



NSVS LTD

VetTIMES

Riversdale, 105 Berwick Street, Ph 03 202 5636, Fax 03 202 5333
 Te Anau, 133 Govan Drive, Ph 03 249 7039, Fax 03 249 7034
 Lumsden, Flora Road, Ph/Fax 03 248 7199
 Mossburn, Devon Street, Ph/Fax 03 248 6053

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves-disbud
- Plan Bloat control
- Mastitis—review control program
- Premating trace element check
- Metricheck cows

....More reminders throughout the newsletter.....

Inside this issue:

- Tips for successful calf rearing 2
- Calf Scours 2
- Livestock Survival Drench 3
- Long acting anthelmintic use Pre lambing 4
- Johnes Disease in Deer 5
- NSVS cat and dog worming procedures 5
- Misalliance versus Speying 6
- NSVS— All about us 7

NSVS LTD

August 2006

Welcome to NSVS Ltd

Welcome to the first NSVS Ltd newsletter. We are very pleased to report that the change over happened smoothly and wish to thank everybody for their support during this period.

Congratulations to Hamish who was awarded the Alan Baldry memorial shepherds crook, a prestigious award for dedication to the veterinary profession, at the recent sheep and beef conference. He undoubtedly deserves this recognition and all at NSVS are extremely proud of him.

Also congratulations to Nigel Dougherty for being elected to the deer branch of the NZVA, (NZ Veterinary Association). Paul Langford has just returned from an extended non ACC funded holiday in Europe.

Rochelle Smith has just left us to begin maternity leave, and hopes to return some time in the new year. We have recruited a new vet to cover for Rochelle. Michelle Dicken will join us at the end of October. Also on board with us now in Riversdale is Kimberly Kells who will be working as a locum through calving.

It has certainly been a winter that many will want to forget with record low temperatures, snow and rainfall affecting many areas of the country. Though fortunately the Northern Southland area has fared not too badly.

LUMSDEN DEPOT CHANGES

The Lumsden branch renovations are still in the pipeline! This building has been overdue for some TLC for some time now and the building is being extended to the foot path.

More importantly are the change of open hours which are Monday to Friday 9am till 4.30pm.

A vet will be based out of Lumsden every morning and appointments should be made by phoning the Lumsden depot or Riversdale clinic.



Rochelle and Hamish busy placing external fixators in an orthopaedic surgery recently

It is business here as usual at NSVS, as we begin the rush into lambing and calving.

Tips for Successful Calf Rearing.

The management of the first 10 days of a calf's life is the most critical control point of calf rearing.

This period covers:

- Cows calving onto clean dry paddocks.
- Calf collection and transport.
- Colostrum intake.
- Quality diet.
- Good housing/shelter.

As a general rule calves need 10% of their bodyweight fed as colostrum within the first 12 hours of life. This helps in the prevention of blood poisoning, navel infection and scours through the transfer of protective antibodies (immunoglobulins).

At best only about 50% of calves receive this amount of colostrum under NZ conditions. Calves with insufficient colostrum are 15% more prone to scours or death. Tube feeding all at risk calves is a good management practice. Colostrum is about 20% higher in energy content than whole milk and contains four times the protein levels.

Dipping navels in iodine solutions is an important part of navel infection and joint ill prevention. Dipping is preferable to spraying as the navel is more thoroughly covered.

Calf sheds must be dry and draught free. There should be no more than 20 calves per pen allowing at least 1 m² per calf. Watch for slow feeders.

An "all in, all out" system should be used i.e. don't rotate calves to different pens around the shed. Keep bobby calves separate from herd replacements. A good quality water and hay supply should be available from day one. Concentrates/meal should also be available by at least 1 week. Calves should be fed twice daily for at least the first couple of weeks. There must be good drainage in the shed. Have a deep litter system in place – at least 100mm. Milk is best fed warm – gut mobility, gastric juices and protein digestibility is all increased!

Remember calves are pre-ruminants that require good husbandry and feeding by motivated quality staff – they are not small cows!!!

Calf Scours

Broadly speaking calf scours can be broken down into 2 main groups – nutritional and infectious.

