



SHOP TALK

Bayer Flexidine Promotion

Congratulations must go to Doug Fraser who was the lucky winner of the recent Flexidine Promotion. Doug is now the proud owner of a very flash looking Pizza Oven.



Maxima® Examination Gloves

These Maxima examination gloves are extra-sensitive with a soft texture, but are extremely durable and very hard to rip. They come with a tie-string for fixation or an over-the-shoulder strap. For more information, please ask at reception.

Antahi Calf Feeders

The Trusti Tuber and Flexi Tuber are calf feeders designed to ensure that your calf does not suffer when tube feeding milk. With the flexible tube and specially designed safety tip and mouthpiece, any

stress, discomfort and injury is avoided and the calf is comfortable.

Both the Trusti Tuber and Flexi Tuber were designed by a Vet and can be held in place with one hand or you can use the strap-on function with the Flexi-tuber for a more hands-free option. For more information, please contact the clinic or alternatively go to: www.antahi.com

Thermoo Calf Covers

Keeping newborn and young calves warm is a basic requirement for optimum health. Calves are born with minimal fat reserves and a high surface area to bodyweight ratio making them susceptible to cold. With a Thermoo calf cover, your calf can divert available energy to more effective needs such as feeding, building immunity and growth.

It has been proven that below 10°C ambient temperature, the rate of colostral antibody absorption in newborns decreases (Olsen et al, 1981). By maintaining calf warmth you can ensure that your calves receive maximum benefit from the colostrum you have carefully supplied.

The Thermoo Cover has been specially designed for calves and has unique features making it the most practical calf cover available. Its unique adjustable design with cosy neck extension and belly strap means that the covers (small or medium) will fit all sizes of calves.



They are also waterproof, windproof, breathable AND machine washable making them easy to clean and re-use.

For more information, please ask at reception.

STAFF NEWS



starting her career here in Otautau.

Bri returned from Maternity Leave at the start of June, so we will have both of our super-efficient receptionists ready to tackle your Spring calls and orders.

A special mention must also go to Ashleigh who just recently passed the Medicine of Dairy Cattle paper for the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists. Congratulations and make the most of all your spare time now the study is over.

We would like to start with a BIG thank you to our teat-sealing techs Kimberly, Caitlin and Emma who have worked so hard over the past couple of months. They were an absolute pleasure to work with and it was very sad to say goodbye to Kimberly and Caitlin last month. Emma will be staying with us on a part-time basis, so you can still expect to see her around the clinic.

We also need to say a BIG thank you to you all for doing such a great job of looking after our teams of teat-sealers this winter. It certainly isn't always the easiest of jobs and being provided with a good feed to keep everyone happy, hearty and healthy makes all the difference.

We would all like to welcome Hannah Schulz to our OVL Veterinary team. Hannah grew up on a Sheep & Beef farm in Central West NSW and has recently graduated from Charles Sturt University in Wagga Wagga, NSW. She has a keen interest in livestock production and is looking forward to

CATTLE SECTION

Young Calf Regulations for 2017

Seven new regulations have been developed to strengthen the rules around young calf (bovine up to 14 days of age that has been separated from its mother) welfare with a range of fines and infringements. The new rules may involve some changes to current practice and farm infrastructure. For more information go to www.mpi.govt.nz/calves or full regulations are available at www.legislation.govt.nz

Regulations taking effect on 1st February 2017

- **Maximum time off feed before slaughter**

This applies to all young calves that are being held for slaughter and requires the processing company to work with farmers and transporters to ensure they meet this regulation.

Young calves must be slaughtered as soon as possible after arrival at slaughter premises. If it is not possible to slaughter a young calf within 24 hours after it was last fed on farm, then it must be fed a volume of colostrum, milk or milk replacer that equates to at least 5% of the calf's bodyweight or if unable or unwilling to feed, it must be humanely euthanased or slaughtered without delay.

