

## LUMPY BOOBS!

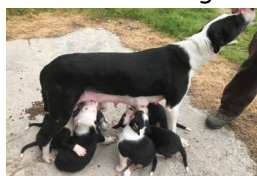
Have you noticed any lumps or bumps on your bitches' mammary glands? A lump could be a malignant cancer, especially a fast growing one. In dogs approximately 50% of mammary lumps will be malignant and spread to other organs.

In the vast majority of cases, we can surgically remove these masses; however the smaller the mass is, the easier and cheaper it is to do. Sometimes, if there are multiple masses in one chain of glands, we can remove the entire side. Breeding bitches can have 1-2 glands removed with masses and still be able to feed a moderate sized litter. In some cases it may be advisable to do chest x-rays before surgery to check for spread to the lungs.

Speying at a young age may prevent masses from ever forming, this is because mammary masses in dogs are under hormonal control. If we spey before a first heat this reduces the risk by 95%. If it is after a 2nd heat it lowers the risk by 80%. Speying your dog after its third heat will not reduce its chances of developing mammary cancer in later life.

We can spey your dog at the same time as mass removal and while it may not prevent recurrence of future masses, it has been shown to increase the lifespan of your bitch.

Check with one of our vets as to when would be the best time to spey a bitch not intended for breeding.



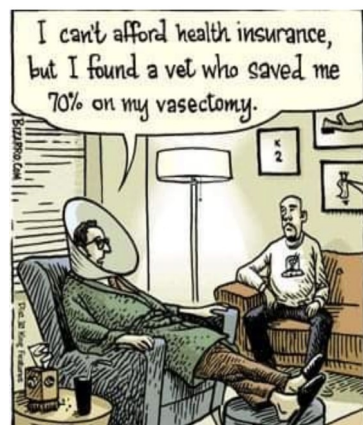
## GROWTH AT LAST

October proved to be a very difficult month. Wet, cool conditions certainly slowed grass growth and stock performance and has proved very challenging for those trying to get crops in!

Docking percentages generally seem to be in line with last years however many clients are a little concerned with lamb growth rates. In the last few days the grass has really started to grow, hopefully allowing some paddocks to be shut up for silage and ensuring stock are now well fed on high quality pastures.

It may turn out to be a season when early lambing is a good option. Reports are that works space is going to be very tight so it would pay to be talking to your agents now and working out space requirements and availability.

It looks like the whaka has taken on a lot of water and once again our elected advocates have been conned by 'our most transparent government ever' who listen to our views and then choose to ignore them completely.



How do you milk sheep?

Bring out a new iPhone and charge \$1000 for it.

## DOG FIELD DAY

We have been offered the opportunity to host a Lloyd Smith Field Day in late February 2023. It would be free for members to attend if there is enough people who are keen.

Please phone the clinic and register your interest by November 25.

## CALF DRENCHING

To ensure good growth rates it is important that hand reared calves are drenched on time and with an appropriate product. The frequency of drenching will very much be determined by the degree of the intensity of worm larval challenge that exists on the pastures being grazed.

Challenges are highest on pastures continually grazed by young cattle (especially where autumn born calves have also grazed) and lowest on areas predominantly grazed by sheep or older cattle.

As a rule of thumb weaners should normally be drenched at between 4 and 8 week interval through to the early winter.

Oral combination drenches are generally good for drenching young calves while they are easy to handle. It is important that the correct dose rates are used. Obviously under dosing won't kill worms but overdosing can lead to toxicity issues if drenches contain abamectin or levamisole. We have seen plenty of cases of toxicity in small calves and generally recommend these types of drench should not be used in calves under 150kgs.

Turbo Initial is an excellent drench with which to begin your programme. As well as containing safe drench actives it also contains Diclazural which controls coccidia, a frequent cause of poor growth rates or ill health in calves reared on areas that have seen a lot of previous calf rearing.

For those of you who have previously used Arrest for early drenching, this product is no longer available. Scanda is a similar product that can be used.

In general it is a good idea to use selenised drenches unless some other form of selenium supplementation is used. Once calves get too big to drench orally or the facilities aren't up to scratch, injectable or pour-on options such as Eclipse E, Boss pour-on and injection or Turbo injection are good options.