Nutritional scours can be brought on by irregular feeding, a change in diet, poor mixing of replacer, and overfeeding.

Infectious scours are further divided into 3 categories:

- Viral e.g. Rotavirus, Coronavirus.
- Protozoal e.g. Cryptosporidium.
- Bacterial e.g. Salmonella, ecoli.

Remember we often get mixed infections of 2 or more bugs. All scours will lead to gut damage. Decreased amounts of fluids and nutrients are absorbed which leads to loss of fluids and energy. This can lead to dehydration and death.

- Calves should be removed from milk for 24 hours especially with nutrient causes.
- Dehydration status must be assessed. If eyes are badly sunken the calf is already about 10% dehydrated.
- Fluids, electrolytes and energy milk must be replaced. Remember a 40kg calf 10% dehydrated needs 4 litres of fluids just to recover the dehydration, never mind about continued fluid loss and maintenance requirements. Dehydrated calves need 2 litres at a time, a minimum of 3 times daily. After 24 hours milk needs to be reintroduced in alternate feeds. Milk and electrolytes should not be mixed.
- Nursing care is very important. They must be warm, dry and draught free.
- Gut protectants and antibiotics can be useful. However antibiotics are only of value against bacterial scours.
- Calf scours should be investigated so that the casual agent is identified and the appropriate treatment given. A minimum of 4 samples is needed for any investigation.

Contamination reduction is vital!

Good hygiene must be practiced e.g. disinfection of hands, gumboots and equipment. The infection must be isolated. Scouring calves should be isolated and these calves visited after all normal calves.

The number of infective organisms needs to be decreased. Pens need to be sprayed with a good quality virucidal disinfectant. All faecal material should be removed.

Pens need to be disinfected between mobs.

Vaccination of cows is generally effective but only if the bug being vaccinated against is the cause and calves must receive adequate colostrum to benefit from the antibody protection.

Morgan Greene MVB MRCVS

LIVESTOCK SURVIVAL DRENCH

LSD now in liquid form



“A drench to promote early lamb survival & improve stock health and performance.”

Many of you will have been using LSD powder sachets for some time now. It has just been released in liquid form and which is available on our shelves as of now. You’ve probably heard of antioxidants for humans. But antioxidants for sheep? Isn’t that going a bit far? In fact introducing antioxidants into the diet of breeding ewes in particular is starting to look like the way of the future, not just for their sake but (perhaps more importantly) their lambs as well.

Veterinary research increasingly suggests that the better we feed our sheep under modern intensive systems the more they need antioxidants, especially Vitamin E.

There are two reasons for this. For a start, we’re feeding our sheep increasing amounts of crops and supplements that are relatively low in Vitamin E. These are common inputs like hay, baleage, grain and brassicas. At the same time, we are also feeding more PUFAs (poly unsaturated fatty acids) than we used to. PUFA levels are at their highest in spring growth and especially in the new improved faster growing pasture varieties.

The problem is the more PUFAs you feed the more Vitamin E your stock requires. Here’s why. Once they’re absorbed into the sheep’s body, PUFA’s are very easily oxidised by free radicals. This is a complex chemical reaction that you will never see with the naked eye. But the bottom line is that it damages the animals cells. In humans cell damage from oxidation by free radicals is medically linked to conditions like cancer, infections, inflammation, and toxic damage. In sheep we now believe that cells damaged by oxidised PUFA’s contribute to sub clinical white muscle disease, as well as ill thrift, infertility and impaired immunity.

Again, these are not always immediately identifiable as a significant stock health issue.

What you may see instead is poor lamb survivability, poor growth rates, and or a big difference between your scanning percentage and the number of lambs you actually tail. As an antioxidant, Vitamin E is essential to prevent oxidisation of PUFAS and hence free radical damage to cell membranes.

When the animals intake of PUFAs is balanced by the right amount of antioxidants like Vitamin E, there’s not much to worry about regarding this particular form of cell damage. But, increasingly in our flocks diets, the PUFA intake is high and the supply of Vitamin E is comparatively low. Changing the prevailing supplementary feeding systems is clearly not feasible in most situations, but you can offset a high PUFA diet by supplementing your ewes with anti oxidants.

