

SAMPLES FOR TESTING

With spore counts and nitrate tests on the rise again, we thought it would be a good idea to remind you of appropriate samples to get the best diagnostic value for your test.

Nitrate testing:

- Take 10 handfuls of crop or pasture that are representative of your entire paddock.
- Take all parts of the crop or pasture.
- Keep fresh, not wilted, and bring in ASAP.
- Fill a bread or shopping bag with your sample (we don't need a whole sack full).

Spore counts:

- Take samples from 5-6 areas that are representative of your entire paddock.
- Cut the pasture with scissors 1cm from the base.
- Fill a bread bag per paddock.

Faecal egg counts:

- Collect warm, soft, fresh poo and refrigerate ASAP (within an hour). Put in an airtight container or bag to prevent drying out if keeping overnight.
- Fill the whole egg cup of a carton with each sample.

We are getting a lot of samples currently and most take at least 30 minutes to run. Please try getting your samples in to us in the morning so we can process them on the same day. We cannot guarantee getting them done if they arrive at 4pm! If you haven't received a result by the next day please phone us as sometimes we can't get hold of you.

LEPTO IN DOGS

With the concerning cases of leptospirosis we have seen in lambs, you should be thinking about minimising spread to your dogs.

Dogs get infected when they come into contact with infected urine. Sources of infection include rats, cattle, deer and sheep. Signs include not eating, drinking a lot of water, lethargy and sometimes jaundice or pale gums. It can be fatal in some dogs and the treatment is IV fluids and antibiotics.

We usually see lepto more in the winter as it can last a long time in puddles or standing water, also rats tend to come inside during the winter so are more likely to urinate on dog food.

Prevention includes rat control and vaccination of stock and dogs. Vaccination requires an initial vaccination followed by a booster four weeks later, then annual re-vaccination. If you are incorporating it into your annual dog vaccinations, it is only an extra \$5. If you just require a lepto vaccination only, members price is \$15.

Remember lepto can also be passed to people through infected urine!



EARLY CASES OF SALMONELLA IN EWES

In late February we diagnosed three outbreaks of Salmonella in ewe flocks. In two of these cases the ewes were unvaccinated and the other involved old ewes that had not been vaccinated since they were two toothed.

As a general rule we tend to see more cases of salmonella in years when sheep are fat, and feed is plentiful. This is probably because there is plenty of moisture and the bacteria survive for much longer in a damp environment, meaning ewes have more of a chance to pick up an infection.

Experience from past outbreaks suggests that unvaccinated ewes should always be immediately vaccinated when an outbreak occurs. If vaccination is delayed the death rate & losses that occur would have exceeded the cost of vaccination.

Be on the lookout for unexplained, sudden death in ewes, especially unvaccinated ones, and get a post mortem examination done.

PS. When vaccinating ewes in the face of an outbreak, ensure this is done as smoothly and quickly as possible. Ideally bring ewes in the yards in cuts and get them away from the yards as rapidly as possible. Spreading the ewes out as much as is practically possible until deaths stop is also advised. Deaths should stop in 7 to 10 days.

DIARRHOEA IN PUPPIES

Diarrhoea is a common problem in our young four legged friends so it can be hard to tell when they need a vet visit.

The causes are varied, most commonly it is caused by a sudden change in diet (either by yourself or the pup eating something it shouldn't). If your pup hasn't had a regular de-worming schedule, this can also be a cause for diarrhoea. Stress is also a cause for loose poo's so having a change of environment could cause this to occur.

More concerning causes of diarrhoea (especially in pups less than 3 months of age) are parvo, campylobacter, coccidia, salmonella and E.coli. Make sure puppies have their first parvo vaccine by 8 weeks of age and a booster at 12 weeks. Pups can get sick from raw meat the same as we can.

In young puppies, diarrhoea can kill quickly if dehydration is occurring (the pup isn't replacing all the lost fluids via eating and drinking); especially if the pup is vomiting as well. Occasionally diarrhoea can have a few red streaks of fresh blood but if you are seeing any blood in quantities more than this they should be checked ASAP.

If you have any concerns, please phone and talk to a vet!