## BULL TEAMS ORGANISED???

From the end of November bulls will be replacing AI in our dairy herds. While most dairy farmers work hard at achieving good AI results, this is not always the case when it comes to bulls. Reports at this stage suggest that a difficult last 6 weeks with tight feed levels on many farms appears to be leading to less than optimal submission rates. This is likely to result in more cows still being empty when the bulls go out!! Meaning more bulls are needed.

As a rule of thumb one bull for every 25-30 cows still to get in calf is required. If you have had problems with bulls going lame etc you may require more!!!

Also remember to ensure bulls are:

- BVD free and vaccinated
- Lepto vaccinated
- Big enough to do the job
- In good but not excessive order and any likely copper or selenium issues have been sorted
- Settled with other bulls they will be working with

## DO YOU LAUGH OR CRY

\*\*\*The government spends \$400 million joining together the entities of Radio NZ and TV NZ with a combined value of \$350 million.

\*\*\*Kids fail to achieve reading and writing standards and think LGBTQIA is the alphabet.

\*\*\*You watch a 5 minute article on the National news describing the revival of the ancient practice of dealing with dead whales to release the spirits of the ancestors noting that it is done with chainsaws, butchers knives (suspiciously like ones from the freezing works) and involves the use of boats to tow the whale around.

\*\*\*The proposed answer to our roading woes is to cut the speed limit back to 80km/hr.

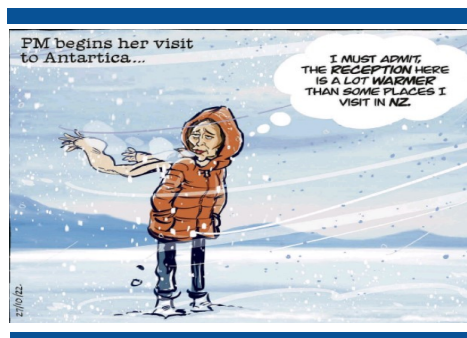
## DRENCH TESTING

There have been several reports and articles in recent farming publications as to the widespread nature of 'drench resistance'. Several clients have made enquiries as to how they go about carrying out a **drench test**. If you are considering checking the efficacy of drenches on your property, planning needs to start now.

The process will involve:

- Leaving 50 odd lambs undrenched at weaning. Then grazing these lambs in an area where they are likely to be challenged by worms.
- Getting faecal egg counts done on these lambs about every 14 days until we feel they are wormy enough to begin to test. (You need plenty of worms to improve the accuracy of the test.)
- We will come out and drench 10 to 15 lambs with each of the drenches to be tested.
- 10 days later faecal samples will be collected from each tested group and eggs counted to assess the reduction in egg counts.
- An estimation can then be made as to how well the various drenches have worked.

Our investigations last season suggest that some degree of emerging drench resistance is present on a high proportion of farms out there. In many cases while a problem has been identified through testing, farmers have not necessarily seen worm issues to suggest to them that they had any problems. The earlier a problem is identified, the greater the chance of slowing resistance development through good well thought out drenching programmes.



## ACCIDENTLY KNOTTED?

You turn your back for one minute...and wham bam thank you mam! What can you do about it? We have a very effective but very expensive product that will cause a bitch to abort unwanted puppies and works 95% of the time up to day 45 of pregnancy.

We can ultrasound scan your bitch from day 28 after knotting to see if she is in pup. If she is we can give her the injection which needs to be repeated 24 hours later. If you have a very valuable breeding bitch, it may be advisable to inject her earlier than 21 days to prevent any possible trauma to her uterus as placentas implant into the bitches uterus from day 21.

The approximate cost for injecting a 20kg heading dog is \$245 and a 30kg huntaway is \$350!!

If you aren't looking to breed your bitch in future, it is often cheaper to spey her in pup; this will also prevent future unwanted pregnancies. If speying, we can do it a minimum of 4 weeks after knotting but please try to bring your dog in as soon as possible after this date as late term speys are a lot harder on the bitch.

## THEILERIA SPREAD

We have now diagnosed a case of Theileria in beef cows on a Taihape clients farm. It is fair to say that Theileria could now turn up anywhere in our patch. While ticks may not be present in big numbers in many areas, it seems there are enough there to cause the odd case of Theileria.

Cattle suffering from Theileria will generally be depressed with reduced appetite and be very slow to move due to the severe anaemia they will be suffering from. Mucus membranes around the eye or vagina will be pale to yellow in colour.

## 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)