



# HVC

## YOUR CLUB

# Nov 25

## AGM Reminder

As you will have seen via email and on Facebook, we are holding our AGM on Thursday November 13, 7.30pm at the Rangitira Golf Club.

This year our speaker is Dr David Edgar who should be very entertaining.

We would like to see you all there for supper, a drink and a chat. Please RSVP to the clinic ASAP for catering purposes.

## Fishy Story

A man calls home to his wife and says, "Darling, I have been asked to go fishing up in Northland with my boss and several of his friends. We'll be gone for a week. This is a good opportunity for me to get that promotion I've been wanting so could you please pack enough clothes for a week and set out my rod and tackle box. We're leaving from the office and I will swing by the house to pick my things up. Oh! Please pack my new blue silk pyjamas."

The wife thinks this sounds a bit fishy but being the good wife, she does exactly what her husband asked.

The following weekend he comes home a little tired but otherwise looking good. The wife welcomes him home and asks if he caught many fish? He says, "Yes! Lots of Snapper, some Blue cod, and a few Kingfish, but why didn't you pack my new blue silk pyjamas like I asked you to do?"

The wife replies, "I did, they're in your tackle box."



## A Great Place To Live

As I write this newsletter the Rangitikei has once again proven itself to be a great place to live. Along with missing most of the carnage that wind brought to the country recently we have had plenty of rain and feed covers on farms are lifting now (possibly a little late but better than not at all!).

The Hunterville Shemozzle has come and gone on a beautiful day with a huge crowd in attendance. Congratulations to James Kilmister and his team for once again staging a fantastic event. After our run in with the council the shed we built to replace the marquee was deemed 'safe' and I am happy to report that no one died or was injured in it during the event!

We received a lot of favourable comments about the shed and questions about what we will do with it for the rest of the year. The closed in bay will be used for storage and the open part is available for any community or private activity where some shelter is required. (Probably not for boat storage as many suggested!)

Finally, congratulations to Hamish Cavanagh and his team of volunteers for what they have achieved with the Argyle Hotel.

Not only is it a great facility for our town, most of NZ now knows where Hunterville is and Hamish's face is right up there along with Prince Andrew's in the recognition stakes.

## Parasite Problem

We are seeing some big variances in worm challenges in ewe flocks and new seasons lambs across the district. Where ewes have been well fed and remain in good condition worm counts are generally low in the ewes and early born lambs that we have tested.

Unfortunately we have encountered very high egg counts in ewes that have had a challenging spring (a nice way of saying underfed!) and in some of the lambs from these ewes.

November is the month in which pre-weaning lamb drenching ramps up and we get a lot of questions about pre-weaning lamb drenching. While there is no definitive answers we would suggest that:

- ◆ If your ewes are in less than optimal condition and not milking well with 'average to poor' lambs, drenching pre-weaning is a good idea, ideally around 1 month prior to weaning.
- ◆ Faecal egg counting lambs is a good idea if you're not sure. We have seen some very high egg counts in lambs as stated above.
- ◆ Lamb growth rates pre-weaning are a key factor in the profitability of sheep farming systems. Not drenching can cause reduced growth rates in lambs up to weaning.
- ◆ Un-drenched lambs with high faecal egg counts will lead to increased pasture contamination and greater worm challenges post weaning.
- ◆ It is important if pre-weaning drenching, that the drench is working well!!!

## Early Weaning

If your ewes fall into the under-fed / light category with 'average' lambs on them early weaning may be a great plan to consider.

Early weaning, especially where lambs can be weaned onto high quality pasture and crops, allows lamb growth to be maximised by removing ewe competition.

Light ewes can be given attention earlier than might otherwise have been the case. It is easier to put condition back on ewes in December / January than February / March.

If feed is really tight, ewes can be dispatched to the works / saleyards earlier.

Research by Massey demonstrated that 20kg plus lambs can be successfully weaned when well managed on good quality feed.