A person in charge of a young calf being held at a slaughter premises must have a system in place that will ensure these regulations are complied with. Any person who does not follow this regulation may be liable on conviction for a fine.

Regulations taking effect on 1st August 2017

- **Requirements for loading and unloading facilities**

This applies to any young calf that is being transported for sale or slaughter or after its sale.

Firstly, a person must provide facilities designed to or make available other means that enable the calf to walk onto or off the stock transport vehicle by its own action and minimise the risk of a calf slipping and injuring itself, falling off the facilities or other means, or becoming otherwise injured or distressed.

Responsibility for providing these facilities falls on a person who is, or will be the owner or person in charge of the calf at loading/unloading and does not apply to the person who is in charge of transporting the calves (i.e. the truck driver).

Secondly, a person in charge of a young calf, including transporters, must take all reasonable and practicable steps to ensure that the calf is loaded onto a stock transport vehicle using the facilities provided and unloaded from a stock transport vehicle using the facilities provided or other means described.

It is recommended that you talk with transport operators before finalising a design or location to ensure that facilities are fit for purpose.

- **Shelter requirements before and during transportation and at points of sale or slaughter**

This applies to any young calf being held on farm for

collection before being transported off farm for the purpose of sale or slaughter or as a result of sale, or held off farm while awaiting sale or slaughter, or transported off farm for the purpose of sale or slaughter or as a result of sale.

Owners or persons in charge of the young calf must ensure that the calf has access to shelter that

- o *Is ventilated to the extent that there is no threat to the health or welfare of the calf due to insufficient ventilation, and*
- o *Provides protection from adverse weather, including rain and extremes of heat and cold, and*
- o *Enables the calf to stand up and lie down in a natural posture.*

Shelter must be provided to calves at all stages of transport; awaiting pick-up, on the truck and in holding pens in the slaughter premises or saleyard. Therefore, persons in charge of a vehicle must not transport a young calf off farm unless their vehicle provides the shelter requirements specified above.

In addition, all individuals must ensure that faeces and urine do not accumulate in the shelter or vehicle to an extent that may pose a threat to the health or welfare of the calf.

Dairy Antibioqram

Dairy Antibioqram is a new test now available to NZ dairy farmers which detects and monitors Antibiotic resistance in mastitis bacteria.

Antibiotic resistance is a serious health problem arising in both human and animal medicine alike. It is a problem where bacteria become more able to survive in the presence of antibiotic treatments, causing infections which are increasingly difficult to cure. The end result is a situation where we are powerless to treat infections which were once very responsive to antibiotics.

Antibiotics are a valuable tool in the dairy industry, and when used responsibly, they are vital for the maintenance of good animal health and welfare. Bacterial resistance to these valuable treatments is a threat to the viability of dairy farming, and is perceived as a threat to human health. Knowledge of the resistance status in your herd is the key to choosing the right treatments for your cows, and for monitoring and preventing the development and spread of bacterial resistance.

Dairy Antibioqram is a new test which shows you how sensitive the bacteria on your farm are to different mastitis treatments. The test is easy to have done, as it is performed on bulk milk samples taken from the milk processors.

A Dairy Antibioqram will give you valuable information which, with the direction from your vet, will help you:

1. Plan to use effective mastitis treatments
2. Avoid using expensive treatments when other cheaper options are shown to be effective
3. Know your resistance status and how this ranks compared to other farms in the country

CATTLE SECTION

4. Develop biosecurity plans to protect a "Good" resistance status
5. Identify threats to your herd which can be investigated further and managed or removed
6. Monitor if your resistance status is changing over time
7. Help your dairy industry demonstrate that it is using antibiotics responsibly.

A Dairy AntibioGram provides essential information to ensure the sustainability of using antibiotics on your farm. Please contact the clinic to discuss implementing Dairy AntibioGram data into your mastitis management plan.

