



# Veterinary Centre EwesNews

## Veterinary Centre Ranfurly Going Strong 10 years on!

2023 marks a decade since The Veterinary Centre Ranfurly opened for service to the iconic Maniototo. And 10 years on from opening, the Ranfurly team continues to grow from strength to strength. Vanessa Love, Jo Sutherland, Emma McAtamney and Jenny Newth have formed a close team that are passionate about delivering the best service and leaving customers completely satisfied.

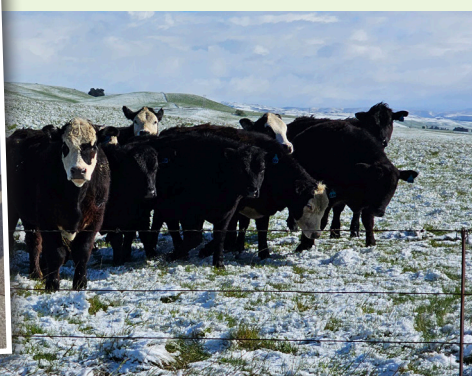
Vanessa Love is beginning her 3rd year with the Veterinary Centre as our resident veterinarian and has thrived in applying her skills across the great number of sheep, beef and deer farms who use our services. Either alongside Vanessa, or in many cases independently, large animal technician Jenny Newth is also helping clients with her own considerable skillset. Vanessa and Jenny worked together prior to joining The Veterinary Centre and it shows in their cohesive teamwork and what they are able to achieve especially in the busiest times of the year. Reputations can take time to build, however these guys have already established strong confidence amongst clients.

Area (and Territory) Manager Jo Sutherland also now has a number of seasons of the animal health calendar under her belt and covers the miles to

take outstanding service to the farm gate. Jo offers sound advice on the extensive product range available with a Veterinarian only a phone call away for any of the trickier questions. Jo works closely with Emma who has also built up a strong knowledge of key products for our farmer clients. One of the most helpful features of our Ranfurly clinic is how well Emma keeps it stocked ensuring significant quantities of product are available in clinic exactly when they are needed. Clients who visit the Ranfurly clinic and see the big stacks of drenches and dog food on the shop floor and the chiller chocka fill with vaccines and minerals know that if they need something the vet centre will have it in stock regardless pre planned or short notice, 10 doses or 10,000. Emma's friendly nature is typical of the whole Ranfurly team where client visits and catch ups are the highlight of each day.

So after 10 years we can confidently say Veterinary Centre Ranfurly has never been in better shape to provide outstanding service and advice for all of your animal health needs. Our great team of Vanessa, Jenny, Jo and Emma are looking forward to many more years being a proud and active part of the great Maniototo farming region.

*From left to right:  
Jenny Newth (Nurse and Vet Technician),  
Jo Sutherland (Manager/TM),  
Vanessa Love BVSc (Veterinarian), and  
Emma McAtamney (Reception)*



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## NEW Ranfurly Partner Announced



**Vanessa Love BVSc**  
Veterinary Centre - PARTNER

We are very excited to announce that Vanessa Love, resident Veterinarian in Ranfurly, is now a partner of our Veterinary Centre business.

Vanessa's partnership is a major milestone in the future of the Ranfurly practice, which this year marks 10 years of operation since opening in 2013.

Vanessa has anchored our Ranfurly clinic in a manner that has impressed both large and small animal clients. Her leadership and ability to work easily with others has contributed greatly to the development of a very cohesive Ranfurly team.



# A Clinical Case of Goitre

**Mikaela Crawford BVSc – Veterinary Centre Waimate**

The lamb pictured is from a local farm around Waimate. The ewes are on grass and they have never supplemented iodine. The enlargement underneath the jaw is due to a condition called Goitre. This occurs as a result of insufficient iodine in the pregnant ewe. The fetus relies on its mother's iodine intake to transport sufficient iodine across the placenta for its own thyroid hormone production.

Goitre can affect a newborn lamb's ability to regulate its metabolism meaning they can be highly susceptible to malnutrition and cold exposure. This can reduce lamb survival rates, impair growth, and sometimes even result in stillbirth.

