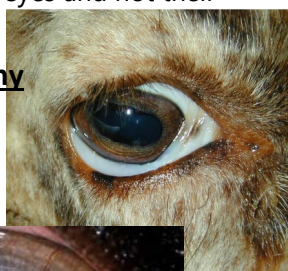


### PALE GUMS! X

A little bit late for this year now but once again many farmers have come looking for a barbers pole drench because their sheep have pale gums!! From my experience it is difficult to interpret barbers pole anaemia from looking at gums. The mucus membranes of the eye and eyelids are a much better indicator of anaemia. Where barbers pole is a problem these membranes will be very pale, as opposed to a nice pink colour in healthy lambs.

So, look at their eyes and not their gums!

#### Pale Unhealthy Membranes



#### Pink Healthy Membranes

### SECOND CAMPY SHOTS

I have fielded several calls in recent days from clients worried that they have got too late to give their second Campyvax shot. Unlike Toxovax, which should be given a minimum of 6 weeks before the ram or teaser goes out, Campyvax can be given right up to tugging or even after the ram is out. It is best to have the vaccination programme completed before 6 weeks of pregnancy so if you have got a bit behind with your vaccination programme don't panic, you should still have plenty of time!!!

### A GREAT AUTUMN???

The weather gods seem to be looking after us rather better than the rest of the country. Feed levels are now excellent. However as detailed in this newsletter, stock performance on some properties has been rather disappointing and a number of different reasons have been identified!!

It is a pity 'our great leaders' don't treat the agricultural sector as well as the weather gods! I read with interest the great farmer dialogue that has taken place over the waka eke noa. However when I question farmers as to whether they attended a meeting or webinar the answer is generally a unanimous no!! This is an unbelievable situation given the implications this proposal to 'save the planet' has for farmers but not surprising given the rush to push things through before another election and in the midst of Covid. Does anyone really believe that taking time to come up with a proposal that makes sense and is equitable for all farms is really going to make one iota of difference to the final outcome?

In its current form the proposals appear more acceptable to dairy farmers than sheep and beef farmers but aren't great for either.

At the end of the day we don't really appear to live in a democracy anymore, just look at Three Waters, Co-governance, and the proposed dual health system / justice system.

### POOR STOCK PERFORMANCE DESPITE NEW GRASS!!

In a season when many farmers have had more feed than normal there have been many reports of poor growth rates and stock performance affecting both sheep and cattle.

Where we have been involved in investigating problems a number of different issues have been identified.

When it comes to lambs, **drench failures due to resistance development** has been very common. At least 80% of properties on which the effectiveness of drenches has been looked at have identified issues with drench resistance. Drench resistance, left unidentified and unmanaged, can deteriorate rapidly from one year to the next. Once again we urge all farmers to investigate drench efficacy on their properties if they have not already done so.

**Selenium deficiency** has been identified in young cattle that were showing poor growth rates and ill thrift. In previous newsletters we have warned that selenium deficiency could be a bigger issue than normal due to very good grass growth.

Some of the affected stock were in very poor condition to the point that BVD was considered a possible cause. The good news is that treatment with selenium gives a very good response in short order.

We mentioned **Cobalt / Vit B12 deficiency** in January and February newsletters and as a result more cases of low vit B12 / cobalt have been identified from lamb liver samples collected at the works.

Investigations into poor weights in weaner cattle at weaning has revealed **low copper levels** in the weaners and cows. (The cows had been supplemented with copper pre-calving.) With weaning in full swing copper and selenium supplementation for weaners and cows should be carried out. If you are unsure about your property's requirements for these trace elements call us to organise liver testing from empty cows.



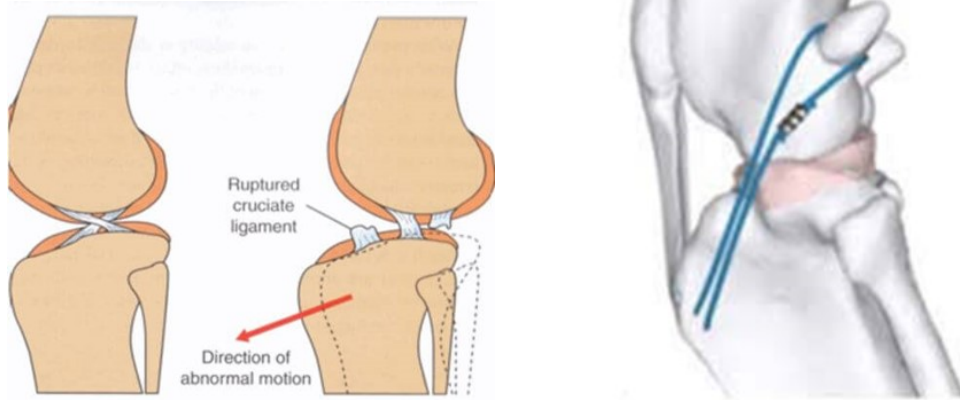
## STIFLE SURGERY IN DOGS

My dog has "stifled itself" are common words around here. But do you actually know the nature of the injury that has occurred and how we repair it?

Working dogs commonly rupture their cranial cruciate ligament causing an instability in the knee joint. Usually they do this when getting caught up in a fence or overextending their knee when stepping in a hollow while running.

Surgery is the best option for a working dog to ensure they can get back to work. We use a heavy suture on the outside of the joint rather than trying to repair the torn ligament. This suture is passed around a small bone behind the femur and then brought back through holes drilled in the tibia. This stabilises the knee in the correct position while the body produces enough scar tissue to eventually support itself.

Rehab and physio are extremely important with these dogs. Slow and controlled return to walking on a lead over 6-8 weeks is imperative. Dogs are strong and jumping about or running off the lead can cause our implant to loosen up ahead of time, sometimes resulting in a second surgery to re-stabilise the knee, and more expense!!!



## AVOIDING MILK FEVER ON TRUCKS AND AT THE WORKS

Dairy cows going down with milk fever either during transport or at the works is an area of concern for the dairy and meat industry. As well as the welfare issues involved there is a financial loss to the farmer as cows are normally shot and unprocessed.

Cows that have been dried off for 3 weeks or more are at a far lower risk of milk fever. However this is not always practical especially in a season like this one when there are issues with killing space.

Lactating cows fed the diets used today need calcium on a daily basis. Taking them off feed, yarding and trucking them over a 12-24 hour period is too long for them to go without calcium when they are still producing milk.

The solution to avoiding milk fever in these cows is to ensure calcium supplementation occurs prior to trucking.

The suggested programme for preparing cows for transport is:

- stand cows off pasture for 4-12 hours before transport.
- During the stand off period ensure cows have access to roughage / dry feed (hay or baleage).
- Supplement cows with calcium eg lime flour, at least 100gms per cow, and 60gms of magnesium on the roughage. Alternatively you could drench cows with a product such as Calol or Bovipearls.

## DODGED A BULLET!!

For much of February and March it looked as if facial eczema was going to be a real problem. Spore counts rose towards dangerous levels more than once, however heavy rainfall, plenty of wind and cooler temperatures saved our bacon. There have been clinical cases of eczema from low lying, sheltered areas, especially along the Rangitikei River but generally stock seem to have come through relatively unscathed. It will be interesting to see how tugging has gone. Counts of 40—60,000 were relatively common. While these type of counts won't result in clinical disease they can cause subclinical issues, especially in stock with little natural tolerance to FE.

## MAYBE NOT!!!

Since writing the above 6 days ago we have had warm days, heavy dews and some rain. Spore counts have risen rapidly again at many of the sites we monitor. The next couple of weeks could pose a real late eczema risk. Caution is urged.

## DRENCH GUN CHECKS

It is important to ensure you are correctly dosing your stock to help prevent drench resistance and ensure parasites are killed effectively. Regularly service drench guns and have more than one ready to use.

- Check your drench gun for leakages or backflow and replace valves and washers if necessary.
- Check drench gun nozzle for damage and rough edges.
- Calibrate drench guns to check they deliver the correct volume. Use drench not water for calibration.
- After drenching, rinse thoroughly.

**NOTE:** it pays to recalibrate your guns mid-drenching your mobs. This will help ensure that each animal is always getting the appropriate dose and that the gun is not wearing out.

## AFTER HOURS VET

**Emergencies - 06 322 8058**

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

Monday to Friday

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