

## NO CAPSULES

It is almost certain there will be none, or very minimal numbers, of drench capsules available this spring. This means the only form of long acting drench available will be long acting moxidectin injections (Exodus / Cydectin LA). On the majority of farms we have looked at there are issues with moxidectin resistance. Use of long acting moxidectin products is likely to further speed resistance development, so there needs to be some serious thinking done before these products are used.

Please contact the clinic to discuss your situation.

## RETHINKING SELENIUM

This part of NZ has soil types, which, unfortunately tend to be marginal for selenium. Up to now the use of selenised drenches and vaccines has generally kept significant selenium deficiency issues at bay.

However with the move toward less drenching of stock (especially ewes) and the use of new drenches that cannot have selenium added, selenium deficiency has resurfaced as a problem on many properties.

Selenium deficiency has been identified as an issue in many cases of ill-thrift and poor performance. We would encourage all farmers to review the selenium status of their stock and their supplementation programmes. Blood testing or liver tests will assess the selenium levels in stock and we are happy to work with you to develop selenium supplementation programmes that ensure selenium demands are met.

## WELCOME TO WINTER!!

The first of June has been and gone and as we head toward the shortest day we have had some great weather. With a bit of moisture and sunny days the grass has grown more than it did in early May.

For many, some moisture and good grass growth was certainly needed! Early scanning results are coming in and the trend seems to be a few less lambs on board than last year with ewes in lighter condition. See elsewhere in the newsletter for comments on managing ewe condition scores to optimise production this spring. The world remains an unstable sort of place and for sheep farmers in particular, there doesn't appear to be many bright lights on the horizon. All farmers need to continue to manage the things we can control and make sensible and timely decisions.

## FLEXOLT ORAL LICE TREATMENT FOR SHEEP

Some of you may have noted advertising for Flexolt, a completely new type of product for controlling lice on sheep. This product is used as an oral drench and is highly effective for any wool length and, being an oral treatment, is not affected by weather.

However at \$2.50 for a 60kg ewe dose, with current crossbred wool prices, Flexolt is aimed more at the fine wool market (where lice in longer wool lengths is a real problem). It may have a place for treating lousy long woolled crossbred sheep where most of the existing dips struggle to give good control.

Interestingly, this product comes out of a stable of chemicals that have been researched and developed for the small animal tick and flea markets around the world. I wish I was writing about a new worm treatment rather than a lice one!!



## TOO MANY LAMBS, TOO MANY WORMS!

A constant theme we have observed this autumn is of clients having too many lambs still on the farm. The results of this are poor lamb growth rates (which exacerbated the problem!), bigger worm challenges (made worse on many properties because of drench resistance issues), and general ill thrift in lambs.

My guess is that on many farms this problem relates back to what happened pre Christmas! Great weather over lambing resulted in very good lamb survival on many farms and very good lambing percentages. However, on many properties, multiple bearing ewes were under fed from lambing leading to poor weaning weights and light ewes.

With poor lamb values, rather than take a hit up front and sell lambs for 'not much', farmers attempted to retain lambs and grow them out. For many this has not worked well! Lambs are little worm factories and as the old cockies say, one sheep is another sheep's worst enemy. So getting good growth rates out of lambs and moving them off the property became a real struggle.

As we head into winter we need to be considering those factors that will assist in maximising weaning weights this year. At the end of the day, as many trials have demonstrated, it is all about ewe condition and feeding!! Sheep with a body condition score of less than 3 need attention now. Lambing at a body condition score of less than 3 will affect lamb survival and growth rates. Then it comes down to ewes being properly fed from lambing to ensure good lactation. Getting this part of the programme right also alleviates the need for drenching ewes pre lamb; something that should be avoided if possible to slow direct resistance development.

If you have not applied fertiliser in the last 12 months there may be negative impacts on pasture growth rates, meaning it will be even more difficult to feed ewes. Spring nitrogen application may still be a viable option for many, but feed budgets and planning needs to start now!!

## WHEN THE BODY ATTACKS ITSELF

Immune mediated haemolytic anaemia....a bit of a mouthful but something we see fairly commonly around here in farm and pet dogs.

This is a disease where the body thinks its own red blood cells are invaders and destroys them. 75% of the time this is a primary disease and we won't find a cause. 25% of the time it can be caused by something else such as infection, cancer, drug treatment and sometimes vaccinations.

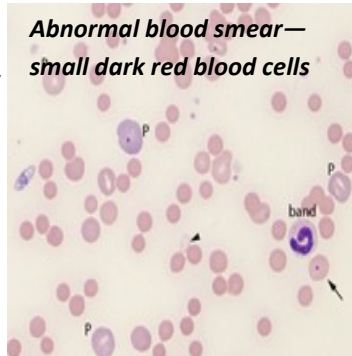
Signs we look out for are lethargy, depression, pale gums which are often yellow tinged, abdominal pain, fever, off food, orange urine and/or faeces.

Some dogs will be so anaemic, it is necessary to give them a blood transfusion to increase their red blood cell count and improve their clinical signs.

Treatment consists of immunosuppressives and anti-clotting medications, i.e. prednisone and low dose aspirin.

Early detection is best for a good outcome and the vast majority of dogs will go into remission and come off steroids after 2-4 months.

Diagnosis is fairly straight forward with a blood sample being examined here under the microscope and a follow up confirmation with the lab.



## MISSING TEETH

A man went to the dentist because he was missing some teeth. The dentist asks him, "How exactly did this happen?"

He replies, "My wife's bread is as hard as a rock!" The dentist says, "You could have said no to eating it."



The man replies, "I know, how do you think this happened?"

## CHANGING TREATMENTS

Many of our dairy farmers appear to have had dairy audits done recently. One issue that has been highlighted is that of changing intramammary drugs from one product to another when the first choice appears to not be working. According to the rules this should not be done without veterinary advice and a prescription. This is to avoid any possible problems with drug residue etc. If this is a practice that occurs on your farm, please talk to us to ensure you are covered off.

As an aside, it is always good to keep those drug cupboards and fridges orderly and tidy. It is amazing what someone with an agenda will manage to find!!

## DONATIONS

The value of the Rescue Helicopter cannot be underestimated.

In the last 12 months 4 members and a past employee of the club have called on the services of the Rescue Helicopter. This is a valuable service that communities like ours cannot afford to lose.

We are fortunate to be in the position to be supportive and provide donations to help keep this service alive!



Picture: Committee members Sam Horrocks and Sam Weston with the Rescue Helicopter after our donation.

## WINTER WELLNESS FOR YOUR WORKING DOGS

It's a good time to think about checking your dog kennels for draughts and leaks. Dogs hold weight a lot better when they aren't burning unnecessary calories trying to stay warm overnight. Dog jackets can be a good investment if your dog doesn't like having a bed in their kennel.

Kennel sores and fluid filled swellings over the elbows can be prevented by providing some kind of bedding for your dog.

Older, arthritic dogs also do better if they are kept warmer. Those stiff aching joints suffer a lot on frosty nights and mornings ...I'm sure a lot of our members can relate to this!

We can provide relief in the way of pharmaceutical drugs to help those stiff arthritic dogs too. Make an appointment with one of our vets to see what we can do to help.

This is also a good time to think about filling up your bait stations for rat control. Make sure your bait stations are well away from your dogs and the bait isn't able to be removed and dragged back to a rat nest as this is a good way for dogs to get hold of it and be poisoned.

Rats can spread leptospirosis to dogs so if they aren't vaccinated for lepto, now is a good time to think about getting them done. We do see a few cases a year around here and it can be fatal.



## 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)