

## Welcome to the November edition of our newsletter

**W**elcome to the November Animail from Tauranga Vets. Well Spring has most definitely sprung! The weather is warming up, grass is growing well and mating has started. The Rugby World Cup has been getting us up early in the morning (unless you're doing the milking!) This month we cover Treatment for Fly Strike, Vaccination of Horses, The War on Worms and Give Ticks the Flick. We hope you enjoy these articles and look out for our specials on Eclipse and Eclipse-E

### Control of Blow flies



Two quite different fly species produce most of the blowfly strike in New Zealand. Originally it was the European Green Blowfly (EGB) and more recently the Australian Green Blowfly (AGB).

The European Green Blowfly is important because it is a parasite of temperate regions and can survive for most of the year in New Zealand. It attacks susceptible parts of the body, such as wounds, dags and urine stained skin. It can complete its lifecycle in other food sources, such as road kill. Although the eggs are readily killed by heat and the soil dwelling pupae cannot hatch below 15°C, these flies can survive in the wide variety of climatic conditions found in New Zealand.

The Australian Green Blowfly in contrast does not need an 'excuse' to attack. It will lay eggs on a completely clean fleeced sheep, with no wounds or dags, for instance 'shoulder strike' in a clean sheep. However, the AGB is a tropical fly in origin and cannot survive and complete its lifecycle in such varied climatic conditions as EGB. Typically, 'tropical' (i.e. moist and warm) conditions are required.



These flies normally start breeding in spring and reach epidemic proportions during warm humid weather. This is generally between November and March, although fly season can extend from October to June. The blowflies lay their eggs in the damp wool and maggots can start hatching within a day and then start to eat the sheep's flesh. Flystrike can occur rapidly, and sheep should be checked at least once a day in hot weather.

Best practice management is to have all sheep shorn and with clean bottoms in the warmer months. This reduces the attraction for flies, which seek damp smelly wool in which to lay their eggs. Dirty bottoms are usually due to high worm burdens and/or changes in feed quality. Well-nourished animals will cope well with parasites, as their natural immunity is strong. Malnourished animals however will succumb quickly and respond slowly to treatment. Bear in mind shearing alone is effective prevention for a few weeks, although shearing cuts and other wounds will attract flies.

Affected animals can be seen nibbling their wool, stamping their feet and twitching their tails before becoming depressed. Dark patches may also be seen on white fleeces. Colonies of maggots may be difficult to find so the wool should be systematically parted and checked.

#### Areas most commonly affected by flystrike are:

- around the tail end
- on the backline
- on the belly where the feet touch when the sheep lies down

- around the pizzle (prepuce/penis) in males
- between the ears of rams after fighting and head bashing.

Chemical prevention six weeks post shearing is timely, as the wool length will hold the insecticide. However, it can be applied earlier as required. Earlier treatment approaches involved organophosphate (OP) dips and showers, but these rapidly became ineffective due to fly resistance. Current treatments involve using high-powered jetting races and Insect Growth Regulators (IGR) such as Clik® and Cyrazin®. High powered jetting races work very well, but if the sheep move through too quickly then the duration of activity may be reduced. IGRs work by interrupting the lifecycle of the maggot stages, preventing them from forming or casting their external skeleton.

In the early 2000's, resistance to some IGR products was identified in parts of the country. Resistance is thought to have developed due to continued use of these sole products for all fly and lice prevention and treatment. While these products are still effective for lice treatment, their use for prevention of fly strike is limited. It is now recommended that to control future resistance we should consider blowflies and lice separately and use different products for prevention and treatment of clinical cases. There has been no significant resistance to Clik® observed in New Zealand.

Note: Long acting products tend to have longer meat withhold periods, so for lambs approaching their finishing weights careful attention needs to be paid to the product used.

### Horse Care



horse/s is vaccinated is a cheap insurance policy to prevent disease. Travelling itself can be a stressful event for horses. Combine this with increased interaction with multiple and different horses in various locations, the chances of exposure to pathogens increases. Likewise cuts and wounds can create opportunity for infection and tetanus.

Vaccination against tetanus and strangles is recommended and provides good protection against disease. After initial sensitiser and booster courses, strangles should be continued annually (or twice yearly depending on

risk) and tetanus every 3-5 years. Ideally horses should be started on their initial course as foals from 12 weeks age, or likewise for adult horses with lapsed or unknown vaccination history. Other vaccines may be appropriate for broodmares to prevent disease from equine herpes virus, salmonella and rotavirus.

Another important point to consider is electrolytes for travelling and competing horses. Heat and exertion causes electrolyte loss through sweating and predispose to tying up, muscle soreness, slow recovery and poor performance. Important times to give electrolytes includes before and after exercise, endurance recovery stops, after transport, when they won't take electrolytes in hard feed and regularly through the summer. Ensure fresh water is available after treating as it will typically trigger a thirst response. Remember to only give small amounts frequently after hard exercise or excessive sweating as unrestricted access can potentially cause colic.



For further information or to book in for vaccinations please phone 0800 VETS BOP (0800 8387 267)

## Give Ticks the Flick this spring



Ticks are a blood sucking external parasite. There is only one species found in New Zealand - *Haemaphysalis longicornis*.

It favours cattle but can also infest deer, sheep, goats, humans, horses, rabbits, hares and domestic pets. It is a three host tick which means that it changes animal at each of its different growth stages – larvae, nymph and adult.



All life stages can impact your animal health. Ticks feed by puncturing the skin of a host with their mouthparts. Ticks cause damage to hides and loss of production, anaemia and death when they are present in large numbers. They can also spread blood borne parasites such as *Theileria*. If you notice that any of your stock are lethargic and pale then contact the vet clinic promptly. In deer, these puncture sites can reduce the quality and value of velvet antler during growth in the spring. Nymph (larval) ticks can be a major problem on new born fawns and young grazing lambs prior to weaning causing anaemia with deaths from blood loss in severe cases.

Ticks are almost impossible to eradicate but there are a number of options to help reduce the burden. Flumethrin is a pour on which is active against all three stages of the tick life cycle. It also causes infertility in any ticks which survive the treatment.

This product is licenced for use in cattle and deer. Deer (breeding hinds) should be treated 3 weekly from August until fawning to reduce the number of adult ticks which can infest fawns in November and December.

If you notice ticks on your horse or if you have lifestyle cattle then using Permaxin concentrate as a spray or rinse is a good option as it can be purchased in small volumes.



Contact the vet clinic to purchase these products or for further advice 0800 VETS BOP

## Why Parasites are like The French Rugby Team



Spring sees the start of warmer temperatures and the rise of the nematodes in our stock. Just like the French at the Rugby World Cup they keep turning up prepared to do battle, and every time they've got some new tactic to break us down!

### Know your Enemy

Parasites are thought to have been living on earth for as long as 100 million years. That's a mere 98 million more than us. They've survived huge variations in temperature, atmosphere and species to parasitise and yet nematodes are one of the most abundant organisms present on earth today. Most cattle and sheep parasites are from the nematode family. These parasites are present all over the world largely due to very early man helpfully walking livestock over vast areas of grassland thousands of years ago. Modern man's invention of parasite killing drenches is merely a blip in their evolutionary tale. They've survived 100 million years – did we really think that a chemical could get rid of them for good? Well, yes we did for a while. Surely our brain power can outsmart the lowest of the low – the parasite? No? So we need to be smarter if we're going to outwit evolution!

### Have a Good Strategy

You've seen the films. All self-respecting military leaders have a strategy. There are model army men pushed around a board with a stick. We're not advocating spending your evenings making tiny model parasites, we're just simply asking..... what's your strategy?

It's probable that gut worms have caused clinical

disease and certainly that they have caused subclinical disease in your herd or flock. Is your only choice to throw an arsenal of drenches at your animals in order to avoid disease? What about resistance and how does it affect your drench choices? Do you understand the life cycle of the parasites that you're dealing with and can you make good choices on when to drench to get maximum returns for your expenditure?

### Get Good Advice

Your vet is best placed to advise about drenching your stock. Each farm has its own management style, history, resistance status and future plans. These all have to be taken into account when drench choices are made. Beware of generic advice from over the counter. A bad decision now could affect your farm for years to come if drench resistance is unwittingly encouraged. At best, the drench may be inappropriate and a waste of time, effort and money. Drenches sold by our clinics are backed up with clinical trials and the companies that produce them have rigorous quality control measures to make sure that what you pay for is exactly what you get. There's been loads of research over the years continually showing that 1 in 3 vitamins sold don't contain what it says they do on the label and they're still on the shelves. Buyer beware!

### Keep Fighting

To say the worms are winning the war would be doing a disservice to the drenches that have been successfully controlling gastrointestinal parasitism for years. Parasites are like the French rugby team. You know they're dangerous and capable of producing a surprise but they haven't got their hands on the trophy. If we can stay ahead of the game we won't end up in a situation where we have no drenches that work at all. The main messages from the experts are to get good advice, treat the right mobs with the right products when necessary and estimate weights accurately, so as not to underdose. Please contact any of our clinics for advice on which drench is right for your stock

END OF CALVING SALE  
**35% OFF**  
METABOLIC SOLUTIONS

- ✓ Calpro 375
- ✓ Dextrose 40%
- ✓ Glucolmax
- ✓ Glucalphos



## CHECKLIST REMINDERS

- ✓ 5 in 1 vaccine for calves and lambs
- ✓ Check Bulls are BVD/EBL tested
- ✓ Good Heat Detection = Better AI Conception Rates
- ✓ Start treating for fleas now
- ✓ Lepto vaccination for calves before Xmas
- ✓ Treat calf lice with Blaze
- ✓ Treat your whole herd with a tickicide to reduce the risk of *Theileria*
- ✓ All Blacks to win the RWC !

We hope you have enjoyed this latest edition of the Tauranga, Katikati, Te Puna Vets and Papamoa Village Vets newsletter

Take a moment to visit the Tauranga Vets Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/taurangavets](http://www.facebook.com/taurangavets), and Like what you see. We love your feedback and are always happy to answer your animal health questions.



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