Here are some key strategies for preventing goitre in lambs:

- **Balanced Nutrition:** Ensure that pregnant ewes are provided with a well-balanced diet that contains sufficient iodine. Iodised salt or mineral supplements can be added to their feed to meet their iodine requirements.
- **Monitoring Iodine Levels:** Weighing the thyroid glands of 10-15 lambs who are stillborn is the best way.
- **Environmental Control:** Certain crops like Brassica species can contain elevated levels of goitrogens that impair the thyroid gland's iodine uptake. Some clover varieties can also have this effect.

## • Iodine Supplementation:

Supplementation should be considered if:

- You are feeding brassica crops
- Your farm has a previous history of goitre
- Thyroid: bodyweight ratios from slink/stillborn lambs are higher than recommended
- You have noticed higher losses than expected around lambing

This can be done via an injection of Flexidine - ideally given a month before mating. Alternatively you can use Lamb Survival Drench (LSD). Ideally give 3 doses: Prior to mating (to improve fertility), at scanning and prior to lambing. If not given prior to mating then giving doses at scanning and prior to lambing will provide supplementation for the growing foetus.



# Sustainable Parasite Management at Clifton Downs

**Lucy Cameron BVSc BSc MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutri.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate**

I caught up with Chris Medlicott recently, in the led up to his annual ram sale this month. Along with a successful Southdown stud, Chris puts an average of 7000 trading lambs yearly through his property near Waimate. At Clifton Downs feeding well has always been a key focus. For the adult ewes one consequence of this is a better ability to cope with parasite burdens – as such they are never drenched, and the few poor doers are culled, improving the overall resilience of the flock. Feeding lambs well grows them out quickly but can only get you so far in the war against worms – and in the past Chris would have reached for the drench gun. But in recent years with the changing landscape of drench resistance, he decided if he wanted to keep this side of the business going, it would need to be more sustainable in the longer term.

Reducing larval contamination is a key concept for reducing lambs' exposure to worms – Chris does this by not getting the lambs to graze pasture down low. They get shifted early, and cattle are used to clean up breaks. Pastures are renewed every 4-6 years, before native grasses start to take over, this also reduces larval build-up over time. Lambs are kept off grass as much as possible from mid-February to early May, summer crops such as chicory and clover are used while cattle graze the pasture.

Clover levels in pasture are monitored – Chris likes these to be high – maximising growth rates, providing high quality protein and fixing nitrogen. During winter lambs go on to brassicas with no parasite burden, and come off often needing no drench at the other end.

These practices have markedly reduced the reliance on drench, and lambs are growing quickly – winter lambs' have been averaging 3kg per week – so they don't hang around. When Chris thinks it might be time for a drench, he does an FEC first. Many lambs on the property only receive one drench – a quarantine drench on arrival. If they get another one this is only given to those that need it based on BCS and growth rates – Chris has always used a lot of refugia and this is a policy that hasn't changed. Along with leaving lambs undrenched, stud ewes are used as refugia too.

Keys to success with Clifton Downs' lambing trading parasite management include:

- Feeding well so lambs grow fast to increase efficiency and get them away sooner, reducing the need for another drench

- Reducing lambs' exposure to larvae through pasture management, and use of crops
- Using refugia
- Cattle are used to compliment the system and clean up larvae
- Regular monitoring, with no unnecessary drenching
- When drenching i.e. Quarantine drench, an effective drench is used



## Tape Drenches

Most common time for tape worm drenching is November – December. Not all lambs get knocked around by them, but some do in the 8-12 weeks of age stage.

If lambs pre-weaning lambs are a bit shelly with a smudge of dags it may be worth doing.

**Our TWO Tapeworm drench options for this season are**

### EraserTape

Eraser Tape ACVM A011948

**Triple Active Drench + TAPE**

Abamectin, Albendazole, Levamisole, PLUS Praziquantel (mineralised with Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Cobalt and Iodine). Dose 1mL/5kg

### CORPORAL + TAPE

Corporal + Tape Mineralised Drench for Sheep ACVM A011351

**Double Active Drench + TAPE**

Albendazole, Levamisole, PLUS Praziquantel (mineralised with Copper, Selenium, Zinc, Cobalt and Iodine). Dose 1mL/5kg

This is the equivalent to "First" drench





# Feet Soundness through the Spring

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



Making the complex simple is the job of those that call the shots. With respect to footrot, there are many layers of complexity...and frustration.

