



# MOOZNEWS



## The Fonterra Co-operative Difference

Mat O'Sullivan BVSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

The 20/21 dairy season will see the introduction of the premium payments for reaching combined standards in **People, Animals, the Environment** and the Co-op. Reaching the standards in these four pillars (Te Putake – start of the journey) will give farmers a premium payment of 7c/kgMS over the baseline pay-out.

By achieving Te Pukate, farmers will then become eligible for the milk quality premium. After achieving 30 days with BMSCC below 150,000, farmers will have met Te Puku (the mid-point). For every day of supply thereon (and including the first 30 days) there is a further premium of 3c/kgMS.

For the average herd size in our practice (~770 cows) which is doing the practice average production of 440kg/cow (supplied), reaching Te Putake will be worth \$23,500. If reaching Te Puku for Milk Quality (<150,000) in every day of supply next season, this would be worth an additional \$10,100.

For our part, as veterinarians, we will be looking to assist in the development of an **Animal Wellbeing Plan** for each farm. This will involve the creation of a plan around



Co-op and Prosperity



Environment



Animals



People and Community

**Nutrition** (focus on BCS), **Health** (mastitis, lameness, mortality and antimicrobial resistance), **Environment** (planning for extreme weather events) and **Behaviour**. For suppliers starting collection in August this plan needs to be in place by August (when farm audits start). We envisage that Animal Wellbeing plan's will be made during the annual RVM consults over the dry period.

We also see we have a big part to play in achieving milk quality excellence. This will start with Milk Quality Review's in the next month to plant and implement a strategy for next season.

There will of course also be benefits for Oceania suppliers around health, welfare and milk quality in also having a similar plan.



George Smith BVSc BSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## Round the traps in the Maniototo

- Scanning is complete and most farms across the Maniototo area have seen empty rates rise.
- Farms are partly attributing this rise to the tough growing conditions in early spring.
- A dry February/March has seen grass growth rates drops and feed availability decrease greatly heading into the last two months of lactation.
- With the above feed pinch, cow condition has dropped noticeably heading into April
  - It is worth body condition scoring cows now to determine when light cows need to be dried off.
  - A cow at body condition score 4 needs 80 days with high quality feeding to reach the target body condition score at the time of calving.



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Ryan Luckman BVSc.  
Waimate Veterinary Centre

# HeatCHECK – Where do we sit with Heat Detection?

During the 2020 mating season we launched a pilot run of the Veterinary Centre HeatCHECK programme. With HeatCHECK we scanned the cows as they were presented for AI and measured ovarian follicle size, presence of CL structures, and whether the heat detection aid was fully, partially, or minimally activated.

Prior to the start of mating we'd collected similar data from Allflex Collar farms, plus information around the timing of insemination in relation to an "optimal window". A test was then validated to match follicle size with this optimal mating window. We could then give each farm an overall heat detection score based on the average likelihood that a cow was mated in this optimal mating window.

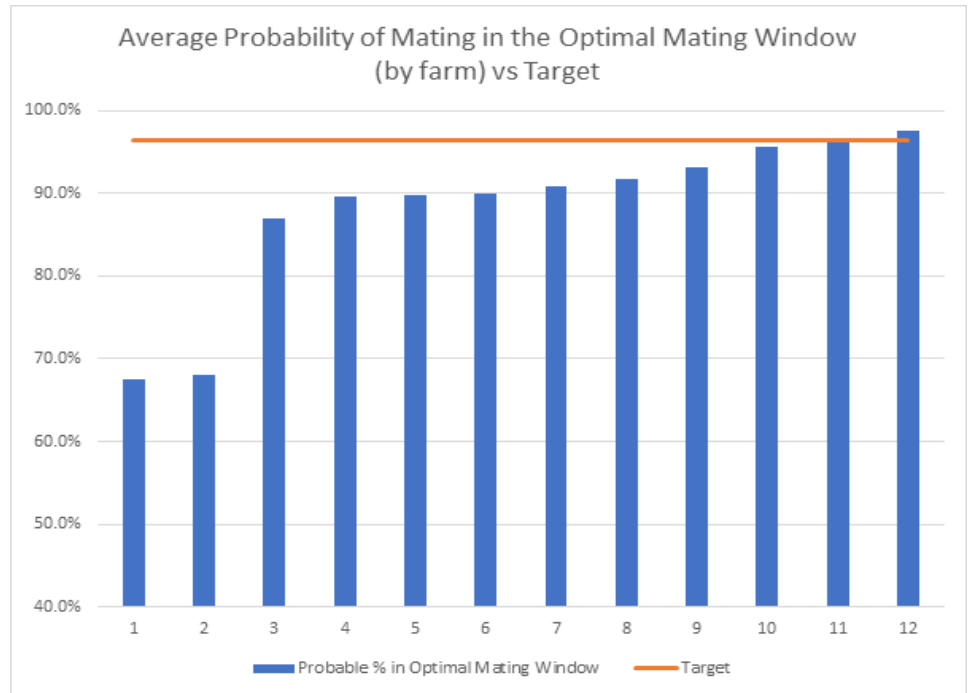
On the Allflex farms the average score was 96.4%. We know that the collars take a lot of the art and guesswork out of heat detection, so to ensure this was an achievable target in the general population of farms we then enrolled a farm that was considered to have excellent heat detection (based on their FFR, conception rates, and Return Analysis) – they also reached the 96.4% target.

The graph below shows twelve of the non-collar farms enrolled in the pilot year roll-out. The majority of farms recorded scores below the reference target, with one exceeding it. Note that Farm 11 is the reference farm discussed above.

On the farms we also assessed their methods against the gold standard recommendations from InCalf. Working together with the farmer we could often find tweaks or modifications to the heat detection that should improve outcomes going forward.

The question we will be looking to answer next year is around what a larger population of farms will look like? DairyNZ estimates that heat detection is a major factor in poor reproductive performance in over 30% of dairy farms, however we don't have a true understanding for our region. Currently the only benchmarked data around heat detection in the practice is the Fertility Focus Report generated figure for "Heat Detection".

The "Heat Detection" figure is actually a submission rate for early calving mature cows. It assumes that because they've had plenty of time to cycle post-calving (and don't have the variability of heifers) that 95% of these cows should cycle in the first 3 weeks. If the figure is low it generally indicates either a heat detection issue OR a



non-cycling issue.

The benchmarked data from the practice (below) shows that on average only 85% of these cows are being submitted, which

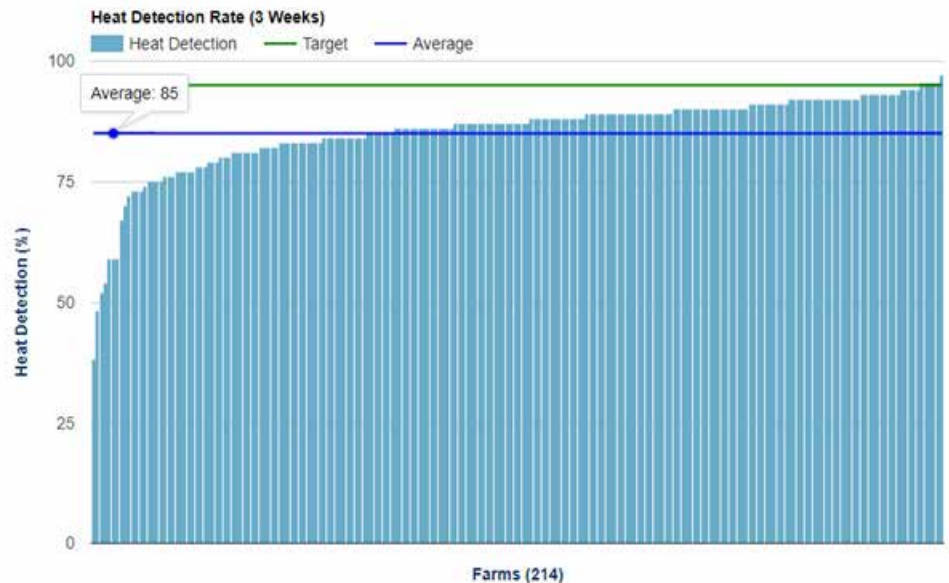
is 10% behind the DairyNZ target. With the offer of a wider roll-out of HeatCHECK next year we're hoping to be able to get a better handle on how much of this 10% gap is as a result of herd non-cycling issues, and how much is down to heat detection across the practice.

We'll be rolling out more data on this later in the year, but if you want to start looking further into your heat detection or have any other reproduction queries then contact your Prime Vet to book in a Repro Review session now.

**Heat detection**  
A high % of early-calving mature cows should be inseminated in the first 3 weeks of mating.

Your herd: 93%

Aim above: 95%



Veterinary Centre – By the Big Blue Cross

# Six Week In Calf Rate (ICR) – Roll of Honour

The industry 6 Week ICR target is 78% and every year we like to celebrate those that achieved a 75% 6 Week ICR or better. This season to date our district average figure is 67%, compared to 66% in 2020.

In 2015 24 farms achieved this honour, 15 in 2016, 6 in 2017, 8 in 2018, 18 in 2019 and 28 in 2020. This season we have 26 farms – well done everyone.

Name	6 Week ICR
Mark & Kelly Pickering - DHL - Steward Dairy Ltd	84%
Tim & Kim Richards - Corriedale Dairy S M	79%
Lorenzo & Myra Cavinta - Karl & Emma Guy - Bonnie Doon Farms Ltd	78%
Navi & Ellen Brar - John & Cara Gregan - Brookdale Dairy Ltd	78%
Luke Campbell & Sam Laugesen - Westmere Farm Ltd	78%
Bernard & Merlyn Lauglaug - DHL - Peebles Siding Dairy Ltd	78%
Lachlan & Roslyn McConachie - Rylock Farms	78%
John & Sam Harper - John Harper - Snaplulu Ltd	77%
Pete & Rachael Peneamene - John & Cara Gregan - Gregan Dairy Ltd	77%
Edward & Rebecca Finlay - Flag Farms Ltd	77%
Mark & Ciara Hodder - Doug & Ann Hodder - Belvue Downs	77%
Graham & Jocelyn Butler - Gareth Fraser - Mu Kau Ltd	77%
Ewan & Leanne Hollever - Allan Pye - Oceanview Dairy Ltd	76%
Lindsay White - Amuriwai Ltd	76%
Andrew & Debbie Harrison - DHL - Cantley Developments Ltd	76%
Hamish & Fiona Winter - H F Farming Ltd	76%
Allon & Hannah Wood - Longview Dairies 2018 Ltd	76%
Ronal Bhagat - Craigmores Farms - Pine Hill Dairy Ltd	75%
Simon Chamberlain - Luciene & Lynle Verkerk - Verkerk Dairying Ltd	75%
Shannon Hydes & Alysha MacFarlane - Nathan & Kirsty McLachlin - Island Cliff Dairies	75%
Troy & Donna Yaxley - Mark & Carmen Hurst - Waterstone Farm Ltd	75%
Mike & Christine Holland - Holland Farming Ltd	75%
Kent & Lucy Anderson - Almondell Farm Ltd	75%
Pablo Yanez & Francesca Conador - Mark Cressy - Cressy Dairies Stillwater	75%
John & Nicola Guy - Te Waiu Ltd	75%
Paul Gow & Sonia Mc Kerchar - Mountain View Dairies Ltd	75%

# Copper complacency in replacement dairy stock



**Luke Smyth BVSc.**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

Unfortunately many of you will know that feeling of absolute despair when a healthy two year old heifer who has just come into the herd spontaneously fractures its humerus and has to be destroyed. There is often a difficult conversation with staff about stock handling and welfare regarding the possible cause of the fractured leg. Although two-year-olds are more commonly affected, three-year-olds can also be affected and the condition is usually encountered up to two months after calving. The onset is sudden and there is no humane treatment available other than immediate slaughter.

Extensive research at Massey University has failed to pinpoint an exact cause, however it did uncover some closely associated risk factors.

- Copper deficiency.
  - Under nutrition.
- Replacement dairy cattle spend a lot of time away from the milking platform where they are managed extensively and fed a mostly pasture/winter crop diet. Replacements, therefore, are at higher risk of developing Cu deficiency than a herd being fed PKE if there is no trace mineral monitoring and supplementation.

How do we boost young stock copper levels in April/May to ensure adequate levels over the winter/early spring period?

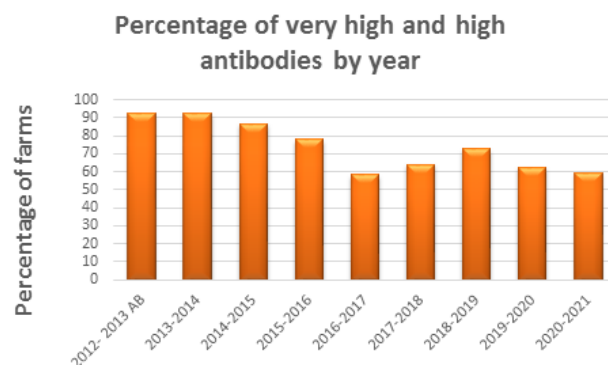
- Copacap bullets. Bolus's are the most long acting copper product and generally effective for 6-9 months.
- Coppermax. Copper injection. Dosing needs to be repeated every 3 months.
- Multimin. A combination injectable product which provides: Copper, Selenium, Zinc and Manganese. Dosing needs to be repeated every 3 months.



**Andrew Muir BVSc BSc (Hons)**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

## BVD Bulletin

This month we are looking at the at the bulk milk antibody levels to BVD. This is a measure of the exposure of the cows in the herd to the BVD virus. The graph shows the proportion of herds that have high and very high antibody levels, with bulk milk antibody levels lifting to these levels if the herd is infected with the virus or constantly exposed. If there is no new exposure the antibody levels will slowly decrease over several years. The graph shows that the proportion of herds in the high or very high level is the lowest it has been for 4 seasons and the second lowest it has ever been. This indicates a decrease in exposure of local herds to BVD. This is great to see and indicates greater control of BVD especially with young stock off the dairy platform.





**Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre



This month we will start to meet with you to authorise the use of Dry Cow therapies. There is an industry wide swing to move away from the blanket use of antibiotic dry cow therapy (a position supported by all the dairy companies). This shift is to reduce the total amount of antibiotics used in the dairy industry and to reduce the risk of antimicrobial resistance developing. To allow this to occur good data is needed but in reality, data needs to be recorded electronically to be useful. So, can I once again plead with you to put your clinical mastitis cases into MINDA or InSight. Mastitis case data along with herd test data and pregnancy test data suddenly gives you a very good idea of who you want to be milking next season. With good data you can make good culling decisions and quite easily create a dry off treatment plan for different cows.

### Early dry off cows

Early dry off cows (low producers or low BCS cows) will have a long dry period. To give these cows protection against getting a new infection through the entire dry period a Teatsealant is your best option, with an antibiotic dry cow product depending on whether she has an infection or not.

### Teatsealing heifers

We think we have contacted all our clients who used our heifer teatsealing service last year and "pencilled" in a date to get your heifers sealed. If you want your heifers Teatsealed this season and we have not contacted you, please give us a ring as soon as possible and we get a likely date organised.



## Post drench faecal egg counts for calves

**Hamish Newton BVSc, PhD**  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

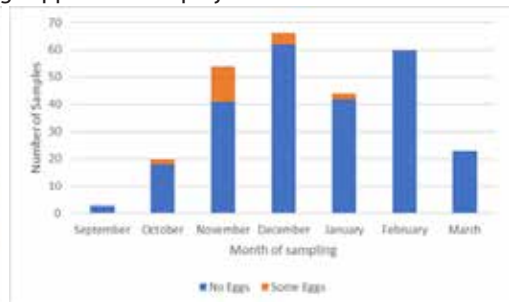
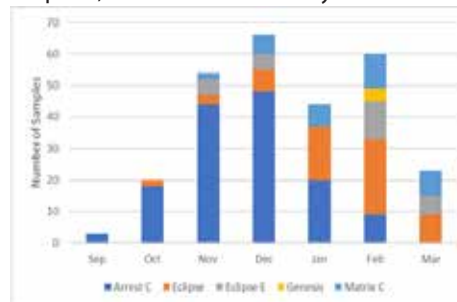
Thank you to everyone who has collected 10 faecal samples from their calves 10 to 14 days after drenching with a Boehringer Ingelheim drench. At present we have 270 sets of samples that meet our inclusion criteria. We have had some eggs come through "unexpectedly" that have been explainable by things such as

- Calf mobs being mixed prior to sampling.
- Faulty drench guns.
- Drench gun not set to correct weight.

