



TOPVETS

Moosletter

October 2013

Treating your Calves for Worms

With calving comes a busy time of year that seems to go on until Christmas! Before doing what you've always done, take a moment to make sure it is still correct for your property.

Here are some basic rules that all farmers should go by:

- **Use combination drenches**

We used to say rotate drenches, but now we say use combinations as research has shown this is best for production and preventing resistance. You should always use combination products (double or triple) in all cattle under 15 months of age.

- **Give the drench properly**

Dose accurately for weight and take your time and do it right. Pour-on, injectable and oral drenches can all be given poorly, so make sure you do it correctly.



- **Take care with young calves**

*– Don't mix drench in with the milk as deaths can occur
Avoid abamectin containing products in calves under 120kg*

- **Take care with yourself**

Choose a drenching method that works best for you and doesn't unnecessarily put you at risk of injury

There has been a lot of research published in recent years that has changed the advice given around drenching. Unfortunately that can make it confusing for the farmer who was told one thing, only to now be told another. If you are in any doubt, talk to one of the vets to discuss your particular requirements.

2013 would have to go down as the quietest Spring for us in recent memory. The weather has been very kind indeed— Lets hope a wet summer is on the way.

Things have finally settled down with the amalgamation, and life is getting back to normality.

Clinic parking has been a problem on busy days—we are currently talking to Transit NZ re forming a carpark on the grass section at the side of the clinic.

For any enquiries re Farm calls, accounts etc, please ask for Diane— she is tucked away in her office sorting the rest of us out !!!!

I N S I D E

- **Drenching Calves**
- **Theileria Update**
- **Arthritis—dogs**
- **Uterine Prolapses**
- **Closed Herd Policy**



Theileria Update

Theileria is by far the most topical parasite doing the rounds in the New Zealand Dairy and Beef sectors at the moment. In every magazine and paper more and more articles are being dedicated to the devastation that this bug is causing as it stretches down the country through Waikato and beyond. It has even featured on Campbell Live.

From what I've read so far the best article is by Hugh Stringleman in the September 23rd edition of The New Zealand Farmers weekly (p 21). The most recent information from the New Zealand Veterinary Association (27th September) shows the number of cases of Theileria orientalis substrain Ikeda is 142 with 26 samples yet to be tested which is an increase of 16 confirmed cases in the last week.

The following are the main points:

The parasite is spread by ticks (pictured right).

Theileria has been around for years but this Ikeda strain appears to be new.

Issues are happening where infected cows are bringing ticks down South and infecting previously naive cows or naive cows are coming up from the South and becoming infected.



Clinical signs to look out for include:

- Drop in milk production
- Sudden death
- Pale mucous membranes (gums, eyes, vagina)
- Exercise intolerance
- Increased rates of abortions
- Decreased pregnancy rates

Prevention of Theileria revolves around tick control:

- New animals bought in should be quarantined initially and have a tickicide product applied
- Bayticol is the licensed product for tick control
- Pouracide does not have a license claim against ticks however the active ingredient does work against ticks
- Python tags for cattle and deer
- Permethrin is a horse product that works against ticks
- Dectomax has license claim against ticks

Ticks thrive in moist humid conditions and tend to survive well in scrub land therefore:

Where possible keep animals away from hedges and scrub fence-lines

Where possible gorse and scrub should be removed

Keeping older pastures cut down can reduce the tick burden

Where outbreaks occur a drug has been imported in from Europe (Buparvaquone), however strict guidelines have been put in place:

Treated cows must have a NAIT tag and a THL tag

This product has withhold periods of 35 days for milk and 140 days for meat

The drug can only be given by a vet

For any other information or concerns you may have please contact one of the team here at the clinic.

Regards, Brian

Is your best friend finding it hard to move?



You may think that your best friend is getting old, or is just stiff because of the winter chill factor. However, your best friend could actually be suffering from arthritis. Arthritis is a painful and debilitating condition that affects 1 in 5 dogs over the age of one.

Arthritis is no less painful to dogs than it is to humans and can significantly impact their mobility and willingness to play, which ultimately prevents you bonding with your dog. It can affect one or more of the major joints including the hips, knees, elbows, carpus and spine. Once present, it is relentlessly progressive and steadily becomes more severe over time.