The good news is that there is such a supplement available which was created by vets specifically for this use, (Veterinary LSD) and this is the time of year to use it.

Of course there are lots of products out there that claim to be equivalent to LSD, but in reality are different. Bear in mind that no vitamin mineral mix is stable, unless it is kept out of sunlight, and is in air tight containers. The other issue to consider with these similar products is whether or not they have done trial work, and the amount of vitamins/minerals that are actually in the product. Don’t be fooled into using something that claims to be a close version of LSD. Please call us for more information and prices.

Sheep Reminders

- **Lambing!**
- **Check B12 levels in lambs**
- **Monitor and record lamb deaths**
- **Get hoggets onto pasture**
- **Order tailing requirements**
- **Order scabby mouth vaccine**

The better we feed our sheep under modern intensive systems, the more they need anti oxidants, especially Vitamin E

Rational use of long acting anthelmintics at Pre lambing

It has long been suspected that the use of capsules and or moxidectin injection may accelerate the development of drench resistance. In the recent farmer survey associated with the sheep drench efficacy survey, long acting anthelmintics (LAA's) were shown to be a risk factor towards the development of drench resistance. However there are a number of ways to manage the risk, which will still enable most of the production benefits that these long acting products have been shown to possess, to be taken advantage of.

The first principle is that if you know already that there is resistance to the active which is in the long acting anthelmintic in the animals to be treated, then that long acting anthelmintic should not be used on those stock.

If you don't know the status of resistance on your property i.e. have not done faecal egg count resistance tests (FECRT) recently then after using the long acting anthelmintic you should at least do a follow up drench check test (DCT) on the treated stock. The timing of the DCT will vary depending on the product used. Talk to one of our vets to decide on the accurate timing for the product you are using.

The use of combination long acting anthelmintic will reduce the probability of drench resistance occurring, but it would be still advisable to have a DCT undertaken following their use.

With regards to production benefits of long acting anthelmintics there are established advantages in selective use of long acting anthelmintic in sheep flocks. These benefits apply generally in ranking order pre lambing from greatest to least as follows.

1. Multiple bearing hoggets
2. Single bearing hoggets
3. Multiple bearing two tooth
4. Multiple bearing mixed age ewes
5. Single bearing two tooth
6. Single bearing mixed age ewes

Of course there are other factors that need to be considered regarding the use of long acting anthelmintics pre lambing, not the least of which are:

- A) The pre lambing worm burden in the different flock groupings as determined by Faecal Egg Counts (FEC).
- B) The feed situation pre lamb and the projected feed budget at least until after docking

Other variables which could also influence decisions on the use of long acting anthelmintics include stocking ratio, pasture grazing heights, residuals, weather conditions, and soil temperatures, worm resistance status of the flock and even the take up of nutrition available. Consequently it can be seen that the use of long acting anthelmintics needs very careful consideration of many important factors and I haven't include product costs in this summary!

In conclusion there has to be a balance between short term production benefits and long term sustainable parasite control. We welcome your enquiries regarding the use of long acting anthelmintics on your property.

Hamish Mavor BVSc

Problem with Husband Upgrade

Dear Tech Support:

Recently I upgraded from boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed that the new program began making unexpected changes to the accounting software, severely limiting access to wardrobe, flower and jewelry applications that operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

No mention of this phenomenon was included in the product brochure.

In addition Husband 1.0 uninstalls many other valuable programs such as Dinner Dancing 7.5, Cruise Ship 2.3, and Opera night 6.1, and installs new undesirable programs such as TV Sports 1.3, Gran Turismo 2 and Clutter Everywhere 4.5.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and invariably crashes the system. Under no circumstances will it run Washing Up 14.1, or House Cleaning 2.6. I've tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix Husband 1.0, but this all purpose utility is of only limited effectiveness. Can you help please!!



Johnes Disease in Deer

Recent epidemiological research has indicated that Johnes disease in deer is widespread and increasing in prevalence in both North and South islands.

There are not only cost implications for Deer farmers where Johnes disease is present, but also for the deer industry as well. Apart from losses from clinically effected deer, decreased yearling productivity, increased dry hind rates, there are costs associated with increased ancillary TB testing due to non-specific reactions to primary skin TB testing. Also there are costs incurred when Johnes lesions are found at slaughter. These lesions are indistinguishable from those of TB macroscopically and microscopically.

