as long as he can.

On his next visit the doctor enquired about his insomnia and asked him if he had tried counting. "Yes," relied Martin. "I got up to 45,374, then it was time to get up."

VET SCIENCE IN 2030– *'ONLY DEAD FISH GO WITH THE FLOW'*

I got to thinking the other day as to what veterinary science might look like in 10 years time if our great leaders plan for NZ comes to fruition.

Maybe something like this...

It looks as if we will have to drive EVs (possibly towing a trailer if utes still aren't available) but we won't need so many vets or vehicles as livestock numbers will have decreased significantly as each little twist of the political knife takes out another tranche of stock.

Every farm will need a charging station where we can charge up. If this is a problem just have a diesel / petrol generator on hand to drive the charging station. Actually it might pay to have 2 stations in case livestock agents or the bank manager shows up at the same time.

Don't panic though, we will only bill half rates while we sit waiting to charge and we will call ahead to let you know we might be 3 hours late on a busy day with more than one charge is required.

On commencing our job will begin with a karakia and maybe an apology for any mistake made on your farm in that last 50 years.

I haven't yet worked out who will decide what gender the animal will be which may make diagnosis and treatment a little more difficult.

The good news is we will have a whole new range of drugs available to use as they won't need any significant trial data or scientific evidence to back them up especially if they come with regeneration recommendations.

On completion of the job I will be able to drive home through a sea of pine forests and deserted houses (without the heater running or the headlights on) wondering what went wrong and how it all came to this.

RAM GENETICS & WORMS

The problems we have encountered with drench resistance, lamb deaths and productivity losses in the last 3 months highlights how much sheep farmers in particular rely on having effective drenches to ensure their livestock systems work. Unfortunately for many out there the drenches that have performed so well are now beginning to fail and this situation will continue to get worse. However implementing good strategies to slow this deterioration is possible. These strategies will involve:

- Changes in the policy of lamb sales
- Changes in sheep to cattle ratio from year to year and throughout the year
- Better nutrition for ewe flocks especially around lambing
- Utilisation of forage crops to minimise worm burdens and enhance lamb growth rates.
- Clever use of the new novel drenches Zolvix and Startect.
- Focussing on genetics.

When it comes to genetics some ram breeders have focussed a lot more than others on breeding rams that are resistant or resilient to worms. Has your ram breeder thrown the drench gun away when it comes to drenching adult sheep? Do they minimise drenching in their lambs and run them under grazing systems that result in them being challenged by worms allowing the animals that have the right genetics to be identified?

From my observations of Stud and Commercial farmers, there are sheep genetics out there that can handle worms significantly better than others while still being highly productive animals. If you haven't already, it is never too late to use these genetics. With drenches failing, having flocks that require nil or minimal drenching and lambs that require less drench inputs can only be good.

WORMING FOR SHEEP MEASLES

We use a tablet called Droncit for our sheep measles programme (Taenia Ovis).

Droncit only contains Praziquantel so is not an all wormer, it only kills the tape worm (does not kill round, hook or whipworm).

In New Zealand we can safely dose dogs at 1 tablet per 20kg. The packaging can sometimes state the dose is 1 per 10kg but this is for countries that are not yet hydatids free.

The lifecycle of a tapeworm is 35 days so you need to worm your dogs every month. The best programme for worming is a 3 month cycle – give a drontal all wormer then for the next two months they get a droncit, then back to an all wormer and over again.

Give us a call if you would like to go on our worming programme and be posted out your worming tablets each month, or if you think you need to amend your current prescription.

HOME BREW

The exhausted bush walker stumbled into a drover's hut high in the Southern Alps and was immediately welcomed by its lone inhabitant, a tough old mountain man. The visitor was offered food and invited to sit beside the log fire.

After the meal the old man pulled down an unlabelled bottle from the shelf and offered the visitor a drink. The bush-walker accepted but when he pulled the cork and sniffed the evil home brew he graciously declined and attempted to return the bottle. "Drink it," insisted the old timer.

When the lad declined again the old man reached for his rifle, cocked it and pointed it the lad's head. There was no other alternative but to take a swig of the vile firewater that kicked like a mule. When the bush walker gasped his way to recovery he handed the bottle back, and the old man handed him the rifle. "Now you hold the gun on me while I have a drink," said the old mountain man.

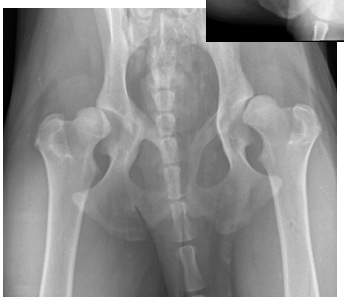
HIP DYSPLASIA

This disease is commonly seen in Huntaways, Labradors and Retrievers in NZ. Whilst hip dysplasia in dogs is predominantly a genetic condition, diet and excessive exercise can contribute to the severity of symptoms seen. Limiting the intake of calories in young, growing dogs and avoiding sustained activity are helpful in reducing the signs of hip dysplasia.

Signs you may see in a growing young dog are reduced activity/reluctance to jump up, swaying walk and also a bunny hopping type canter. These dogs may or may not be lame. The abnormalities seen are as a result of the ball of the hip joint sitting loosely in the socket and pain is caused by the cartilage hitting the edges of the socket.

If you are breeding dogs, it's a good idea to x-ray both the parents before breeding to see if there is any evidence of loose hips or arthritis present to assess for good breeding stock. If you are concerned about a young dog, we can assess them under sedation and take x-rays to look at the shape of the joint and any looseness.

Advanced hip arthritis



Loose hips in a young dog

IODINE & LAMB SURVIVAL

Low iodine in pregnant ewes have been associated with increased lamb losses at lambing.

Iodine is necessary for the production of Thyroxine in the thyroid gland. This hormone plays an important role in foetal development and low levels of Thyroxine from a lack of iodine can negatively affect foetal development and survival.

It is well recognised that grazing pregnant ewes on brassica crops can result in iodine deficiency in new born lambs and increased lamb losses. As we have recommended many times before, pregnant ewes grazing brassica crops should receive iodine supplementation.

What is less well recognised is the role of the ingestion of soil has in ruminants getting their iodine requirements. In the dry winters that we have experienced lately, less mud means less soil ingestion and so increased chance that iodine deficiency could develop. Unfortunately no simple blood test exists to predict deficiency. The best we can do is dissect and weigh thyroid glands in dead lambs which become bigger when deficiency occurs. Great for making a diagnosis in hindsight but no good for predicting what will happen next year.

If you experienced higher lamb losses than normal last year consider iodine as a possible issue & give the clinic a call.

NITRATE AND FAECAL EGG COUNTS

We have had an avalanche of clients wanting Nitrate Tests of Faecal Egg Counts done. While it is excellent to know that farmers are heeding our advice and doing these checks, dropping samples off on a Friday afternoon isn't the best time if you need a quick response!!

Please try to drop samples in at the start of the day, especially on Fridays. We endeavour to get Nitrate Tests done within a couple of hours of getting them, and Faecal Egg Counts within 24 hours.

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz