

## SKINNY ASS DOGS

Got a dog that has been losing weight even though you haven't changed how much you are feeding it? There can be quite a few causes including poor quality food or too low a calorie intake for the amount of work they are doing, internal parasites, organ dysfunction or even sub-clinical infections.

If your dogs are wormed correctly for their weight (drontal every 3 months and droncit tablets in between) and you increase feed quantity and/or quality and they are still doing poorly or losing more weight, then they should be seen by a vet. We have had several dogs over the autumn and winter who have had pus accumulation in their chest cavities where the only sign has been weight loss and slowing down a bit. This can be fatal if not diagnosed and treated aggressively.

Checking a blood sample and a urine sample along with a physical exam of your dog can help uncover underlying causes of weight loss. Sometimes though, all it takes is feeding a highly digestible product with high protein and high fat content. Raw meat can be fed alongside a good quality, premixed diet but shouldn't be your dogs' sole source of energy as it can be lacking in certain vitamins and minerals and isn't as easy to digest.

Not every dog's metabolism works the same and some dogs require more energy input to hold weight while working. Also during periods of stress and illness a dogs nutritional requirements will be greater. We have a good range of high quality working and pet dog food in store and if we don't stock it, we can easily order it in for you.

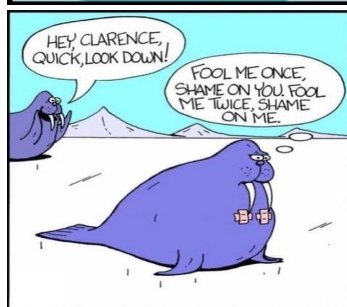
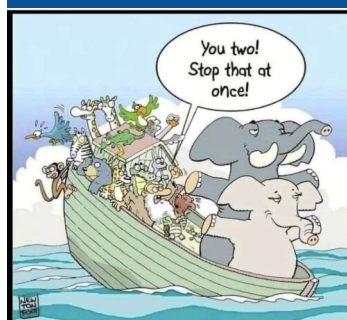
## A GOOD START TO SPRING!!

By all reports things are going pretty well on farms out there. To this point we have been incredibly lucky with the weather that most clients have had compared to much of the country. Although we needed it after the challenges of June and July!!

Grass growth rates in recent weeks have been among the highest I have observed for this time of the year so feed levels under lambing ewes and milking cows are generally pretty good.

So much of the success in a years farming comes down to what happens in the next 2-3 months. While a little luck helps, good management and planning are the real keys to success. It is easy to lose sight of this when things get busy, so take some time out to assess your situation and chew things over with your trusted advisors and teams.

It is difficult to have much control outside the farm gates but you can control and influence what happens within those gates.



## TIPS FOR IMPROVING MASTITIS CURE RATES

Feedback from clients this spring indicates mastitis problems have been a little bit better than usual on many farms. We are probably lucky continual rain and chronic wet conditions and mud have not been quite the problem in our patch that other parts of the country have seen. Here are a few tips to ensure you get the best possible outcomes when treating mastitis.

1. Ensure you clean teats and teat ends properly before inserting your antibiotic tube (the teat is not clean after removing cups). Trials have shown up to 11% of cows can get secondary mastitis after treatment from bugs you introduce and these bugs are often not controlled by the intra-mammary mastitis treatments.
2. As well as the teat being clean, ensure your hands / gloves are clean and don't contaminate the intra-mammary tube.
3. Only ever partially insert the nozzle of the antibiotic tube. Deep insertion can damage the teat lining and drag bacteria deeper into the teat.
4. Spray with clean teat spray immediately after treatment.
5. Make sure cows receive their full course of treatment.
6. As we often advise, take a milk sample and store before treatment. If your treatment appears to not be working the sample can be cultured to identify the bacteria involved and most appropriate treatment identified.

## IMPLANT TO TEMPORARILY STERILISE MALE DOGS

A new product called Suprelorin works to suppress testosterone for 6 months making your dog reversibly infertile. This could be good for teams of dogs with the majority being female, to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Talk to one of the vet team for options.



## VIT B12 AT DOCKING

In recent newsletters we have made several comments regarding finding low Vit B12 levels in sheep when tested. Low Vit B12 levels in young lambs can have a significant effect on lamb growth rates. This problem can be easily corrected by giving B12 to lambs as they are docked (about 8 cents per lamb). This practice is very common in areas where cobalt / B12 deficiency is known to occur.

While our soil types do not generally fall into this category, the low B12 levels we have encountered means we shouldn't discount low B12 levels in lambs being a problem in certain situations.

If you have hoggets or trading lambs going to the works, give consideration to getting liver tests done for B12 and possibly copper and selenium.

A recent Ballance publication made the point that cobalt levels in pasture can be lower than expected when pastures are growing rapidly. Modern grasses tend to also be lower in cobalt than Browntop!! So, if you have new spring grass growing more rapidly than normal, suboptimal cobalt / B12 levels could be an issue.

Contact the clinic if you have any questions.

## DEER FARMERS

If you have not already done so, don't forget to get your velvet tags organised for the season. This new programme began last season and appeared to work well. If you know the number of tags you are likely to require, please place your order.

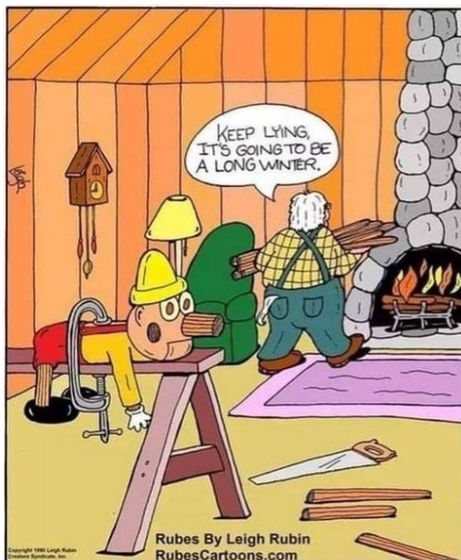
## MULTIMIN PREMATING

Multimin injection is now widely used to improve the health and immunity of calves on many farms. This product also has claims for use pre-mating to improve cycling and conception rates.

For dairy farms that have problems with cow submission rates and conception rates, Multimin pre-mating may be worth consideration.

NZ trial results have demonstrated that treating cows 4 weeks prior to mating lowered empty rates by 3%, halved pregnancy losses, and moved the average conception date forward 3 days (a claimed return on investment of 500%!).

Contact the clinic if you would like to discuss using Multimin in your herd.



## NEW MILK WITHHOLDING PERIODS. ALL DAIRY FARMERS PLEASE NOTE!!!

Drenches containing Abamectin have now been given a **35 day milk withholding period**. Topline is the Abamectin drench that we have sold for use on dairy cows.

Even if you have Topline with a nil milk withholding time on the label, **DO NOT** use it on lactating cows or cows / heifers close to calving.

If you wish to drench lactating cows there are drenches you can use such as Eprinex.

Contact the clinic to discuss your options.

## EARLY BLOAT

We have already had reports of bloat deaths. There is certainly good grass growth and plenty of clover in swards which are two of the essential components for bloat.

It pays to keep an eye out for the first signs of bloat at this time of the year. This will generally be cattle with bloating / puffiness on their left side. So when shifting or break feeding cattle, check them 1 to 2 hours after their shift.

Cold winds with or without rain can also cause cattle to empty out and get hungry causing them to bloat when the sun comes out and they resume grazing.

Bloat capsules are by far the most effective means of controlling bloat in cattle 250 kgs or more. With current cattle values, saving one will cover the cost of capsule treatment for up to 100 animals!!!

## NOT FEEDING PK??

If you are one of the dairy farmers who for one reason or another has cut back on the amount of PK fed to your stock, don't forget the effects this might have on the copper status of your animals.

PK is a very good source of copper and where it is fed, further copper supplementation is not normally required. However once it is removed from the diet, copper levels in stock can fall rapidly. In such situations an alternative source of copper supplementation may be required. Including copper checks in the blood tests often taken from cows once they have been in the herd for 4-6 weeks, should be considered.



## 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)**