

New baby on its way?

Getting a new puppy or kitten can be very exciting, but there are a few things you need to consider to ensure you end up with a healthy dog or cat.



Vaccination

Vaccinating your puppy or kitten is essential in preventing multiple common life threatening and potentially expensive diseases. They need to have an initial vaccination at 8 weeks, followed by boosters at 12 weeks, 16 weeks and one year. This is also a great opportunity to give them a thorough check up and discuss other aspects of care.

Worming

Almost 100% of puppies are born with worms, and most kittens acquire them within the first weeks of life. It can take very little time for a worm burden to become life threatening in a young animal, so it is important to have a strict worming program from early on. They need to be wormed with a quality veterinary all wormer every two weeks from 2 to 12 weeks of age and then monthly until they are six months old.

Nutrition

If you are ever going to invest in decent food for your animal, the time to do it is when they are growing. High quality puppy or kitten food is important to ensure they grow straight, healthy legs. This is all they need, DO NOT add milk powder or meat to their diet as this will throw off the calcium: phosphorous ratios and can lead to bent legs. Puppies and kittens don't need milk once they are weaned off their mums!



Socialisation

There is an important window in every young animal's life called the socialisation period. This is the period in which we need to expose them to multiple stimuli to prevent them from being a fearful or aggressive adult.

Kittens: 2-7 weeks (up to 14 weeks)

Puppies: 4-14 weeks.

During these periods expose them to many different types of people, including children, as well as other animals. It is also a good idea to handle their feet and mouths at this time, so things like clipping nails are not a battle as they grow up. Puppies should go to a puppy preschool to learn to socialise with other dogs and people. Cats should learn to be picked up and get used to people and other animals in their house. It is important that your animal comes into the vet during this time so that it does not become a fear inducing experience later on.

Natasha Leamy BVSc

Calf-Heifer Rearing

When to Wean

If you haven't already weaned consider these points

- When they are digesting energy from grass – i.e. becoming a ruminant.
- Use weight, not age, as a guide based on targets for your herds' adult size.

Friesian	Crossbred	Jersey
95-100 kg	85-90 kg	75-80 kg

- But calves can be weaned as light as 70 kg if they are consuming over 1-1.5 kg of meal.
- Continue meal at 2 kg/calf/day for one month after weaning or over 90kg live-weight if you weaned lighter.
- Ideally use a formulated feed with a coccidiostat in it.

Drenching

- Do orally drench stock monthly from 3-4 weeks after access to pasture.
- **Don't pour drench into milk.**
- **Don't drench while on the feeder.**
- Take care with **dose rates** both levamisole and -mectin families can be toxic under 120 kg.
- Keep weighing for progress to reach the all-important mating live-weight targets.
- Set up an animal health plan and mineral max monitoring program with your vet to ensure young stock stay on track.

Vaccinations

- Lepto vaccinate (and booster) as early as possible before exposure occurs.
- Vaccinate against clostridial disease.
- B12 and Selenium injections can lift growth rates and well-being.

Grazier

- Have a clear understanding of who is responsible for the health treatments, weighing and recording of the animals.
- Grazing agreements can be purchased from federated farmers (fedfarm.org.nz 0800 327 646).
- In some cases it may be better that you take over the inputs.
- Don't forget quarantine drenching – you don't want to be bringing in resistant parasites to your farm.
- Check BVD and Lepto status prior to arrival to your farm and ideally keep more than one fence between them and your own cattle at all times.



The team at N.S.Vets would like to thank all of you for your support throughout the year and we wish you a very merry Christmas. Enjoy the holidays and have a productive and prosperous 2016.



Situation Comment

It is and has been windy. It is likely you may have noticed. It has meant that ground work has been difficult to organise and when it hasn't been windy it has usually pretended to rain. Despite the weather stock health has not been too bad. Lambs seem to be growing well and tailing numbers were not back as far as scanning percentages may have suggested. Velvet weights are back and dairy production is highly variable.

The spud competition is going well, we have had surrogacy, adoption, predation by a vegetarian dog and Rochelle's patented no soil technique. Someone (Julia) has tried Pro Gib, which should mean the Irish contingent (Morgan) has tried Roundup...

Orphan Foals

Orphan foals require a lot of time and energy, so make sure you are fully committed before you decide to take on hand-raising a foal. Ideally a foster mare would be found for the foal. Best results for fostering a foal onto another mare requires the mare's own foal to have died less than 24 hours previously. The dead foal should be skinned and the skin placed on the orphan foal for the mare to accept it.