The simple message is that it spreads when there is moisture and mild temperatures. The tools to limit the spread are troughing and footvax. The latter is a medium strategy. A vaccine programme needs set up prior to the spreading period e.g. pre-lamb shearing many ewes receive their vaccine booster. So for the here and now that leaves us with troughing. What works best? Zinc versus formalin? Weekly run through or long soaking once? The answer is yes...they can all do something, but it's the consistency and timing that counts.

Weekly run-through in zinc with surfactant can deal with footrot. In a recent Swiss study 28 flocks had footrot eradicated with paring at the start, weekly troughing in for 10 minutes for 6-19 weeks, culling non-responders and using PCR testing for virulent strain genes...sounds too simple doesn't it?

Standing in 10-30% zinc with SLS (sodium lauryl sulphate) for an hour is an Australian technique for clean mobs after they have been pared and inspected. The longer a sheep stands in zinc the more it can penetrate the deeper layers of the hoof where residue pockets of bacteria may hide. The SLS increases the penetration 7 fold.

Formalin can have a dramatically positive effect on ewes and lambs that are in the early stages of the lameness. Not so good on advanced footrot in ewes.

When there are all phases of the footrot disease present this is the sign it is spreading. Yes, treat the bad ones with antibiotics, but tipping over the whole flock is not a super use of everyone's exuberance. Wait until the simple lesions have been zapped by troughing or the dry summer has arrived.

Troughing rules I made up:

- Early and often is best.
- All ewes and lambs through the bath by Christchurch show/Cup week.
- Read 7 pages of a book between each soaking. Take a chair, a hat, some Bhujia mix\* (An irresistible traditional indian spiced snack combining pea flour noodles and chips, peas and peanuts.) and a dog that doesn't annoy you.



Have some Tenaline and blue spray handy at tailing to deal with those that get a truck ride or are lagging behind due to lameness.

## FOOT SCORING CHART

(Use for pre-inspections and determining what phase of the infection cycle)



**Score 1**  
**Water maceration/OID**  
Water maceration/OID

Tenaline 20% LA  
ACVM A007843

Tetravet Blue  
ACVM A007485



**Score 2**  
**OID**  
Ovine interdigital dermatitis/scald



**Score 3**  
**OID – Early footrot**  
Starting to lift at the heel bulbs



**Score 4**  
**Active footrot**  
Advancing under-run of hoof

# Lamb Vaccines

**Anna Macfarlane BVSc**  
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



## Clostridial Vaccines at Tailing

Vaccinating with Multine 5in1 provides excellent immunity against clostridial diseases including pulpy kidney, tetanus, malignant oedema, black disease and black leg, which can cause sudden death in lambs. Lambs can be vaccinated from as young as 2 weeks and require 2 shots 4-6 weeks apart followed by a yearly booster. Generally, 5in1 is administered at tailing and a booster given at weaning. This provides good immunity to lambs for the risk period e.g., going onto crops or high-quality feeds where they will be growing rapidly.

Covexin 10in1 provides a wider range of clostridial disease protection. This may be indicated if the clostridial risk is greater (e.g., grazing high sugar feeds such as lucerne) or in stud stock.

If ewes were not vaccinated pre-lamb, then a clostridial vaccine that has immediate short term tetanus protection and short term pulpy kidney protection is required (e.g. Lamb vaccine).

## What about B12?

Lambs have the greatest requirement for B12 of any stock class and deficient lambs will have poor growth rates, reduced appetite and a depressed immune system. Lush spring grass is often low in cobalt (the precursor to vitamin B12.) If ewes did not receive B12 supplementation pre-lamb, there is the risk lambs could have depleted B12 come weaning time.

