

Interesting Case

A client recently had 3 new rams die a few weeks after purchase. A fourth ram was crook and was brought in for a post mortem examination. No apparent cause of death was obvious but the heart did appear larger than normal and dilated.

Lab work established that the rams heart muscle was damaged and weakened by huge numbers of sarcocyst parasites. The pathologist had never seen such numbers or damage to the heart.

Sarcocysts are a protozoa picked up by sheep from dogs faeces, much like sheep measles. The 2.2th rams had grazed the dog kennel paddock after purchase.

Dog dosing does not control this organism so it may be worthwhile considering what you graze the dog kennel paddock with!!

Spore Count Update

Continued dry with minimal rainfall has kept a lid on spore levels at the majority of sites we have tested. There are a few aberrations from sheltered warm sites where moisture from fog / dew hangs around causing high counts to develop.

Many farms out there have plenty of dead grass and litter that feeds the FE fungus and promotes spore proliferation. But moisture and warmth is also required. If the rain we are all looking for comes from the North in March and soil temperatures stay high, spore counts could rise quickly.

The best advice we can give is to monitor things closely over the next month, especially if we get rain, and have a plan.

Great To have Options

As I write this newsletter after a great run, it is getting dry out there and challenges are starting to arise when it comes to feeding stock.

Unusually though, the store markets for sheep and cattle remain very strong meaning it should be an easy decision to sell stock rather than stick ones head in the sand and hope it rains. At this time of the year, if you can't feed trading stock without penalising capital stock, they really need to go!! Think of the savings you will make on Zolvix, dipping and dagging those store lambs as well.

The upturn in values also means that autumn nitrogen will be a very viable option in terms of promoting grass growth and feed covers going into winter, something that has not necessarily been the case in the last 18 months.

On a more exciting and important note, who would have thought Foxton could become the next **Big Game** capital when it comes to fishing. Four marlin landed this season!! Global warming can't be all bad. If you are lucky enough to be a beach house owner at Foxton or Himatangi, prepare for the property boom!

Are You One Of The Lucky Ones??

We are now heading into Autumn and if you have not already taken on our advice to use 10 day post drenching faecal egg counts to check how well your drenches are working, it is time you did!!! Just because your lambs look okay does not mean your drench is working properly as several of our clients have discovered recently. The earlier you establish you have or haven't got a problem, the greater your options for combatting problems and extending the working life of drenches. Currently over 90% of 10 day drench checks show issues with emerging or serious drench resistance. Emerging drench resistance is the most serious threat to your sheep farming operation so stop procrastinating and get a 10 day drench test done!

Cull, Cull, Cull

With a lot of positive sentiment in the dairy industry there may be a temptation to hold onto a few more cows for next season, especially if replacement numbers are a little tight.

If you are considering retaining cows with any sort of dodgy mastitis / high cell count issues, the simple answer is don't, and certainly don't rely on dry cow therapy rendering them 'all good' for next season.

Cows with high cell counts at the end of the season, that have had clinical mastitis during the season, should remain on the cull list. If you feel compelled to retain some of these cows, at least get a milk culture done to identify what bacteria is involved before you give them a stay of execution and dry cow therapy.



Preparing Rams For Mating

We have completed our ram runs and rams have generally been in great order and ready to get out there. A couple of points worth making:

1. Rams need good selenium levels for sperm production. Giving rams 2mls of Selovin LA once a year can be a good way of ensuring this requirement is covered.
2. Many terminal sire rams have poor FE tolerance. If your rams could be at risk of a FE challenge prior to or over mating, giving them a zinc bolus treatment could be a good idea.

Snail Bait Poisoning

With people out and about in their gardens or beginning autumn cropping / regrassing programmes on farm and applying poisons for slug control, it is good to remind everyone about the dangers or accidental ingestion by dogs and sometimes cats. The baits are eaten even though they are reportedly unpalatable to dogs. Signs can occur very quickly after ingestion and can include vomiting, diarrhoea, drooling, rapid breathing and heart rate. This can progress to spasms, seizures and fever. There is no antidote but if we see an animal fast enough, we can induce vomiting and sometimes even wash out their stomach, reducing the amount of poison your animal has to process. Some aftereffects can be lifelong, and death is a possible outcome. It is always best to store poisons in a locked cupboard.



Sharpes Stock Feeds

This season we will be acting as an agent for Sharpes Stock Feeds. You can order as you have in previous years and Hunterville Vet Club will be an option on the app for accounting. We will also stock a limited range of calf feed in store.

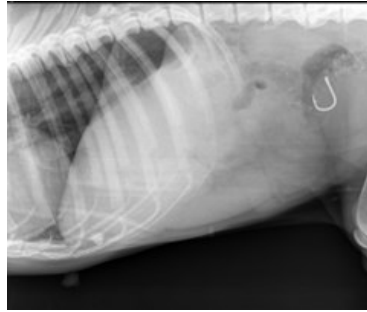
If you have any questions phone us and speak to Amber.

Onga Onga Deaths

We wrote about Onga Onga or Tree nettle last month causing severe signs in dogs and have now had a confirmed death of a dog and a cattle beast in the last 2 weeks. Please advise staff of areas where it grows on your property and what to look out for.

An Interesting Catch

Last week, we had a dog present that had swallowed a fish hook. We were going to perform surgery the following morning so we fed the dog a mixture of cotton balls and meat to wrap around the hook and protect the stomach overnight. Amazingly, the fish hook managed to leave the stomach and come out in the dogs poo! This saved an expensive surgery and the dog could go straight back to work.



Three Parrots

A man goes into a pet shop to buy a parrot. The shop owner points to three identical looking parrots on a perch and says: "The parrot on the left costs \$500." "Why does the parrot cost so much?" asks the man. The owner says, "Well, the parrot knows how to use a computer."

The man then asks about the next parrot and is told that this one costs \$1,000 because it can do everything the other parrot can do plus it knows how to use the computer programme. The increasingly startled man asks about the third parrot, to be told that it costs \$20,000. So he asks, "And what can this one do?"

To which the owner replies, "To be honest I have never seen it do a damn thing, but the other two call him 'Boss!'"



Client Records

We have recently been contacting clients to update their account details, workers and dogs. It is very easy for clients to change their mobile phone number, email address, cancel their landline, or change staff, and forget to let us know.

If you think this may apply to you and we have not spoken to you recently, please let us know ASAP.

Further to this, our preferred method of sending out accounts is to email them. If you are still receiving your account by post and would be happy to have it emailed to you we would appreciate you letting us know.

Our preferred method for account payment is by direct debit. This is a simple and easy method to set up. You fill in a short form and we do the rest. Your account will then get automatically paid on the 20th of the month saving you a job at that busy time of the month. Contact if you are interested.

House for Rent!

We have a 3 bedroom house available for rent in the centre of Hunterville, for some fantastic, reliable tenants.

If you know anyone or are interested please give the clinic a call and speak to Kerin.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

Email - huntervillevetclub@xtra.co.nz