

Mark's Corner

2016 has been a year of consolidation for Vets North. The upheavals of the merger of the two practices is now past us and the benefits of a larger practice, more vets with differing areas of interest & skills and access to a wider range of technology are starting to come together. Unfortunately Brian has moved on but James L'Amie has started to work in the large animal area to pick up the load and help with the small animals. Elissa Mopper, who started as a new graduate at the end of last year, has gone from strength to strength. Caroline Elvy has also recently started work in the expanding small animal practice and is settling in well. In the New Year I will be off to the Outer Hebrides of Scotland for 5 months working a work exchange with Geert Donkers. Geert is a Dutch vet who has a Practice in the Hebrides and he will be covering my job whilst I'm away.

Make sure that you have a break over Summer and watch out for next year's developments. Have a Great Christmas and I will see you all later in the Year when I get back from overseas. Check in to Facebook & our website periodically for updates of my time in Scotland.

Mark Anderson

Heat Stress

Summer is coming and we had our first case of heat stress in a pet dog last week. As usual it had been left in a car and had got too hot. This is a serious life threatening condition as they can get DIC, bleed uncontrollably & die. However, although pet dogs (& children) left in cars are the highest risk, I have seen Heat Stress in working sheep dogs that did not have access to water and one of them died.



Heat Stress also affects lambs. They will pant and so inhale more dust and go down with viral pneumonia. We can not prevent the stress but you



can reduce the clinical impact. Move & work lamb mobs first thing in the morning while it is still cool and the ground may be damp with dew. Reduce dust by wetting yards. Use covered yards. Provide shade and water in the paddocks.

Cattle can get hyperthermia as well. Affected cattle will be reluctant to walk in the afternoon & open mouth pant. There will be a significant drop in milk production. Conditions that lead to this are when we have hot nights (cows loose heat overnight) followed by sunny days & cows are on high endophyte grasses (old ryegrasses, tall fescue). Water sprays over the yard at the cow shed can help.

Pigs get a condition in hot weather where they get brain damage leading to blindness, fitting & death. The most at risk individuals are being fed a human scrap diet or milk & then run out of water during the day. It is most important to ensure pigs have water all the times.

Finally male alpaca in heavy fleece can get heat stress that will lead to infertility. All alpaca should be shorn pre Christmas to help reduce the risks.

Hot weather is a risk and it can be fatal. Water is vitally important and shade is very helpful. Working first thing in the morning before the day gets hot can make life a lot more pleasant for all involved.



Balloon Race

Every year we host a Christmas function for our commercial farmer clients. We give them a good feed & drink along with some spot prizes. Each year we also have a balloon race. A balloon race works by releasing helium balloons with a tag attached asking the finder to contact us. Each tag is identified to one of the farmers. The winner is the owner of the tag that is found the furthest from the Clinic within a set time period. Some years we have no tags returned, but this year we have had three. Two from Browns Bay and one from Motutapu Island.

0800 VTS NTH

AFTER HOURS: 0274 957 986

68 Access Road, Kumeu - P: 09 412 9016 - Kumeu@vetsnorth.co.nz
45 Commercial Road, Helensville - P: 09 420 8325 - Helensville@vetsnorth.co.nz

www.vetsnorth.co.nz



Facial Eczema

The season is coming but is not here yet !

Last year was a very bad year for facial eczema so farmers are aware and want to take precautions. However, zinc dosing as a prevention is close to zinc poisoning. The recommendation is to only treat for 100 days and the highest risk time may be April. Generally spore counts do not start to rise until the end of January, and this is very dependent on the weather conditions. Watch the spore counts and be ready to start but do not start too soon.

The best prevention systems for sheep and cattle are the zinc bullets. We recommend Face Guard as it is more user friendly and more flexible. Alpaca are generally fed feed pellets with zinc in them. Zinc in the water trough only works for milking cows as other stock do not drink consistently enough. Pasture spraying with Mycotac is very effective but it must be done properly. The jets need to be set correctly to get the right droplet size and the whole paddock needs to be covered evenly. Spray needs to be put on before the spore counts rise and be repeated every six weeks.

We do weekly monitoring of a site outside Helensville and can do spore counts for you to see what your pastures are like. You need to bring us ½ a bread bag of grass cut to the level that the stock will graze down to. High risk pastures are ryegrass, sheltered and moist (ex horticulture blocks are the worst).

So what this season will be like we don't know yet. It all depends on the weather. But be aware and ready to take action if or when needed.

Calf Parasitism

Last Autumn was a shocker for worms and then it was followed by a mild winter. The result has been that the worms are still there on the pasture causing a high risk of parasitism in calves. We have seen clinical lung worm infestation as well as ordinary gut worms and an increased rate of coccidiosis.

My advice is to watch and monitor the calves closely as the situation can change rapidly. Oral drenching is economic so a programme could be to give a double combination (Arrest C) at weaning followed by a triple combination (Iver Matrix Calf) a month later. Keep alternating like this until the late Autumn. Iver Matrix is much safer for calves as it does not contain Abermectin that can be toxic to young or thin calves.

Coccidiosis attacks the rectal lining causing diarrhoea with blood in it and straining. (The calves stand with the tail head raised straining to defecate). It can be diagnosed with a faecal sample. Treatment is a single dose of Baycox C.

Haemonchosis

Haemonchosis or Barbers Pole worm sucks blood from lambs, ewes & alpaca. It often does not cause scouring, rather the animal becomes weak, slow, sits down and quietly dies. The giveaway is white tissue behind the eyelids (conjunctiva).

We are seeing cases already because of the warm Winter.

Haemonchosis needs to be treated with special long acting drenches such as Genesis Ultra or Moxydectin. Consult the Clinic about which treatment is best for you.



Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Vets North Kumeu & Helensville

Saturday	24 th December	9am - 12pm
Monday	26 th December	Closed
Tuesday	27 th December	Closed
Wednesday	28 th December	Open <i>Business Hours</i>
Thursday	29 th December	Open <i>Business Hours</i>
Friday	30 th December	Open <i>Business Hours</i>
Saturday	31 st December	9am - 12pm
Monday	2 nd January	Closed
Tuesday	3 rd January	Closed



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