- Short acting: Multine 5-in-1 with B12 contains 2mg of short acting B12 per lamb which lasts about 4 weeks.
- Long acting B12: a 0.5ml dose of Smart Shot can elevate B12 levels for ~3-4 months, hence if there are issues with cobalt/ vitamin B12 deficiency this is often the most suitable option.



## What about Drenching at tailing?

Lambs at tailing do not require a drench and it will put unnecessary stress on drench resistance. The negative production effects such as reduced appetite, scouring and weight loss are associated with developing an immune response to internal parasites. At tailing lambs are unlikely to have mounted an immune response to the worm larvae hence don't suffer consequences associated with burdens.

# Enjoy a FREE Festive Ham-on-the-Bone

Receive a FREE Festive Ham when you purchase indicated quantities of selected drenches exclusively from the Veterinary Centre by the Big Blue Cross

\* Offer valid while stocks last, To qualify a single purchase must include the indicated quantity of drench ie ...





# Monitoring the use of Pre-lamb Moxidectin LA in Ewes across our Practice Area



**Kevin Kearney BVSc (dist), MVSc, MANZCVS (Rumin. Nutr.) – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

There has been a lot of discussion this season around the use of pre-lamb anthelmintic treatments, triggered by a growing awareness of on farm management strategies for parasite control and drench resistance. The Veterinary Centre takes its role of stewardship of products used on farms seriously and has monitored the use of pre-lamb treatments (capsules and moxidectin LA) for many years now. This season, with the unavailability of Bionic capsules, we have targeted the monitoring of moxidectin LA (Cydectin LA and Exodus LA injections). We are conscious that any animal health product used, needs to offer a return on investment and production advantages.

To date, we have monitored around 45 farms which have, in the main, selectively used moxidectin LA in one specific mob i.e. twin bearing ewes, 'skinny' mob. Our Territory Managers have been out helping 'picking up faeces' – so a great chance to touch base about ewe condition, pasture growth, the lamb schedule, predicted El Nino and the hardy annual of 'dags' on ewes through the tailing pen. A common observation has been 'less dags' have been noted in moxidectin LA treated mobs.

Our aim has been to monitor FECs at 40 -75 days post ewe injection. The majority of farms monitored to date have been around the 60 day mark, with a small number either side of 40-75 days. Around half the farms have had zero counts, over a quarter very low FEC counts (less than 50 epg average) and a handful with higher counts. One farm, with high counts, we suspect some lamb faeces may have been accidentally picked up – as there were a lot of *Nematodirus* eggs – which we wouldn't expect to see in ewes at this time of the year. These results have to be viewed with the limitations of FECs in mind. On farms where counts have been higher, we have had larval cultures run at the lab – to

differentiate worm species which are not part of the persistence claims of moxidectin LA vs resistant *Ostertagia* (*Teladorsagia*). Larval cultures take about two weeks to come back – so we are just getting this information now. We also consider getting larval cultures run is part of our stewardship of the use of pre-lamb treatments.

We envisage we will still be monitoring for another 3-4 weeks with the variation in timing of lambing across our practice – from coastal to high country and everything in between. I am sure Dave Robertson will offer great insight into all our findings in the future – whether over the fence posts, around the kitchen table, at a pub meeting or a more formal setting.

## Timely Reminder

### Faecal Egg Counts

Monitoring Long Acting Moxidectin use Pre-lamb. Just a reminder, our Territory Managers will be contacting moxidectin LA (Cydectin LA, Exodus LA) pre-lamb users to monitor any faecal egg output. While the best time to monitor this is 40-75 days after injection, the optimal time is around the 60 day mark.



Exodus LA Injection  
ACVM A010399

Cydectin LA Injection for Sheep  
ACVM A009926

## Working Dog Happenings

**Vanessa Love BVSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Ranfurly**

Every year across the practice we see a few dislocated hips in working dogs. In fact in the last year (October 2022 to October 2023) we saw 23 of them, 14 in Oamaru, 7 in Ranfurly and 2 in Waimate.

The hip is a ball and socket joint. The capital ligament connects the femoral head (ball) to the acetabulum (socket). The muscles of the hip and the fibrous capsule of the joint also hold the joint together.