Finadyne® Transdermal



More and more evidence is building as to the value of using non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in cattle, not only to improve animal welfare, but also to provide production benefits. Animals may experience pain and inflammation with many conditions and the use of an anti-inflammatory in such circumstances not only relieves pain, but also aids a rapid

recovery, ensuring that they return to full production as quickly as possible.

Historically, the only way to administer NSAIDs has been by injection, but Finadyne Transdermal (Finadyne TD) has been developed and is the world's first **pour-on** non-steroidal anti-inflammatory for cattle. Finadyne TD comes

in an easy to use bottle that allows the correct dose to be determined, measured and applied without any need for syringes, dosing guns or other equipment. The dose is administered along the dorsal midline of the animal and the active ingredient is rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream, reaching peak concentration in just 2 hours. Combined with a nil milk withhold, this makes Finadyne TD an ideal choice for dairy farmers this spring.

Finadyne TD provides quick and effective relief of pain, fever and acute inflammation. This makes it an invaluable tool to help treat a range of conditions including mastitis, lameness and respiratory disease. If you are interested in hearing more about this product, please contact the clinic and speak with one of our vets.



AVAILABLE ONLY UNDER VETERINARY AUTHORISATION.
ACVM No: A11281 Schering-Plough Animal Health Ltd.
Phone: 0800 800 543. www.msd-animal-health.co.nz [NZ/FDTD/0617/0013].

SHEEP SECTION

Ovis Management

Taenia ovis is the common tapeworm of dogs, with the intermediate larval stages lying in the muscles of sheep. This presents a significant economic problem to the sheep industry, with objections to the appearance of the cysts in sheep meat resulting in economic loss through condemnation at meat inspection.

The key mechanisms for controlling Ovis infection are;

1. Ensuring that sheep or goat meat fed to dogs does not contain viable Ovis cysts,
2. Treating dogs with Praziquantel within the pre-patent period of *Taenia ovis* (35 days),
3. Banning or ensuring that visiting/foreign dogs are not infected and have been treated with Praziquantel.

The prevalence of infection varies greatly amongst farms and suppliers. In one recent case, a lamb supplier had for this season (December-May) shown a significant disease prevalence of 13.4%, with 11 animals condemned. Given that meat inspection only detects around 20% infected carcasses, it is likely that the majority of the lambs coming from this particular farm were infected. The farmer concerned has all of his dogs on monthly worm dosing and it was a struggle to identify the potential source of infection. However, the source was eventually attributed to the team of dogs belonging to a casual musterer who had been employed on the farm for a few weeks. This reinforces the need for all people bringing dogs on to farms to have evidence of treatment and more importantly, for farmers employing people to require evidence of treatment.

For more information on Ovis management, go to: www.sheepmeasles.co.nz

OVL Worm Tablet Program

We currently provide a worming program to supply worming tablets to all cats and dogs registered on our program. However, there will be some upcoming changes to the way in which this program is managed and also some of the products that are sent out to you. The products are just as effective in treating the common worms affecting your cat and dog, but they are made by a different company and so have different names.

Our worm program will now be managed through VetServe, a revised version of the National Veterinary Worming Distribution Program, who maintain a secure online database for New Zealand Veterinary Clinics and are approved by MPI to handle the worming products, sending them directly to you on behalf of Otautau Vets Ltd.

All of our patients signed up to our current worming program will simply be transferred to the new VetServe database. Prior to doing so, we would like you to confirm that the current information we have in our records regarding your animals is correct and also any additional information about new patients that need to be added to the scheme. Please complete the letter that has recently been mailed to you and return it to the clinic as soon as possible.



CAT & DOG SECTION

Don't Litter: The advantages of neutering your critter

Do you ever wonder why veterinarians recommend de-sexing your pet? De-sexing your pet has a surprising number of advantages.

Firstly, and probably most obviously, it provides a great tool for animal population control. Every year thousands of unwanted pets are surrendered to the SPCA. To reduce this number the SPCA is now asking the community for their help in reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies. For our part, Otautau Vets Ltd, like most veterinary clinics around NZ, offer heavily discounted spay and neuter procedures for cats and dogs.