Johnes Disease has characteristics that make it notoriously difficult to eradicate and expensive to control. Johnes Disease has a very wide host range, including wild life, such as rabbits, ferrits, hedgehogs, hares, cats, and gulls, and is a very durable pathogen. It is able to survive in the environment for up to 12 months in NZ conditions. Also the clinically effected animals usually only represent the tip of the iceberg. It is said that for each clinical Johnes disease animal there are 10 –20 subclinically affected animals in the herd.

Until an effective vaccine is found which does not interfere with the interpretation of TB testing, or major advances are made in the genetics of disease resistance, the current methods of control will continue to be test and slaughter combined with sound herd bio-security measures. The question must be asked whether the costs of such surveillance and control are financially sound. At present there appears to be no commercial premium for disease risk characterization by individual farms (particularly studs). However on the

assumption that a differential may occur in the future for Johnes disease free herds, the following are a few pointers to remember:

It has been shown in NZ that sub-clinical animals (as detected by the paralisa test grow 8-10% slower than paralisa negative cohorts. They also had reduced velvet weights and poorer reproductive performance.

Although the faecal oral route of transmission of JD from infected to susceptible young (less than 6 months) deer is the most common method of spread the importance of inter-utero transmission (from infected hind to fawn) cannot be understated

Shedding of paratuberculosis (Johnes Disease) bacteria is most likely by clinically affected deer but subclinicals can also pass out bacteria in their faeces. Thus identification and culling of clinical Johnes Disease cases will not cease contamination of pasture.

There are a number of laboratory tests available to identify most of subclinical Johnes Disease in a herd, but all have difficulty in picking up the early sub clinical i.e. the newly infected. Of course there are significant costs involved and to eliminate Johnes Disease from your herd there needs to be serial testing.

Given the degree of difficulty and the costs involved in eradicating Johnes Disease it makes far more sense to ensure the disease doesn't get into your herd. Introduced animals should be blood tested negative to the paralisa test or faecal culture. Deer should not be run on cattle contaminated pasture, put on grain crops in suspected contaminated paddocks, and don't graze again for at least 18 months.

Nigel Dougherty BVSc MRCVS



Deer Reminders:

- **Stags pour on drench/ copper pre velvetting**
- **Hinds — copper as required**
- **Supplementary feed stags**
- **Sort stags into velvetting mobs**

NSVS Cat and Dog worming procedures

Kittens: Treat with round worm tablets (eg. Cancare) every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old then treat as a cat.

Cats: Treat with an "All Worm" tablet (e.g. Drontal) once every three months.

Pups: Treat with round worm tablets (e.g. Can-

care) every 2 weeks until 12 weeks old then treat as a dog.

Farm Dogs: Treat for Ovis tape worm once a month (e.g. Droncit) and treat for "All Worms" (e.g. Drontal Plus) every 3 months. (As most "All Worm" treatments cover ovis tapeworm it is not

necessary to treat for this again on the third month). If farm dogs kennels are up off the ground then "All Worm" treatments can be extended to once every 6 months.

Dogs not on Farm: Treat with an "All Worm" treatment (e.g. Drontal Plus) every 3 months.



Misalliance versus Speying?

We are often approached about giving dogs misalliance (mismating) injections. In the past we have offered three alternatives

- A one off shot of oestradiol benzoate
- A three shot program with Mesalin
- A three shot program with Alizin ,which can be given well into pregnancy.

All of these programs have a degree of risk namely a severe and often life threatening infection of the womb that requires the bitch be speyed. Recently the product used for the one off shot has been removed from the market and no licensed alternative is available. As a result we are without a licensed product to offer this program.

The other option available is to spey the animal, preferably before she comes on heat.

A spey is the surgical removal of the ovaries and womb. This procedure is routine in veterinary practice however it does carry the risks of a general anaesthetic and post operative complications including infection and haemorrhage. There are several misconceptions about the effect of a spey on a working dog. Speyed bitches are prone to gaining weight, however this can be easily managed by feeding a balance diet.