If your best friend is suffering from any of the symptoms below, arthritis could be to blame.



Isn't as enthusiastic to fetch or play



Prefers lying down to standing



Has trouble standing up or jumping



Limps occasionally



Has difficulty with toileting



Shows signs of aggression



Rests in an abnormal position



Shows reluctance to run



Takes shorter strides when walking



Cries when touched or avoids patting

While no cure exists for arthritis, the good news is there are pain relief options available, which can transform his or her quality of life, greatly reduce the impact of the condition, and allow both of you to regain that bond.

One of the newer options available is Trocoxil® Chewable Tablets for Dogs, which is a unique product that requires only monthly administration after two initial treatments given 14 days apart. Trocoxil was launched in New Zealand in July 2011 and is available only under veterinary authorisation. Extensive studies have demonstrated it to be extremely effective whilst having a comparable safety profile to currently available once daily treatments. A developing understanding of arthritis suggests that the longer treatment is administered, the better dogs do (i.e. treatment benefit steadily increases over time, rather than quickly reaching a plateau).

We now have an exciting treatment option for your best friend, so please contact us today or visit www.caninearthritis.co.nz, and get your best friend back.



" I DUNNO...LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF MILKING MACHINE - BUT SHE'S WEARING IT ALL WRONG..."

Uterine Prolapse

In the first few weeks of spring we noticed an increase in the number of Uterine prolapses we attended. We have had this occur in both heifers and older cows.

There are two main trains of thought when it comes to how prolapses occur:

During a difficult calving, the cow uses up all her energy trying to calve. When finished pushing and completely spent of energy the uterus flops out.

Again with a difficult calving, the calf's leg gets tangled up in the horn of the uterus and pulls it inside out as it comes out.

From a combination of this information and laboratory results the following needs to be considered:

Low Copper – though not having a direct effect on the uterus – low copper levels have an effect on general cow health. Ill thrift animals don't take in the energy they need to complete calving and not prolapsed

Low Selenium – Has been shown to have an affect with regards to retained membranes but also has a direct part to play with the immune system and cow health.

Low Calcium – Having no calcium left to contract the muscles of the uterus the uterus can sometimes prolapse

Low Energy - Indicated in blood tests by High BHOB and NEFA levels

Low Magnesium – not a common cause but still can result in prolapsed uterus
Dystocia (difficult calving)– almost always a contributing factor

Prolapses should be viewed as an emergency and should be dealt with straight away.

The longer a prolapse stays out the more blood that gets trapped in it. This makes it harder to put back in and the tissue can become damaged.

When a prolapse occurs the urethra often gets kinked and the cow can't urinate.

The longer a prolapse stays out the chance of causing a life threatening hemorrhage and shock increases.

The best way to deal with prolapses is to prevent them. This is achieved through good feeding and management pre-calving. Your vet can help you with a pre-calving management plan if you require.

Closed Herd Policy

The Dairy and Beef Herds in the North that have operated under a closed herd policy over the years have generally reaped the huge benefits of not introducing the many nasty diseases that we see on farms today.

BVD, Johnes disease, TB etc.

Johnes disease is rampant in the Jersey herds in Northland, and those farms that have the disease are faced with the prospect of never being able to eliminate it, and having to cull a number of diseased animals every year at a great financial cost.

BVD is also prevalent in the north, and is very costly to those herds that have it.

Where possible, we recommend a closed herd policy for all Dairy and Beef breeding operations.

Buying in stock is inevitable in some operations, but the risks can be minimised if you buy;

Only from herds that you have bought from before and know are disease free.

Demand that animals are blood tested for BVD prior to purchase/delivery.

With the vendors permission TopVets can contact the vendors Vet and obtain a farm disease status report on a number of diseases. In regard to BVD, never buy in pregnant animals and introduce them directly into your herd. We have no way of knowing what the disease status of the foetus is until after birth.

Advise your stock agent you don't want the cheap bargain at the sale yards— That bargain could cost you thousands in the long run!!!!

Come and talk to us; We are happy to discuss and set up a Biosecurity Plan for your farm.

TOPVETS

17 North Road
PO Box 409
Kaitia

Phone: 09-408-2838
Fax: 09-408-2839

E-mail: admin@topvets.co.nz

