



Veterinary Centre EwesNews

Dealing with Feet

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

The current run of hot dry weather has been a great opportunity to tip some ewes over to sort out lingering infection before it spreads again in the Autumn.

The works are getting picky about what is acceptable for transport and processing. Vet certificates can allow them to get priority processing if you do have space.

What are some options if you are having to keep and treat lame ewes for breeding:

- A plan is important. What are the trimmers for, how much do you pare? Do you carry on tipping if there is a lot of scald? What are the daily targets to get through?
- A pre-wash bath, a good handling facility, a set of sharp trimmers (pneumatics for the hard ones) can make a big difference. Don't make them bleed. Running through pre-wash not only increases sensitivity it also softens hoof for easier trimming. Trimming itself is not a treatment. It is a diagnostic aid.
- CULL mis-shapen, multi-feet infections that are too far gone. Some sheep just keep getting re-infected and have lost too much condition to turn around.
- Antibiotics. There are some useful long acting formulations that achieve good efficacy provided you do the follow-up (below). Vet only tilmovet is still the best.
- Topical something – a 10% zinc trouthing or blue spray into lesions after the diagnostic trim and dose of antibiotics.

- A night on the grating post treatment. This allows feet to dry out and allow treatment reach peak concentration on the hoof. Seems to make a big difference.
- Follow up treated cases. Do this ~14 days after treatment is important. This is to remove dried up lesions and expose any pockets of bacteria that maybe hanging on. Applying blue spray or another zinc trouthing after the check is ideal. Antibiotics will relieve clinical signs of footrot, but they can also suppress footrot bacteria that can re-surface 2-3months later, and possibly be more tolerant to subsequent treatments, so this clear-up check and trim is essential.

Footvax sensitizer to clean sheep now can give you options for booster shot pre-tup and/or pre-lamb. For irrigated properties trouthing and footvax are your best footrot control tools.



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"Life Without Capsules" SURVEY

With the unavailability of CRC (Controlled Release Capsules) i.e. Bionic in 2023, we are in the process of developing a farmer survey for those farmers who historically have used capsules pre-lamb.

We are looking to investigate "Life Without Capsules" and current farm management strategies for parasite control.

Watch this space ...

Investing in the Future

An important part of our Veterinary Centre business is training the next generation. So we invest a fair bit of time and resources into hosting students and mentoring graduates.

Nick Myers and Kate Ferguson students from Charles Sturt University Vet School in Wagga Wagga, NSW, had a great couple of weeks here in January. They both had strong interests in beef cattle, horses and farm production and it was great to see them getting enthused about their careers ahead of them. Nick is part time semi-professional Aussie Football player for the Charles Sturt University "Bush Pigs". Kate is a "fair dinkum cattle gal" who is into show jumping.



Nick Myers



Kate Ferguson



Nick & Kate

Pregnancy Testing of Beef Cows

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Looking forward to catching up with beef farmers in the next month or two to see how herd performance is trending. Please get in-touch early with us to book a slot that suits.



Jenny Newth Ranfurly Veterinary Technician Assisting with data recording at Stoneburn Herefords and Angus



Angus Rob and Jayne McClure, Mole Hill Downs, Five Forks



With EID wands – and people that have learnt to use them – it is now even easier to monitor herd conception rates, bull performance, BCS and other variable of interest.

Mating Time Frame	Optimum Scan Date for Aged Pregnancy Testing
Dec 1- Feb 1	March 10 – 30
Dec 15 – Feb 15	April 1 – April 20

The fact that when a cow gets in calf is the biggest determinant in her efficiency means that monitoring this is very useful. Aged pregnancy testing and our monitoring process captures the data that enables you to make good decisions about your herd. What we attempt to measure:

- Age scan pregnancies and cycle groups.
- Know your BVD and mineral status.
- BCS profile.
- Bull power review and evaluation.

Your business and beef herd success is our key motivator. Pregnancy testing and the discussions that occur are an important part of drilling into workings of the beef production system. Don't miss out on the opportunity to get the best quality data out of your vet visit.

Pre-Mating Minerals

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate

Selenium

Selenium is essential for a healthy immune system and to achieve optimal growth. Soil levels are generally low on South island pastures.