Colostrum is essential in newborn foals. If an orphan did not receive any from its own mother it needs to be given some from a donor mare. Colostrum provides immunity against disease. The highest uptake of colostrum is between 6-12 hours old, so this is a precious window for ensuring colostrum is ingested. If the foal is not drinking off a bottle yet the colostrum can be given via stomach tube. Foals orphaned at birth should receive approximately 500ml per 50kg of

bodyweight of high-quality colostrum each hour by nasogastric tube, as many times as possible within 12 hours of birth, to establish protective immunoglobulin levels.

If a foster mother cannot be found then foal milk replacer is needed. Foals should be fed every 3 hours for the first two days and then every 4 hours until 2-3 weeks. From a week old they can also be started on concentrated foal feeds as this will mean weaning can occur earlier than a non-orphan foal. Foals can begin to be weaned off milk at 8 weeks.

Behaviour in orphan foals can become an issue as they don't have their mother to discipline them or a herd position to learn their place. Care and strictness in handling the foal should be used and the foal should not be allowed to play games with its handlers.

For more information please phone the clinic. Megan Reidie BVSc

Horse Reminders

- Keep bot eggs off legs
- Hoof care

You may remember Wormwise@?

Well it has been revived!

The ever growing thirst for a sound and consistent message has led to the re-launch of Wormwise@; a national initiative to provide farmers, vets and rural retailers with information and services to manage internal parasites in sheep and beef.

There are just 13 hand-picked facilitators nationwide and one of them is based right here in Riversdale (Rochelle)! They are fully equipped to facilitate learning, with the intent to extend the Wormwise@ message to farming groups. If you want to know more you can contact us or Beef and Lamb NZ. Workshops are fully adaptable from 20 minutes to 2 days depending on need.



Deer Reminders

- De-velvetting - 2 year olds
- Fawning

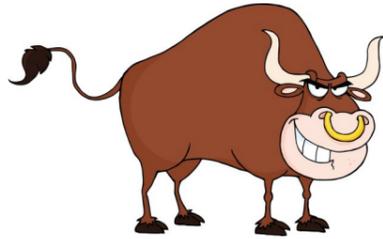


Making Bull Mating Count

Many of you will be in the midst of mating with bulls starting to run amok. This article aims to give a few points that will increase the success of bull mating.

Bull Power

One of the most important factors of natural mating is having enough bull power- i.e. enough bulls to cover the expected number of cows cycling. DairyNZ recommends 1:30 bull to cow ratio for MA cows. A beef and lamb NZ study concluded that the ideal bull to cow ratio is between 1:20- 1:55 in a range of beef systems. Above and below this conception rates fall away.



A bit of guesstimation is required to calculate how many bulls you require post AB. Going on previous 6 week in calf rates and return rates following the first

round of AB will provide you with some information as to how many bulls will be needed.

For a 500 cow herd with an expected 6 week ICR of 70%, 150 cows will still be open. At a 1:30 bull to cow ratio, 5 bulls will be required. If the cows are in 2 mobs then 6 bulls will be required per herd.

Keeping them keen

To keep your bull team fresh and invigorated- teams should be swapped every 2-3 days. This doubles the number of bulls required but allows bulls to have a rest, meaning they are more likely to get the job done when they are called into action.

On the beef side of things- if you have single sire mating groups try to back up each group with another bull following the initial sire just in case he hasn't been doing the business. Early warnings may be seen if the bull has not been showing any interest, but even if he has been mounting he may be shooting blanks.

Health

The bulls should be BVD test negative and have received two doses of BVD vaccine 4-6 weeks apart. If they haven't, then good luck. We might see you for a repro consult after mating to go over where it all went wrong.

Any illness likely to cause a fever (respiratory infection, wounds etc.) will render sperm unviable. Penicillin doesn't cause infertility but the fever caused by the infection you are trying to treat will. It takes around 8 weeks for healthy sperm to be ready after an insult.

Lame bulls should be swapped as soon as possible as they are less likely to be able to mount cows but may still interfere with other bulls trying to mate. To reduce the risk of lameness, try to cut bulls off at the gate to avoid having them in the yard. Bulls that are inactive should also be taken out of operation.

