



HVC YOUR CLUB

Apr 26

Seen But Not Heard?

An atheist was seated next to a little girl on an airplane and he turned to her and said, "Do you want to talk? Flights go quicker if you strike up a conversation with your fellow passenger."

The little girl, who had just started to read her book, replied to the total stranger, "What would you want to talk about?"

"Oh, I don't know," said the atheist. "How about why there is no God, or no Heaven or Hell, or no life after death?" as he smiled smugly.

"Okay," she said. "Those could be interesting topics but let me ask you a question first. A horse, a cow, and a deer all eat the same stuff - grass. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, while a cow turns out a flat patty, but a horse produces clumps. Why do you suppose that is?"

The atheist, visibly surprised by the little girl's intelligence, thinks about it and says, "Hmmm, I have no idea."

To which the little girl replies, "Do you really feel qualified to discuss God, Heaven and Hell, or life after death, when you don't know shit?"

And then she went back to reading her book.



Holiday Musings

I was lucky enough to make my annual pilgrimage away up North in the continual search for big fish last month. It is a long drive with plenty of time for thinking, with a lot more time for thinking when fish don't bite.

The first thing I noticed was the lack of potholes. The current government may not be able to claim as many successes as they would like but this is one area where they have certainly met their targets. There were still plenty of road cones to be seen and people sitting in traffic management trucks. They must also be meeting their targets too as they didn't seem to be doing a lot!

Fortunately, Mr Trump allowed me to fill the boat before he bombed Iran. As the days went by it looked more and more like he had bitten off more than he could chew. I wondered if we could send a certain fairy princess to Iran to tell them to be kind to each other. We could also tell Donald where the meeting was!

Despite all the talk about the world moving away from it's reliance on oil, the last month has certainly demonstrated this is far from being true! Crude oil is not just for driving our vehicles! The biggest condom and latex glove manufacturer in Asia can't source its petroleum based raw materials! Nylon carpets must get more expensive going by my maths. If the price of diesel has doubled then the price of a nylon carpet should double, and I got \$6.20 / kg for wool at the start of the month so I should get \$12 / kg in April. Probably as much chance of happening as me catching a Marlin but you never know!!



Resistance Update

As we push into autumn and worm numbers build on farm, especially populations of black scour worm or 'Trichs', evidence of drench resistance issues have been highlighted in many of our 10-day post drench tests. For many this means a move to Zolvix or Startect as continuing to use drenches that don't work properly just allows resistant worm populations to multiply and become a greater portion of the overall worm population.

For the ever-decreasing number of farmers who have not carried out appropriate testing, it is not too late to check things out this year!! If you are lucky enough to have no problem or an early emerging problem developing, a plan to slow resistance development is far more likely to be successful!

On a frustrating note, you may have read or heard elsewhere that there is likely to be no **Startect** available for a minimum of at least 15 months from later this year. Pfizer, the company that makes derquantel, the oral active in Startect, has decided it can make more money using the plant to manufacture other drugs and a few thousand NZ and Aussie sheep farmers don't amount to much!

Zoetis, who sell Startect, are trying to source another manufacturer for the active. Derquantel is supposedly complex to manufacture and plants with the ability to produce it are limited. Don't hold your breath! This is certainly not what we want to see when the first cases of Zolvix resistance are already occurring.

Checking For Liver Fluke

Fluke infections picked up over summer will be starting to mature now. As they do so they will begin to produce eggs that we can pick up with a faecal test. Unfortunately, this is not the same test that we use for worm eggs. It is much more time consuming!

Doing tests for fluke eggs over the next couple of months is a good way of detecting any developing fluke problems in your ewe flock, before the fluke impact too heavily on flock health.

When the presence of fluke is reported on kill sheets for cattle it may or may not indicate a possible problem in your cattle herd or sheep flock. Talk to us about options for establishing just what is going on.

Deer Farmer Reminder

For those of you whose velveting we supervise, your drug books need to be returned by the end of April at the latest. Please drop them off at the clinic and remember to return any unused drugs. Also ensure you fill out the pages which record the total of any drugs used and purchased, and sign page 9.

Thanks for your speedy attention to this matter. 😊

Beef Preg Testing Fully Under Way

With weaning in full swing, cow pregnancy testing is well under way. Given the season we have had and beef cow condition, we were expecting good results and generally this is what we are seeing!!

The best result to date is 100% in calf with a 2.5 cycle mating period and 76 cows in the herd! A fantastic result that demonstrates what can be achieved if all parts of the mating equation are met.

If you have poor results, make sure you talk to the vet on the day about possible reasons and what tests can be done if mineral deficiencies or diseases like BVD might be involved. With in-calf beef cows making up to \$3000, empty cows are expensive.

Dry Off Is Coming

The Correct Use of Teat Sealants

This is not a job anyone seems to enjoy! When used correctly, teat sealants are very effective at reducing mastitis over the dry cow period and around calving. To achieve good results, teat sealant administration must be managed carefully at drying off.

Teat sealants work by sitting in the teat end and providing a physical barrier to infection. Sterility at teat seal insertion is extremely important. Ensure your staff know how to achieve this. There are plenty of good online videos available that demonstrate good technique. In most situations, dry cow antibiotic is not required so antibiotics cannot be relied upon to cover up poor hygiene and cow management.

Things Not To Do

- Don't over feed cows on high quality diets that results in higher milk production and milk leakage.
- Never massage product into udder.
- Do not over-heat teat sealants. They will become too runny and not remain in the teat canal.
- Don't squirt teat sealant into the teat forcefully, it must be placed gently in the teat canal.
- After teat sealing cows should not be chased away from the yard. Swinging udders can result in the carefully placed teat sealant flying out!
- Don't try to do too many cows in any given session.

Pot Belly Dogs

Is your dog looking a bit potty? There are, in general, 6 different causes of a larger than normal sized belly in a dog.

Fluid – an abnormal accumulation of fluid from things like peritonitis, organ or heart failure, a ruptured bladder, infection in the uterus

Fat – your dog is eating too much or sometimes a hormonal disease can cause a pot belly

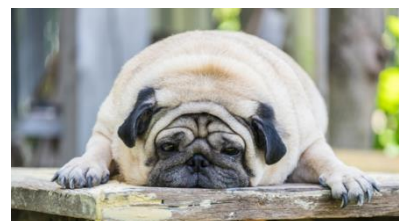
Faeces – Severe constipation can cause a belly to look enlarged

Flatus – An accumulation of gas in the GI tract from digestion or an obstruction (i.e. twisted stomach)

Foetus – That time you didn't think your bitch got knotted, but she did

Flippin' big mass – A large mass growing from an organ i.e. liver/spleen/ovary

Sudden enlargement of your dog's abdomen should be seen by a vet urgently, especially if associated with pain and unproductive retching; this can indicate a twisted stomach. Fluid usually builds up more slowly over days to weeks. If your dog is losing weight but growing a big belly, masses are more likely. Any abnormal shapes should be checked out by us, often the sooner we see your dog, the higher likelihood we can actually do something about it.



AFTER HOURS VET

Emergencies - 06 322 8058

Shop Hours - 8am to 5pm

Monday to Friday

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