## Twisted Stomachs In Dogs

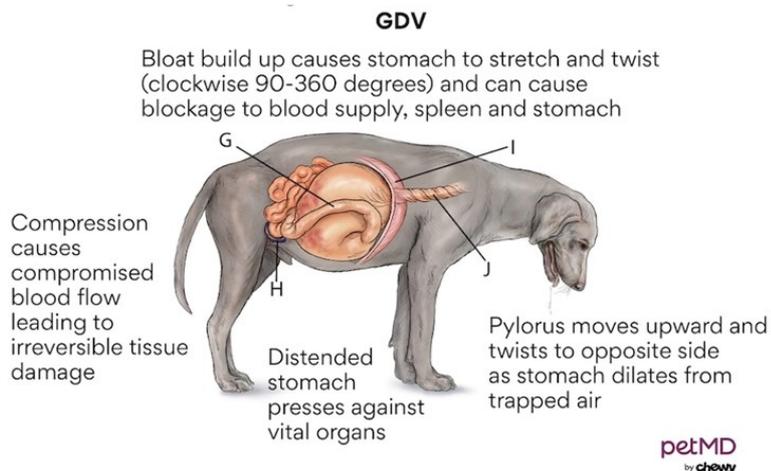
Gastric dilatation and volvulus (or twisted stomach/GDV) is something we consider a true surgical emergency. It can start out with just a mild bloating of the abdomen which will usually rapidly progress to a very distended abdomen. Sometimes your dog may have un-productive vomiting, retching or be drooling. It may be painful in its abdomen and seem agitated.

Twisted stomachs' start out as a bloat and then the stomach can twist on its axis, cutting off the blood supply and trapping built up gasses and fluids. This rapidly causes the stomach wall to die off which may mean we need to surgically remove a portion of your dogs stomach, or sometimes we need to euthanise during surgery if too much stomach has died.

Bloat can occur secondary to stress, excitement, vigorous exercise, large meals (especially straight after exercise) and long drinks while working. If a close relative has experienced a twisted stomach this increases the risk to your dog. It is more common to see a twisted stomach early in the morning or late at night.

If you notice your dog starting to look tight in its belly, don't just leave it alone for a couple of hours to see what happens. Make sure you call us straight away to get advice.

There is a surgery we can do to prevent twisted stomachs, if you have a dog with a familial tendency or is deep chested (i.e. huntaways) this would be a good idea to talk to us about.



## Watch Those Cell Counts

Mating is a busy time of the year and it is easy to drop the ball in other areas of dairy cow management. Mastitis and bulk cell counts fall into this category. While things on the mastitis front may generally start well, small problems can rapidly turn into big issues if not addressed early.

If you have a spike in clinical mastitis cases or note a rise in your bulk cell count, address the problem immediately. Identify the bacteria causing clinical cases with milk cultures and ensure mastitis cows aren't being missed. Check teat health and ensure teat spray is being mixed and applied correctly. Cows that have been treated for mastitis should be checked for cases. If they still have high cell counts or positive RMTs, early culling should be considered.

**After Birth:**  
**How long does it take for the eyes to open?**  
**Cows - Immediately**  
**Goats - After 2 hours**  
**Cats - After 6 days**  
**Dogs - After 10 days**  
**Humans - After marriage**



## Don't Drop The Ball On Bulls

Reports seem to suggest that Dairy Cows are bulling well and submission rates have been good. It won't be long before AI finishes and bull teams head out.

While it is generally too late to immediately correct selenium and copper deficiencies (it takes 6 weeks for bulls to produce mature semen) it would be a very good idea to closely inspect your bull team and ensure you have sufficient healthy bulls for mating. Generally a ratio of no less than 1 bull for every 30 empty cows is recommended. Given the current cost of bulls there may be a temptation to scrimp on bull numbers. This is not a good plan unless you intend to carry on AI for longer.

Also remember to ensure BVD and lepto vaccination programmes are up to date. New bulls should have received 2 vaccinations 4 weeks apart within the last 12 months and older bulls need a booster vaccination. (This recommendation also applies to beef herds.)

## Bulk Milk BVD Tests

Many of our dairy clients request this test is carried out by LIC at herd testing. It is important that the results are looked at, interpreted correctly and understood. We do receive most herds results but on occasions for one reason or another they may be missed. Please contact us if you have questions around your results. Remember, a positive PCR test is a real red night meaning you have one or more BVD infected cows in your herd. This situation requires immediate attention, especially at this time of the year.

## 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)**