



# TOPVETS

## Moosletter

April 2014

### Equine Dentistry

Unlike people, horse's teeth continue to erupt throughout their lives. Over time, sharp points can develop on the teeth which can lead to pain, ulceration of the cheeks and weight loss when eating becomes uncomfortable or the horse is unable to adequately chew food, hindering the digestive process.

Prior to winter is a good time to get your horses a dental check up to ensure they have the best chance of getting the most out of their winter feed.

Signs of dental disease may include:

- Dropping feed
- Salivation
- Head tossing
- Biting problems/evading the bit
- Weight loss



But don't wait for these problems to start...prevention is best and regular dental checks are recommended.

Please let us know if you are interested in a dental check. We can make arrangements for a veterinarian trained in equine dentistry to visit our neck of the woods and come out and check your horse's dental health.

Welcome to the April newsletter.

The days are getting noticeably shorter and the end of daylight saving is upon us.

It has been a busy summer for us and now we are starting to focus on getting the lepto vaccinations underway for this year and also finishing off our dry cow consults.

Please help us get these necessary jobs done by phoning to book in if you haven't already.

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- Lepto Vaccination in Young Calves
- Merial Ancare Promo
- Quick Reminders
- New flea and worm treatment for dogs
- Prevention is best—vaccinating for calf scours



## Drying Off Tips (modified from Inside Dairy Magazine March 2014)

1. Dry off manageable mobs—spread the task over multiple days or weeks.
2. Roster on extra staff - having a spare pair of hands on board is useful to help mark cows, hold tails and keep track of treated cows. One person can usually clean and treat about 15-20 cows per hour for a maximum of two hours.
3. Choose dry days for drying off—getting teat adequately cleaned when there's water dripping off them is almost impossible.
4. Only treat cows when the rest of the herd is back in the paddock—don't start using dry cow antibiotic if milk is still going in the vat. Wash down the platform prior to reduce dirt being splashed onto teats
5. Wear gloves—it's easier to keep gloved hands clean.
6. MARK RECORD SEPARATE TREAT
7. Clean teats immediately before treatment—keep the time between cleaning a teat and treating it as short as possible. Clean two teats at a time then treat, then do the other two teats. Start at the back teats then move to the front.
8. Work shoulder to shoulder—if splitting the cleaning and treating jobs between two people, make sure the cleaning person stays close, no more than one cow ahead of the treating person.
9. Teat spray after treatment—use freshly made up spray.



## Cephmaster Easidose

This year we have a new dry cow product that some of you will have taken a sample to trial. Cephmaster Easidose contains the same long acting dry cow antibiotic as the traditional Cephmaster but comes in a different application with a special device used to make insertion of the product easier, quicker and more user friendly.

Rather than coming in individual syringes, the antibiotic comes in a strip with 4 doses. The strip is loaded into a applicator gun, the caps removed one at a time and a squeeze of the trigger inserts the product into the teat canal.



## Leptospirosis Vaccination in Young Calves

Leptospirosis remains a serious threat to the health and livelihood of farmers. While control of lepto in NZ dairy cattle has improved markedly thanks to widespread vaccination, evidence remains there is still room for improvement. Farmers or farm workers have a 3-4% chance of contracting leptospirosis in their working lifetime, which is a risk 100 times higher than the average person in NZ.

Traditional vaccination programmes in calves have delayed vaccination until around 6 months of age. Latest NZ research proves that calves are at risk of lepto infection well before 6 months of age. If they do become infected they can become chronic shedders of leptospirosis for months or years, presenting a health risk to people handling them. Once they are infected, vaccination is too late to be of any use and will not cure their infection.

As a result the latest recommendations are that calves are vaccinated at a young age, before they have the chance to become infected. One way to go about this is to vaccinate the calves 10 weeks after the planned start of calving assuming a 6 week calving period. Calves can be vaccinated in batches if the calving spread is longer. There are vaccines available that can be used in calves as young as 4 weeks. Two boosters are required 4-6 weeks apart. The calves should then receive a booster again in the autumn or at herd vaccination to synchronise with the main herd. This avoids a window greater than 12 months between vaccinations.



It is important to ensure that calves that get their second booster before they are 12 weeks old receive a third vaccination at 6 months. For further information about vaccinating your next batch of young calves have a chat to one of the vets.



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## Quick Reminders

### Lepto Vaccinations

We are underway with our annual lepto vaccinations. Please don't forget to book in your calves, heifers and herd. Autumn is the prime time to vaccinate as the



main risk period for leptospirosis is winter and spring. Also the calving period is a risky period for transmission of lepto to people who may be assisting calvings.

### Dry Cow Consults

If you haven't already done so, please we need to see you in the clinic for your dry cow consults. We can also update your PAR requirements for the upcoming season at the same time.



### Liver Profiling

Autumn is the optimal time to carry out liver tests to define trace element status (copper especially) of your herd. AFFCO offer liver testing on cull cows sent through the works. They can also assess the liver for signs of fluke, facial eczema damage and abscesses. Please give us a bell at the clinic if you are interested in doing this and we can organise the appropriate forms for you.

## Panoramis—a new option for flea and worm treatment for dogs

We now have available Panoramis, a new combined flea and worm treatment .

Panoramis combines the proven flea killing efficacy of Comfortis with the trusted ingredient milbemycin oxime for added protection against adult hookworm, roundworm and whipworm. Panoramis is a once a month dose and comes in a beef flavoured chewable tablet so it won't wash or rub off.



## Rotavirus—Prevention is best

### Are you vaccinating this year?

Rotavirus is the biggest cause of calf scours in NZ. Outbreaks are common and treatment is expensive, time-consuming and emotionally draining.

Fortunately we have available an effective vaccination for pregnant cows to help reduce the impact of calf scours on your farm. Talk to us today.

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