Standard practice is to dose ewes pre-breeding with a long acting product (Selovin LA). However, if using short acting products (Selovin 5) pre-breeding and pre-lamb doses are required. Blood sampling can help make informed decisions around what supplementation is required.

Iodine

Iodine deficiency is commonly associated with pregnant ewes grazing brassica crops, with this group needing supplementation. It is occasionally seen in pasture fed ewes. Iodine deficiencies have been linked to higher lambing losses, especially in colder weather since lambs have less ability to regulate temperature.

The most accurate test of iodine is to measure thyroid weight in stillborn/dead new lambs, however iodine blood samples can be taken from ewes pre-mating.

Flexidine is the long acting form (6-8months) – giving this pre-mating will cover lambs for iodine throughout pregnancy. LSD is a shorter acting form with ewes requiring 2 doses to cover lambs – pre-lambing and at scanning.

Cobalt/Vitamin B12

Cobalt is needed to produce B12, a vitamin which aids in protein and energy metabolism. Deficiencies will limit autumn growth rates in lambs.

Short acting B12 injections for trading lambs is fine, but a longer acting B12, such as Smartshot, will give better cover for replacement ewe lambs over winter.



Selenium

Selovin LA ACVM A009509
1 ml – Two-Tooth
0.5ml – Mixed Age Ewes

Iodine

Flexidine ACVM A007866
1.5ml – Pretup
Gives 9 months cover



B12

Smart-Shot
SmartShot B12 ACVM A009984
SmartShot B12 plus Se ACVM A009402
1ml – Lamb
Gives 6 Months Supplementation



Fly Control

Both Knockdown & Persistent Activity

Cyrex™
Liquid

Actives:
Cyromazine 500g/L
Spinosad 12.5g/L

Dilution: **1:500**

Protection:
Shower/Plunge
8-12 Weeks

Jetting
3-8 Weeks

Meat WHP: **7 Days**

DOSE COST 25c
EXCL GST



10L \$1,429.00

Cyrex Liquid ACVM A009917

Including GST

12 Weeks Protection

VETRAZIN™
LIQUID

Actives:
Cyromazine 500g/L

Dilution: **1:500**

Protection:
Up to 12 Weeks

Meat WHP: **7 Days**

DOSE COST 12c
EXCL GST



10L \$695.00

Vetrazin Liquid ACVM A005835

Including GST

Drench Performance Test

Investing in your farm's future!



Kit Price

\$109.00

Including GST
PLUS Laboratory Costs,
and Veterinary Report

A Drench Performance Test is a simple procedure to establish what drench will work NOW!

How does the NEW Drench Performance Test work?

A Drench Performance Test gives you a guide to which drench is going to work best on your farm, helping you navigate drench resistance in the most effective way possible. It makes a lot of sense for farmers wanting to ensure their drench investment is working and allowing clear informed decisions.

What is a Drench Performance Test?

We create a baseline FEC on Day 1 of the test. We then drench stock with a range of drenches, including a Dual Active, Triple Active and Novel drench. We then look at the response to see what works best in your farms specific situation, and make a recommendation based on those results.

When is the best time to do a Drench Test?

Parasite burden changes throughout the year, so the best time to do a test are those critical times when stock are coming up to high stress periods.

What's involved?

It is a simple process –

- **50 Un-Drenched Animals**, collect samples from 10-15 animals and drop into the Veterinary Centre to create a baseline starting point.

2-3 Different Drenches

You can use the small 100ml bottles provided in packs (or different drenches already available on farm).

- **Apply Drenches** using the syringes provided in packs (or an accurate applicator gun) to 15 animals in each Drench Group.

- **Mark Stock** using a different Coloured Spray Marker provided in packs to identify different drench groups. Example:
Scanda Selenised – GREEN.
Alliance Triple – PURPLE.
Zolvix Plus – ORANGE.

Day 10-14 Sample Collection.

Bring animals in straight off feed and collect samples. Keep Drench Groups separate using FEC Bags (provided in packs).

What happens then?

Your case vet will prepare a report and discuss findings, helping adapt your parasite management plan based on the results.

Know your drench status by doing a Drench Performance Test today!