Speyed bitches work as well as unspeyed bitches, laziness is not a side effect of the operation.

Speying working dogs does however offer several advantages:

1. COST

Speying a bitch is a once in a lifetime expense, unlike misalliance injections, which only cover one mating. In particular Alizin is very expensive and a three shot course is roughly half the cost of a spey

2. NO DOWN TIME

Speyed bitches do not come on heat and so do not need to be locked up for up to eight weeks a year. Dogs are less likely to fight over a speyed bitch than one who is on heat.

3. LOWER RISK OF DEVELOPING MAMMARY TUMOURS

Many farmers aim to “get a litter out of her one day”. With a speyed bitch this is obviously not possible.

Misalliance is not a remedy for this problem either as it is not 100% effective, may cause pyometra, and is not advisable in older bitches.

In all cases a consultation with your vet is necessary to choose a plan which suits best for you.

Michael Baer BVSc



There are several misconceptions about the effect of a spey on a working dog. Speyed bitches are prone to gaining weight but this can be easily managed by feeding a balanced diet.

Horse Reminders

- *Vaccinate pregnant mares for salmonellosis and tetanus*
- *Watch ponies condition for founder*
- *Clip horses out to remove winter coat*

nsvs@xtra.co.nz

Pet Reminders

- *Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats*
- *Flea prevention*
- *Arthritis check older dogs*

The No. 1 Animal Health Professionals in Northern Southland

NSVS Ltd Veterinary Practice is contracted by Northern Southland Veterinary Services Inc. which is a Club owned by its members. We have six Veterinarians based at Riversdale and two at Te Anau. We offer a full 24 hour, 7 days a week, 52 weeks of the year Veterinary Service.

We work with deer, cattle (beef & dairy), sheep, horses, pigs and goats as well as small animals. Our main retail outlets are at Riversdale and Te Anau, both with small animal surgeries. We also have retail depots at Lumsden and Mossburn. Lumsden is open for small animal appointments daily and Mossburn on Mondays and Thursdays.

We carry a comprehensive range of animal remedies most of which are available from all our branches, if not we are happy to order items in. We also have various items of equipment which are available for hire.

A membership to Northern Southland Veterinary Services Inc. entitles you to special incentive discounts. All veterinary services receive a 17.5% discount, 0.40c/km discount on mileage and 7.5% discount on most animal remedies, if paid for by the end of the month following purchase.

The annual membership cost is \$50.00 and is charged in April.

The incentive discount offered on Veterinary Services also applies to your workers. We provide regular newsletters on animal health and production subjects to members and an annual report. We invite you to drop in and meet our staff and perhaps talk with us about your property, animal health problems and requirements.

For all your animal health needs—24 hour service

VETERINARIANS:

Riversdale

Hamish Mavor BVSc

Morgan Greene MVB MRCVS

Michael Baer BVSc

Paul Langford BVSc

Shelley Hunt BVSc

Michelle Dicken MA VetMB

TeAnau

Nigel Dougherty BVSc MRCVS

Jill Sloan BVMS MRCVS

Linda Pawsey BVSc

*For
consultations
please phone
for an
appointment*

Accounts Office

NSVS
105 Berwick St
PO Box 65
Riversdale

CLINIC HOURS

Riversdale

8.00am-5.30pm Monday to Friday

TeAnau

8.30am-5.00 pm Monday to Friday

Lumsden

9.00am-4.30pm Monday to Friday. Closed from 1-2pm

Mossburn

9.00am—12.30pm Monday to Friday

SUPPORT STAFF

Riversdale

Julia Grant (Practice Manager)

Janna McLeod (Retail Manager)

Jocelyn Smith (Reception)

Nola Hall (Vet Nurse)

Alicia Keown (Vet Nurse)

TeAnau

Tracey Beatty (Clinic Manager)

Linda Staunton (Office Administrator)

Kelly Samuels (Vet Nurse)

Lumsden

Anne Adams (Branch Manager)

Mossburn

Bev Lapham (Branch Manager)



*This newsletter is available to members and clients of NSVS Ltd.
Information is correct at time of print, but please seek veterinary advice for further information and/or
clarification.*