For a hip to dislocate there must be severe enough trauma to break the capital ligament and tear the joint capsule. They almost always dislocate the same way-up and forwards. This may appear as different length legs and not weight bearing on one leg at all. If the acetabulum and femoral head don't look damaged on x-rays we anaesthetise the dog allowing muscles to relax then pull the leg and rotate it until it clunks back into place. If closed reduction doesn't work, there is damage to the structures or the hip pops straight back out again then surgery is required to fix the joint back together with a toggle. Hips become very hard to put back in if not seen quickly, ideally they are seen within 24 hours after the injury.

Many of the big huntaways around have bad hips where the femoral head isn't covered as well by the acetabulum as it should be and these tend to dislocate more easily and are often candidates for surgery.

Luckily most of the dogs we see get their hips put back in, rest for 6 weeks, undergo a slow return to work and are soon back to full function.



*Ewes and lambs in for tailing at Otamatapaio Station. First chance to assess ewe and lamb health. Preventative fly control, early foot bathing, targeted drenching of ewes are worth implementing in some cases.*



# Is a few dags a big deal on ewes at tailing?

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc – VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru**

Sheep that don't have dags look healthier. Ewes that do have dags look poor. This is often the first intuitive measure of stock health for many sheep farmers.

Oh it could just be the lush spring grass, or it could be

- Consumption of parasite larvae and the start of a new gut worm infection.
- The re-activation of inhibited larvae.
- Ewes that have not seen a worm challenge for a while will have to re-start their immune system to fight it. This is an energy and protein cost.

The numbers of daggy, wormy sheep are in large part, enhanced by set stocking, over stocking, constant stocking with sheep. Ineffective drenches also contribute to the dag-fest spring surprise.

You might notice by 6-10 weeks post lambing that ewes have "dried up". In order for these ewes to "dry up" they would have rebuilt their immune memory to the parasites and established some sort of mutual understanding. To achieve this, ewes need a certain level of protein from the diet and sometimes mobilizing a certain amount of muscle mass.

So do we disturb this truce between host and parasite by administering a purgative dose drench at tailing? From a very practical parasite paper written by the enduring Massey parasitologist Bill Pomaroy in the 1990's: "A single docking drench with a short-acting anthelmintic would appear to offer some long term benefits but its advantages probably varies from year to year depending on climate, lambing date and nutrition". This was after reviewing a heap of studies where most did not show a benefit and some did. When capsules came along they really showed the scientific and farming world what internal parasites were really doing to ewes and lambs, in that ewes with no worms were fatter and cleaner and lambs around that 2-3kg heavier at weaning, which when you break it down, is about 50g/day better growth from 50 to 100 days of age. But we couldn't help our selves to limit their use – **Capsules in the 90's were like cell phones with modern teenagers – they are just too good to the detriment of our greater existence!**

The answer is we must all be scientists. Observe things, measure variables, draw unclouded conclusions, take balanced actions. Harness the chemical power of effective drench when required but not pray to the pharmaceutical gods for salvation every time stock performance is under-whelming.

The answer is we must all be scientists. Observe things, measure variables, draw unclouded conclusions, take balanced actions. Harness the chemical power of effective drench when required but not pray to the pharmaceutical gods for salvation every time stock performance is under-whelming.

## A Summary for a Tailing Drench

More than 25% dirty ewes with mob composite FEC counts > 500 epq then drench the daggy ewes at tailing. Use a triple, or a double if you know it will work.



## A Case Study from a Local Farm ...



**LEFT: Undrenched ewes at tailing. 83% were crutched and drenched at tailing.**



**RIGHT: Ewes treated with Cydectin LA 64 days ago. 6% were crutched and drenched at tailing.**

# Veterinary Centre EwesNews EXTRA

## Bulling Season

**Ewan Penny BVMS**  
VETERINARY CENTRE Waimate



A few reminders for the upcoming bulling season ...