Worm Control 2024

What does farm level management of grass parasites look like?

Dave Robertson BVSc BSc –
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

- 1. Avoid the parasites.** All lamb fatteners know that lambs do best on young grass or forage crops post weaning. This is not only because they are higher quality feed, but also because they don't have significant levels of parasites that can slow lamb appetite or drain protein.
- 2. Integrate lambs with cattle followed by undrenched ewes.** Once you have grazed a clean area with lambs once or twice, there is the opportunity to remove residual worm populations and poorer feed/weeds with cattle.
- 3. Refugia.** The next mob through that area would be some un-drenched ewes to reseed with some susceptible parasite populations. This only has to be for 1-2 days.
- 4. Monitor.** Current dry conditions can mean that drench intervals can be extended with lambs. Basing this decision on FEC levels will ensure they don't suddenly starting scouring and go backwards.
- 5. Use an effective drench** when you need to. There being no Zolvix or Startect until Autumn it has made effective worm control challenging. The weaning drench is considered the most important drench a lamb gets. But before we just reach for the drench gun lets get some data on the drench families and what is working on YOUR property THIS season. You may have experienced drench failure last year, you may find that drench does work at the front end of the season this year – or not – but a DRENCH PERFORMANCE TEST is recommended.
- 6. Target use of drench** for capital stock is a mind set we have to get used to. Light ewes post weaning, 2 toothies, hoggets might get a drench pre-mate, but clean ewes up to weight are unlikely to get a benefit from a pre-tup drench.





Get your rams checked for breeding soundness this February. Good chance to review Drenching Programme, Pre-tup Minerals and Animal Health.

Blair Smith with 2024 Newhaven Perendale and Romdale ram sale team.



First draft lambs from Maniototo – Dorset halfbred lambs from Craigneuk ready to go.



Calendar for Jobs Late Summer/Autumn

Ewan Penny BVMS – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



Ram Palpations

- This aids ram culling decisions and reduces spread of disease. Options are:
 - ◆ Breeding soundness exam – palpation of rams testicles and assessing presence of lameness/scrotal mange
 - ◆ *Brucella ovis* accreditation – ram palpations and appropriate blood sampling

Drench Checks

- A good opportunity to assess drench efficacy as worm burdens in lambs start to climb after the summer dry period.
- Consider the Vet Centre's new Drench Performance Tests – a great way to get a lot of information about drench statuses on your farm.
- A great time of year to do drench checks 10 days post drench – drench resistance is most commonly found in autumn *Trichostrongylus* species.

Lameness

- Get lameness treated before mating. This is a common cause of ram wastage.
- Tilmovet injections of lame rams/ewes can be done at ram palpations.

Review Animal Health

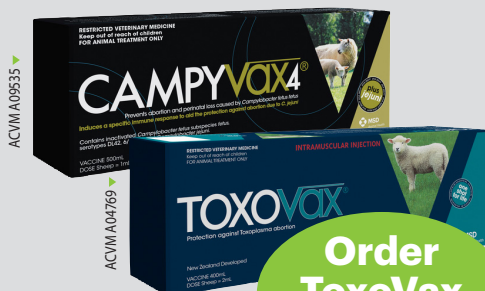
- Effectiveness of pre-lamb treatments (or ineffectiveness) will still be fresh in your mind. Give us a phone to discuss potential improvements next year.
- Tailing treatments/animal health in lambs. If lamb performance/weaning percentage is suboptimal, be sure to discuss with a vet next time you're in the clinic



120 day old Merino-cross lambs ready for processing. Conditions for early finishing has been good for many farmers this season. Reports of better weaning drafts have been common.

Abortion Storms

Two Diseases Two Vaccines



Toxoplasma is present on 100% of New Zealand farms, and Campylobacter on 88%*¹ – but both are equally important. These two diseases can cause abortion storms with losses up to 30%, or more, of lambs*^{2,3}.

Preventing them takes two vaccines. Maiden ewes require 1 dose of Toxovax and 2 doses of Campyvac4 ahead of mating.

An annual booster of Campyvac4 to mixed age ewes is required in following years.