If we ignore these explainable eggs that we have found no eggs have come through since the end of January.

We as expected are seeing a change from oral drenches to the pourons and injectables.

We would love some more samples from calves that have been drenched with Eclipse, Genesis, Eclipse E, or Matrix. Thanks for your continuing support for this project.



## Product of the month

### Nitrate Test Kit

- For checking nitrate toxicity in crop or pasture.
- The kit provides for on farm analysis of nitrate levels in at risk crops.
- Excess Nitrogen uptake in crops following fertiliser application going into winter.

#### Price

- Full kit - \$187.90 including gst (25 tests = \$7.50 per test).

#### Risks

- Slowed plant growth caused by cold and cloudy weather.

- Testing strip refill only - \$126 including gst per pack of 25.



## Keeping on the Right Track with Lameness

**Euan Tait BVMS**  
Waimate Veterinary Centre

Good quality tracks are pivotal in minimising lameness on your farm. Studies have shown tracks have a significant impact on lameness incidence as this is where most foot wear occurs. As we move towards the dry period, it provides a good opportunity for essential track maintenance.

### The ideal track:

The ideal track is short, straight and with a crowned surface of 3-5%. There should be drainage at either side, outside of the fence.

The base should be made of a coarse material with good clay content to prevent it breaking up. It should have a non-abrasive surface, with a top surface of fine material eg crusher dust. The track should widen out nicely when it approaches the shed. A transition material should be used on the surface closer to the shed (roughly the last 150m) to absorb the fine material from the rest of the track eg lime fines or soft lime. This prevents build-up of damaging, gritty material on the collecting

yard. The track should be wide enough to accommodate good flow even in bigger herds:

Herd size	Track width
120-250	5.5m
250-350	6m
350-450	6.5m
450 +	7m+



# MOOZNEWS



Jess McKenzie BSc  
Veterinary Centre Waimate

## Grow Smart

### HEIFER MONITORING PROGRAMME



## When Things Go Wrong

This is a group of 154 x 2019 born dairy heifers. Sent away for grazing in late December to an irrigated grazing block. They were regularly weighed (every 4-5 weeks) and struggled a little bit through the summer/autumn of 2020.

It had been an extremely dry year and although the average weight of the mob (the 'dot' on the line graph) through the months of January-May doesn't look too far off target, looking at the individual weight ranges in the mob we actually had on average 50% of the mob 'underweight'.

There lies the danger of interpreting an "average weight" alone....

Then winter got tough.

They were wintered on grass and silage. Breaks shifted daily. Although the mob always looked 'good' in the paddock, the weights told a different story. Weight gains were poor – averaging 402 grams/day – and we had more of the mob falling behind as the weeks went on. A quick step out of the grass breaks and silage allocation revealed they were being offered 2kd/DM/day below

maintenance on a MJME basis. As we were already behind, we needed more than just maintenance MJME being offered to catch up. At the worst point in July, 72% of the mob were underweight.

We needed to do something.

- Feed was short and allowances could not be increased.
- A decision was made to buy in some PKE to supplement the short-fall and we began feeding out in troughs in the paddock straight away. This made all the difference.
- Weight gains increased and we were now feeding enough MJME to get them growing at 900g/day. August growth rates 900g/day, September 750g/day, October 790g/day.
- By mating late October we had the majority of them back on track which was our goal.
- This mob was bull mated with a 3.2% empty rate when pregnancy tested last month.

Underfeeding and poor weight gains in the

lead up to mating in heifers is risky. Putting the animals in a negative energy balance around this time can have disastrous results on mating. A rising plane of nutrition on the lead up to mating is ideal.

If we had not been regularly weighing this mob and looking at individual weight ranges, we would have missed the severity of the situation. It gave us time to do something about it BEFORE it was too late and get them back on track before mating.