De-sexing your pet will also decrease the likelihood of mating-associated behaviour. In male dogs this means a decrease in roaming and mounting and in male cats, it can reduce urine spraying and sexual behaviour. In female dogs it will prevent the occurrence of 'pseudo-pregnancies' which will cause nesting behaviour and restlessness.

Most surprisingly, de-sexing also has health benefits that can drastically improve the quality of your pet's life. In female dogs, de-sexing eliminates the risk of pyometra (uterine infection), a disease that requires surgical management. Entire female (i.e. not de-sexed) dogs have a 25-66% chance of developing this life-threatening condition by 10 years of age. Evidence also suggests that spaying female dogs by 2.5 years old (or preferably before the first heat) will result in a 10-fold decrease in incidence of mammary tumours. In male dogs, castration eliminates the risk of prostatic disease, which affects 75-80% of entire male dogs over 6 years old. Prostatic disease will enlarge the prostate, predisposing male dogs to infections or life-threatening abscesses.

Finally, according to a survey of over 40 000 animals, spayed and castrated pets have a longer life-expectancy, giving you more time with your loved pet. Traditionally there has been a recommendation that all pets be de-sexed around six months of age to give the best health outcomes. For cats there are now suggestions that de-sexing is safe from a much earlier age; many shelters will routinely de-sex from 6 weeks of age, but from an anaesthetic safety perspective (animals over 2kg cope better with anaesthesia) we recommend waiting until at least 4.5-5 months old. For small dogs the conventional wisdom of 6 months still stands true. For large breed dogs there have been some recent studies that suggest waiting until 1-2 years of age may be of some benefit, but they can also be de-sexed earlier. To discuss your options, and whether de-sexing is right for your pet, please contact the clinic and speak with one of our vets. – *Vetti Fawcett*

REMINDERS

Sheep

- Pre-Lamb
 - FEC Ewes to assess need for drench
 - Vaccinate Ewes and consider second Iodine/LSD/Healthy Ewe drench
 - Investigate any abortions
 - Autopsy early lamb deaths for Thyroid index
- Tailing
 - FEC Ewes to assess need for drench
 - Administer tailing vaccine if ewes not 5-in-1 vaccinated pre-lamb
 - Scabby Mouth Vaccine (Scabiguard/Phenax®Classic)
 - FEC replacement hoggets
 - Palpate/Blood test rams for B.ovis accreditation
- Pre-Wean
 - Drench for Lambs.

Cattle

- Early Calving
 - Mineral Check cows
 - Calcium enriched, high energy Starter Drench for old or thin cows at calving +/- heifers
 - Consider worm drench for young/old/thin cows or Bulk Milk test to assess herd worm infection level prior to drenching
 - Magnesium Oxide and Limeflour supplementation post-calving
 - First BVD vaccine for yearlings (if not vaccinated as calves), followed by booster vaccination 4 weeks later (no closer than 4 weeks prior to mating). Booster vaccination for any pre-vaccinated heifers/cows (no closer than 4 weeks prior to mating).
- Pre-mating
 - Mineral check cows and R2's
 - Metrichick & treat cows 14 days post-calving; batch checking and treating cows early will maximise time for recovery pre-mating
 - Plan/discuss heifer synchrony and anoestrus cow programmes
 - Preventative treatment for bloat.

Deer

- Investigate illthrift problems; FEC, trace elements, Johne's Disease
- Pour-on drench for yearlings
- Review Copper & Selenium status of hinds pre-fawning.

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Best Wishes from the vets: Louise F Ingram BVMS (Hons) MACVSc, Jen E Gordon MA VetMB, Teresa A Skevington BVSc, Ashleigh S Braithwaite DVM, Julia E Nuttall BVSc, Ruby A Davidson BVetMed, Jenny Paterson BVSc, Louise C Fieten BVMS and Yvette L Fawcett BVSc.



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