### Bull Health and Fitness

- **Lameness** - There is still time to get lame/ overgrown bulls sorted before breeding. Give us a phone to book this in if needed.
- **Fertility** - Service testing can check for broken penises and lesions, reducing the risks of a poor scanning. Consider semen sampling any bulls which you had doubts about last year.
- **Vaccine** - Bovilis BVD vaccine has no detrimental effect on fertility, however catching virus has a disastrous effect on bull fertility! Cows with calves at foot can be a source of infection to naïve bulls. Give them their annual BVD booster shot pre-breeding (hopefully 4 weeks before). Make sure to give 2 shots 1 month apart to bulls not previously vaccinated.

### Ratios

- Rotate bulls, particularly if single sire mated. Swap over half way through the breeding period.
- 1 mature bull to 40 cows is about right. I'm sure many farmers have their own ratios!
- For younger bulls, 1 female per month of age: A 2 y.o. bull can go to ~25 females.



Logan Roberts and Campbell McCone, Warrego Pastoral, Macraes.

"I'm not buying another bull at this time of year, you've got to fix this one up Dave!"

"Should do another year Campbell after a wee pedicure."



# Our Timaru Clinic is OPEN and it's Amazing

18 Sefton Street, Timaru  
Phone 03 684 5666  
timaru@vet111.co.nz

The Veterinary Centre had a vision to provide "gold standard" Veterinary services and animal health products to the Timaru area. After a massive effort over the last 18 months our outstanding team of vets and support staff have now opened the doors and welcomed clients into our NEW Timaru clinic.

The clinic is a purpose-built veterinary hospital and retail store. In the medium to long term it will become the hub for provision of veterinary services by The Veterinary Centre to the greater Timaru area. As a "mixed practice", we have everything your pet, farm dog or livestock needs from a veterinary clinic. From routine procedures through to digital radiology, complex dentistry, soft tissue and orthopaedic

surgery, and comprehensive herd and flock health services. Initially the provision of large animal clinical services south of the Pareora river will be delivered by the Waimate clinic.

Our range of animal health products is based on robust science and we only stock products we know will perform in the local environment. New clients wanting the provision of RVM's (restricted veterinary medicines) will require an initial RVM consultation with a veterinarian before we can dispense these drugs.

If you're passing through Timaru, stop and check out the new clinic. We're chuffed to bits with it and would love to show you around. On the 18th of November, Nigel Bowen – Timaru Mayor officially cuts the opening ribbon.



**CLiK<sup>TM</sup> EXTRA**

**CLiK Extra has 30% MORE Actives than CLiK**

- 14-26 Weeks Protection
- 21 Days Meat WHP

**20L \$1,395.00**

CLiK EXTRA ACVM A011384

## A Chat Over the Fence



*Hamish Carswell, Dunback sheep and beef farmer. Hamish has a very inquiring mind, he is always keen to learn and keep up with modern concepts. While fertility testing a bull prior to sale, Hamish had a look down our new fancy phase contrast semen evaluation microscope.*

*"In 40 yrs of farming that was one of the more interesting things I seen ... you've got to get school kids along to see this, it would get them inspired."*

## High Country Tailing

**Dave Robertson BVSc BSc**  
VETERINARY CENTRE Oamaru



### Worm Control

Ewe drenching at tailing. If you aren't in a hurry ewes can benefit from a drench if they are ...

- On short permanent grass paddocks
- Are skinny and daggy
- Have not had a capsule or LA treatment.

Pre-tailing egg counts can help you decide, but generally you know if ewes are battling and could do with a drench. Don't drench all of them. I hope you can feel satisfied when you leave a fat, clean ewe as refugia.

### Fly Control

Clik EXTRA. Amazing product delivering over 4 months fly protection. Life would be very complicated without it. For terminal lambs or ewes that don't need 4 months protection use ClikZin. It is half the price and gives a good 2 months protection with only 7 days meat withhold.

### Vaccine

Multine 5-in-1 with B12 is very popular for lambs at tailing. In a recent farming conversation I had about it the concluding remark was "you may as well used the good stuff".



### Randoms

A bottle of antibiotics for lame feet and other infections is useful. Tetravet blue spray also.

### BCS profiling

If you are really into targeted drenching or anything to do with optimising ewe performance knowing the flock BCS profile at key points like tailing are useful