ToxoVax

- ✓ Controls the risk of Toxoplasma. **Live** vaccine.
- ✓ Up to 8% higher lambing percentages (3% national average).
- ✓ Vaccinate at least 4 weeks prior to first mating.
- ✓ One shot gives a lifetime immunity.
- ✓ **MUST BE ORDERED AT LEAST 4 WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF TREATMENT** to ensure availability.

CampyVax4

- ✓ Controls the risk of Campylobacter.
- ✓ Increase lambing by an average 9%.
- ✓ Protect maiden ewes with TWO shots 4-6 weeks apart, or one booster shot in previously vaccinated ewes.

AVAILABLE ONLY UNDER VETERINARY AUTHORISATION. ACVM No's: A4769, A9535.
Schering-Plough Animal Health Ltd. Phone: 0800 800 543. www.msd-animal-health.co.nz
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1. Dempster et al (2011), NZ Veterinary Journal, 59:4 155-159.
2. Wilkins et al (1992) Surveillance, 19:4, 20-23.
3. Sahin et al (2017) The Annual Review of Animal Biosciences, 5: 9.1-9.22.

2024 Agricultural & Pastoral Assn

The A&P Shows are important events that bring the country to town. A great opportunity for farmers to get together and see some of the latest innovations. Also a chance for the townies to get a wee taste of country.

Volunteers – We would also like to thank and acknowledge the volunteers who tirelessly turn up year after year and make these events possible.

A&P Show Dates (correct at time of print)

Otago/Taieri A&P	27-28 Jan
Palmerston/Waihemo A&P	3-4 Feb
Central Otago/Omakau A&P	10 Feb
Maniototo/Ranfurly A&P	14 Feb
North Otago A&P	24-25 Feb
Temuka & Geraldine A&P	2 Mar
Strath Taieri A&P	19 Mar
McKenzie County A&P	1 Apr

Proudly supporting 2024 Collie Club & Dog Trials

This year we will again be donating major prizes to each of the local 19 dog trial competitions including the championships.

We will also be in attendance and supporting the dog trials where we can. We look forward to bumping into a few of our clients at these events over the next couple of months.

Dog Trial Dates (correct at time of print)

St Bathans CC	28-29 Jan
Hilton-Gapes Valley CDC	2-3 Feb
Strath Taieri CC	16-17 Feb
Macraes Flat CC	18 Feb
Waitaki CDC	25-26 Feb
Mackenzie CDC (Inc)	1-2 Mar
Omarama CDC	2-3 Mar
Geraldine CDC	8-9 Mar
Patearoa CC	11-12 Mar
Mt Nessim CC	17-18 Mar
Farmlands Centre Champs and Tokarahi CC	17-18 Mar
Tarras CC	21-22 Mar
Omakau/Earnsclough CC	24-25 Mar
Kyeburn DTC	26-27 Mar
Waihemo CC	3-4 Apr
Waimate DTC	5-6 Apr
Levels SDC	7-8 Apr
Oamaru CDC	19-20 Apr



Jeff Spillane (CEO) and Robin Crawford (Commercial Manager) sorting out the donations for the Dog Trials 2024

GDV- It's in Our DNA?

Catherine Nelson BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

Working dogs in New Zealand have a broad range of potential health issues, ranging in severity from extremely irritating (such as skin allergies) to possibly fatal (such as twisted gut/GDV). Excitingly, Massey University is investigating the genetics of such diseases, as well as working dogs' behaviours and performance on farm, for the first time in history. 'The Right Dog for the Job' study will be used to help farmers make more informed decisions when purchasing working dogs and developing breeding programmes. By identifying genes that may influence disease and behaviour, it gives NZ the opportunity to improve the bloodlines and welfare of our working dogs, and potentially reduce the costs of maintaining them.

Just as in dog trials, research trials are also useless without participants. The researchers are looking for willing helpers who are prepared to answer a survey regarding their dog's medical history, behaviour, and physical appearance. In return, a free genetic profile of the dog will be made available to the owner. As with most things, the more the merrier so sign up all the dogs you have!



Working Dog Vaccinations Protecting your Team

Anna Macfarlane BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru

With dog trial season approaching it's a good time to look at getting your working dog vaccinations done. With having lots of dogs in one place it increases the risk of potential disease spread and it is not uncommon for us to see cases of kennel cough or parvo at this time every year.

With ram palpation visits occurring over the next few months it's a good opportunity to get your team vaccinated or start a new pup on it's initial course. The core vaccine (DHPPi) covers Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Parainfluenza. Pups require 2-3 vaccines with the last one being between 14-16 weeks of age. Adults require a booster at one year old and then every 3 years after that. Canine (kennel) cough is a separate annual vaccine, and is important to consider especially if taking dogs to various farms or interacting with other dogs aka dog trials.

Vaccinations are a great opportunity to give your working dog team an overall health check where aspects such as arthritis, diet, heart and lungs or any ongoing concerns can be addressed. Ensure to get in contact with your local Veterinary Centre to find out where your team is with their vaccination status.



Prominent Omarama triallist Ginger Anderson winning his fifth New Zealand title at the 2021 South Island and New Zealand sheep dog trial championships. PHOTO: ELIZABETH O'CONNEL (ODT)

Common Working Dog Orthopedic Injuries

Not always career ending



Sarah Boys BVSc - VETERINARY CENTRE Timaru

Like all athletes involved in an extreme sports, working dogs are at risk for a number of traumatic orthopedic injuries. These injuries can be major, causing a 3-legged lameness but in the majority of cases they are fixable and do not mark the end of dog's working career.

Here are four of the most frequent injuries that we repair:

Hip dislocations

- Typically occur following an impact (kicked by a cattle beast or hit by a vehicle) or after getting hung up in a fence.
- 50% successfully treated by relocation of the hip and strict rest. The other 50% require a 'hip toggle' surgery to replace the damaged ligament of the hip.
- Excellent prognosis with a 3-4 month recovery period

Fractures of the forearm and shin bones

- A range of causes
- Surgical repair is most often with a plate and screws. For more fragmented



fractures an external skeletal fixator may be used. An ESF consists of pins placed through the bone both above and below the fracture which are joined together by long bars on the outside of the leg.

- 3-4 month recovery period

Torn ligaments of the hock joint

- Most commonly seen after catching foot in the bars of a farm bike or being stood on/kicked
- Surgery involves repair of the ligaments and stabilization of the joint in either a cast or hinged external skeletal fixator for 5-6 weeks.
- 4-5 month recovery period

Rupture of the cruciate ligament

- Often seen after getting hung up in a fence although occasionally due to an underlying disease of the ligament.
- Most common surgical treatment involves placement of a specialized wedge into the shin bone to change the angle of the joint and eliminate the need for an intact ligament – a TTA procedure.
- 4-6 month recovery period.



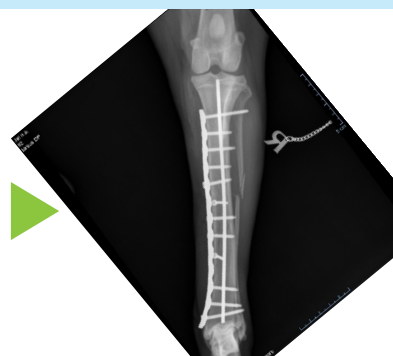
"Couldn't get a better job done than what Sarah Boys and the local Ranfurly team did."

Both dogs walked down a hill for 6 hours yesterday driving sheep.

The black and grey dog is Fern, Sarah fixed her tendons a while back."

Jim Hore
RANFURLY

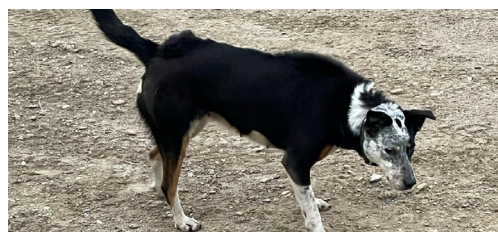
Jet's X-Ray



Maude's X-Ray




Jim Hore with Jet on the left, and Maude the smaller dog on the right



Fern had her tendons fixed by Sarah Boys

Working Dog



FROM
JUST


\$129

**32% Protein
22% Fat**

BlackHawk®

Working Dog Food – 20kg

20kg	\$149.00
BUY 2	\$139.00
BUY 32	\$129.00



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