Justin Hogg BVSc

Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD)



Sheep Reminders

- FEC lambs - drench check test
- Flystrike prevention
- Wean lambs
- Have FECRT carried out on lambs
- Palpate ewes udders 2-4 weeks post weaning - cull hard or lumpy udders

PEM - Polioencephalomalacia

This is a disease we see most years in summer affecting good lambs/hoggets, or calves but occasionally older animals. It often presents as sudden death.

What is it doing?

- 'Star gazing' - looking to the sky
- Apparent blindness, may circle
- May be unable to stand
- Neck arched back
- May be paddling its legs
- Eyes flicking
- Death.



What caused it?

- Usually feed changes (to less roughage)
- Can just be grass flushes
- Gut bacteria form an enzyme that breaks down vitamin B1 (Thiamine)
- B1 deficiency causes brain swelling
- Cobalt deficiency could be linked.

What can we do about it?

- Call the vet - we can fix it if early enough with B1 injections.

And to prevent it?

- Avoid sudden diet changes.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves - copper, selenium and worm control
- Dairy calves - leptospirosis vaccination
- Bulls - watch for soundness

Is your drench working?!

What is the real cost of your drench - the money you pay across the counter or the loss in production from worms that are surviving? Most of you are spending thousands of dollars a year on a product that you can't even be sure is working 90% let alone 100%. Food for thought isn't it? Drench resistance is a real threat to the way we farm and stays with your property for life, as long as there



are livestock present. Making this even more difficult is the fact that you will not notice a drench isn't working until it is only 60% effective.

Fortunately we can test for resistance with a faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT). This test not only checks how well each individual drench is working, but also how well it works on each individual species of worm. These tests add real value to your farming system and provide vital information regarding the efficacy of the drenches you use. Recent data from FECRTs throughout the country show frightening results in terms of the degree of resistance present on farms. Up to 70% of farms had resistance to a single drench family and 30% to a combination drench; still think your drench is working?

These tests are an investment in your farming future. Contact us at the clinic and put your mind at ease this summer, knowing the drench you use is doing the job. Remember you will need to put aside 100 lambs at weaning and leave them undrenched - we need worms to test worms.

Please note that these tests can also be carried out on cattle. If you have been drenching your calves with the same drench and growing them out in the same paddocks for the past 5 + years, you too could be at risk of drench resistance. Call us and talk to one of our vets about testing the drench you use.

Andrew Cochrane BSVc

Pet Reminders

- Vaccinate pets prior to boarding at kennels
- Check for barley grass
- Get pets Christmas presents

Buddy Cameron

Hi, my name is Buddy and I am an 11 year old Maltese. My mum, Shbourne is a nurse at the clinic. She saved me nearly four years ago. I was unloved and was bullied by my old family.

These days I am living the dream getting belly rubs every time my mum finds me sleeping either in my basket, her bed, the couch, bathroom; pretty much anywhere I can find a snuggly spot to sleep.

I have one friend (well most of the time we are friends) Clifford, who is the big red cat. Cliff likes to put me in my place. We tend to fight over things like food, beds, and of course mum's attention. If a stranger comes to the house Clifford has my back. I run and hide from them and Clifford investigates to make sure that they are 'okay' and 'trustworthy enough' to enter. If I am still unsure I will hide until they leave or sit on mum's knee so we can protect each other.

I am not fond of the toys that mum buys, me especially if they make loud noises. I don't mind the vacuum or the lawn mower but not any loud bangs, flaps or humans yelling. I have heaps of rules that my mum tends to follow because a lot of things scare me. One thing I am not scared of is the daily walk that I get. It's great! Other dogs see me and want to play but I just don't have time to talk to them. Can they not see I am on my walk?

I also really like going in the car. Cars are amazing, I jump in it and get out and I am in a new place! It is so much fun exploring a new place but only if mum does not leave my sight.

I better head back to bed and wait for mum to find me all curled up looking cute in my new spot that I found, she calls it her dressing gown?

Shbourne Cameron Vet Nurse



Teacher's Pet

On the last day of kindergarten, all the children brought presents for their teacher. The florist's son handed the teacher a gift. She held up the box and said, "I bet it's some flowers!"

"That's right!" shouted the little boy.

Then the candy store owner's daughter handed the teacher a gift. She held up the box and said, "I bet it's some chocolates!"

"The next gift was from the liquor store owner's son. The teacher held up the box and saw that it was leaking. She touched a drop with her finger and tasted it.

"Is it wine?" she asked.

"No," the boy answered. The teacher touched another drop to her tongue.

"Is it champagne?" she asked.

"No," the boy answered.

"What is it?" she said.

"A puppy!"