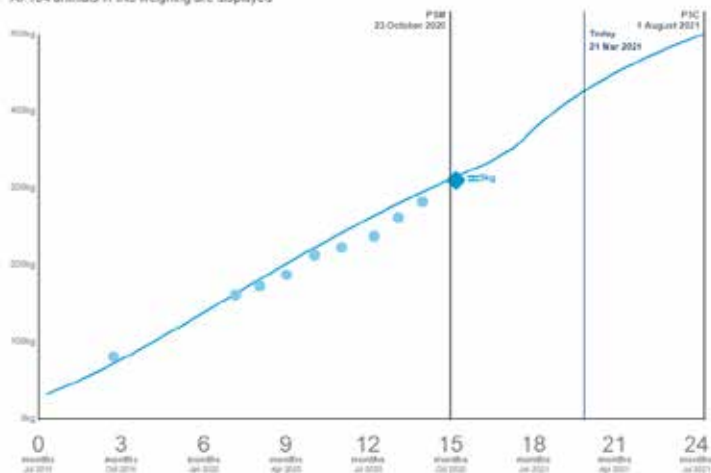
So, sometimes things can go wrong – and we don't always deal with mobs of well-grown heifers which stick perfectly to the target line! The trick is picking up on any problems early enough to give yourself time do something about it.

There lies the value in regular weighing.

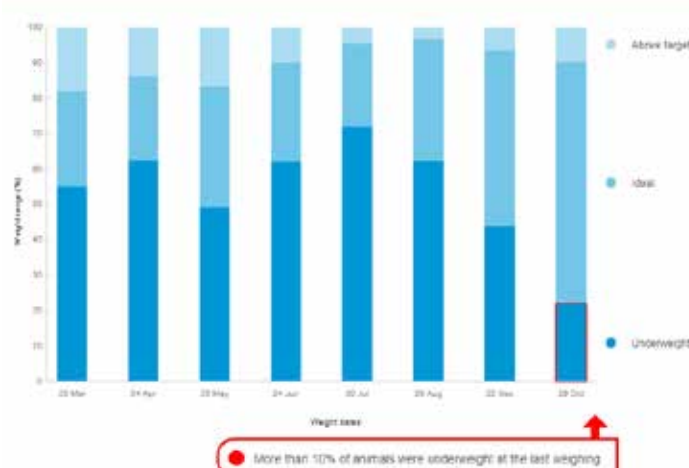
Contact us anytime if you are concerned about growth rates in your youngstock. We are happy to help assess feeding levels (kgDM & MJME) being offered compared to ideal and set up a feed budget to meet growth rate requirements.

### Young stock trend

All 154 animals in this weighing are displayed



### Weight ranges





Mat O'Sullivan BVSc  
Oamaru Veterinary Centre

# Autumn Drenching

## Objectives

- To relieve cows of the increased parasite burden during autumn larval challenge
- To optimise energy utilisation and increase body condition as herds approach the most demanding final trimester of pregnancy and the stresses of calving and the transition period.
- To achieve a late season increase in milk production relative to non-treated cows

To achieve these objectives Veterinary Centre recommends, products with persistent activity for sustained protection through the high challenge autumn period.



## Genesis Pour on

### Price

- From \$1.89 plus gst per 500kg cow dose

### Active

- Abamectin
- Oil based

### Features/Label Claims

- 14 days persistent activity
- 99% effective against lice

### Withholds

- Milk Nil
- Meat 35 days

### Notes -

- Oceania Dairy
- Currently has a supplier ban on the use of abamectin in lactating cows
- Fonterra and other companies are aware of Oceania's ban but continue to accept milk as per the existing label claims from abamectin containing products.



## Cydectin Pour on

### Price

- From \$4.57 plus gst per 500kg cow dose

### Active

- Moxidectin

### Features/Label Claims

- 35 days persistent activity against Ostertagia
- Label claim against lice

### Withholds

- Milk Nil
- Meat Nil

### Notes -

- A flexible and effective product for use whilst still lactating.



## Eprinex Pour on

### Price

- From \$4.49 plus gst per 500kg cow dose

### Active

- Eprinomectin

### Features/Label Claims

- 28 days persistent activity against Ostertagia

### Withholds

- Milk Nil
- Meat Nil

### Notes -

- A flexible product for use whilst still lactating however eprinomectin may struggle to fully control lice.

## OUR CLINICS

**Veterinary Centre Oamaru**  
**Veterinary Centre Waimate**  
**Veterinary Centre Palmerston**  
**Veterinary Centre Glenavy**  
**Veterinary Centre Kurow**  
**Veterinary Centre Omarama**  
**Veterinary Centre Ranfurly**

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