KNOCK OUT DRENCHES

As we head into March consideration should be given to using a **knock out drench** using either Zolvix or Startect in longer term trade lambs or ewe hogget replacements. The theory being that if drench resistance issues are present on a property, this drench will take out the worms that have survived exposure to the previous drenches used. Given the extremely widespread nature of drench resistance issues on farm out there now, a **knock out drench** should be a routine practice for most. However the actual timing of this drench will vary from farm to farm so talk to us for more specific advice.



PREGNANCY TESTING

A reminder if you want to age your beef cows into the cycles they got in calf in, this needs to be done early. Generally we recommend scanning 42 days after the bull was removed.

Please contact the clinic now to book appropriate dates which will be just around the corner for many of you!

LOW WORM COUNTS IN EWES

Many clients have carried out **Faecal Egg Counts** in their 2.2th and MA ewe flocks as part of their parasite control programs. In general, counts have been low. This is not surprising given how well we have been able to feed our ewes. Well fed stock are better able to deal with worm challenges. The amount of grass on farm has also diluted the number of infective larvae in every mouthful of grass.

Many clients are worried about Barbers Pole threats in young sheep. While we have seen some issues in lambs, when it comes to 2.2ths, very few problems have been diagnosed at this point.

SELENIUM DEFICIENCY

In past newsletters we have warned on the risk selenium deficiency poses to stock in years of high pasture growth. It is worth repeating this warning with tupping just underway or soon to occur.

Selenium deficiency can lead to poor conception rates in ewes. In the past, many ewes were drenched with a product containing selenium as a pre-tup drench & this solved any problems. With the move towards less drenching of ewes because of drench resistance issues this may no longer be the case.

You can simply, and cheaply, check the selenium status of your ewes by blood testing 4 or 5, and drenching ewes with selenium in water if a deficiency is discovered.

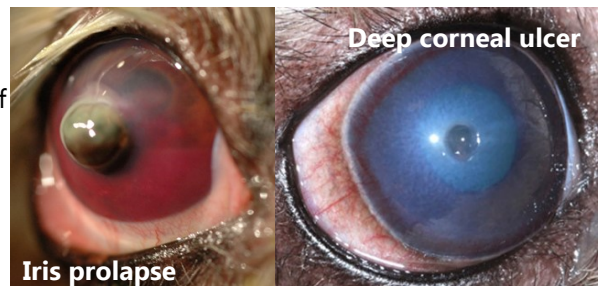
Selenium is also very important for the health of young cattle. Deficiency will have very negative effects on growth rates. Once again, a blood test can be used to diagnose a problem. Selovin LA is a very cost effective product for supplementing cattle with up to 12 months of selenium requirements.

EYE INJURIES IN DOGS AND CATS, WHEN TO WORRY...

We see all manner of eye injuries here and if there is one thing I can say...the sooner we see a sore eye, the better the outcome for your animal! Time is often of the essence and even 12 hours can make a difference between keeping a visual eye or not.

If there is anything that looks like a small crater, or anything sticking out of the surface of the cornea (the clear part), or the cornea is looking cloudy, these are very serious conditions and need to be seen ASAP.

Conjunctivitis causes an inflammation of the conjunctiva but no changes to the surface of the eye and isn't classed as an emergency. However, if your animal is squinting or holding the eye closed, it is better to be seen sooner.



**Happy 60th
birthday
Martin.**

**Enjoy the
fishing!!!!!!!!!!**

WOODY TONGUE , CHEEK OR EVEN SKIN!!

We seem to be treating a lot of these cases at present. Woody lesions are caused by a bacteria called *Actinobacillus lignieresii*. The bacteria enters through damage to the mouth or skin, leading to the development of hard, fibrous lesions that affect the animals ability to eat if the tongue is affected, leading to weight loss. Infected animals tend to slobber a lot and this slobber contains bacteria which can infect other herd mates with mouth damage. This is a problem where cattle feed from troughs, in-shed feeders, drink from small troughs, or have salt blocks. Early detection and treatment of cases is important in minimising the spread of the infection.

It is only a theory, but I believe the increase in cases we are currently seeing in dairy and beef herds could possibly be due to the major Californian Thistle problems on many properties. We should be able to claim Carbon Credits on these thistle forests!!!

AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz