

The Whys and Whens of Worming Working dogs!

In a nutshell we recommend giving a **Wormicide tablet every month** (Praziquantel = tapeworm control), then **every 3rd month using a Drontal Allwormer tablet instead** (Praziquantel + 2 other actives = tapeworm + other gastrointestinal worm control). Think of a monthly dosing programme that goes Wormicide, Wormicide, Drontal, Wormicide, Wormicide, Drontal

This targets Sheep Measles every month and 4 times a year controls other canine gastrointestinal worms which could cause your dogs ill health - Canine Roundworm, Hookworm and Whipworm. Young pups, pregnant bitches and high challenge environments will need more regular worming – see the clinic for specific information in these cases. To make life simple for everyone, the clinic offers a service that posts all the doses out to farm every month and to avoid tablets piling up in the woolshed, please make sure it's someone's specific job to make sure the dogs get wormed on time each month!

What is Sheep Measles?

Sheep Measles is the common name given to lesions in sheep and goats caused by the intermediate stage of a tapeworm parasite. This parasite stage is also known as *Cysticercus ovis*. The primary stage of the parasite is a tapeworm (*Taenia ovis*) which infects the intestine of dogs.

Sheep Measles is commonly seen as hard white cysts either on the surface or deep in muscle tissue of sheep or goats. The parasite relies on two hosts to complete its life cycle. Eggs produced by the tapeworm in dogs are passed to pasture where they are ingested by sheep or goats. After ingestion, the eggs penetrate the intestinal tract, are moved around the body in the blood, shift out of the blood to muscle tissues and form cysts that are infective to dogs. Over a period of months, cysts are killed by the immune system of the sheep or goat and hard, fibrous or calcified lesions are left as defects in the carcass. They pose no risk to human health, but blemishes in sheep meat result in downgrading or, in extreme cases, condemning of the carcasses.

The Sheep Measles tapeworm matures in approximately 35 days, so dogs need to be dosed every month to kill tapeworms before they become adult.

All new dogs should be dosed at least 48 hours before coming onto the property. Treatment kills any *T. ovis* worms present in approximately 10 hours but does not kill *T. ovis* eggs left in the intestine. If new dogs enter the property without being treated beforehand, they should be dosed plus quarantined for 3-4 days and all faeces destroyed. All pet dogs such as Fox Terriers, Labradors, even Percy the pug, should be included in the farm dosing programme; often they have free run of the property and have access to household scraps. Ask any people with visiting dogs to treat their dogs for sheep measles within a month and at least 48 hours prior to coming onto the property e.g. Contractors, musterers, hunters, or duck shooters. Pet cats do not carry Sheep Measles, but still require routine worming for good health at least every 3 months with Drontal – we can post this out with the dogs' tablets.

What's the difference between Sheep Measles (*Taenia Ovis*) & Hydatid disease (*Echinococcus granulosus*)?

Hydatid is the cystic, larval stage of the tapeworm *Echinococcus granulosus*. Hydatid has a lifecycle similar to that of sheep measles: cysts are found in farm livestock (including sheep) and even humans, while the adult tapeworm occurs in dogs (the parasite's primary host). Unlike sheep measles, hydatid is a public health issue which can cause illness and occasionally death.

Dogs are infected by eating offal from infected livestock. The parasite needs to infect dogs to complete its lifecycle and reproduce. Due to the public health risk, NZ undertook nearly 50 years of concerted efforts through offal feeding rules and dog worming practices to eradicate Hydatid disease and in 2002 MPI declared New Zealand 'provisionally free' from hydatids. We still use rules around feeding offal to dogs to help prevent the parasites re-establishing in NZ from imported livestock.



July 2018

Spring is here already, and everyone is on deck & ready to go.

Yesterday I was sent out to do some farm calls (yes, I know - I was shocked too) and I must congratulate all the people I went to who had hot water, disinfectant, a clean bucket & a brush ready for me to scrub up after the call & leave the farm sparkling and clean. Well done to you all. Let's keep it that way this spring as we all do our bit to reduce the risk of spreading M Bovis.

While you may have read various stories in the press & heard strong opinions from everyone and their dog, all the information we have received still says the most likely way this disease will be spread is by close bovine to bovine contact. Even though the risk is low of transfer via people or machinery we will be making every effort to scrub ourselves and our gear down thoroughly between calls & hosing down vehicles if they have travelled across a farm to examine a sick animal or calve a cow. That's where we need your help. We know that hot water & disinfectant kills Mycoplasma so, like my wonderful clients the other day, we really need you to make hot water, disinfectant, a clean bucket & towel available to us after we have calved your cow or treated a sick or lame animal. The old excuse about only turning the heater on at night really doesn't wash. The house is almost always just down the track & if you know we're coming we would be eternally grateful if you anticipated & brought hot water over from the house if there isn't any at the shed (or turn your heater on if we're still some time away). You won't be impressed if we turn up at your farm still dirty from the previous call so please make sure you're doing your bit to reduce that risk. We'll also be carrying extra cleaning materials on us to help out but don't use that as an excuse to give us cold water & a recently tipped out milk bucket to clean up with.

Ironically on the weekend while taking a drive around the coast, I found myself stuck behind a large mob of cows blocking the road as they were walked (presumably) back to the home farm for spring. It occurred to me as I drove through their recently deposited faeces, had copious amounts of drool blown onto my windscreen and witnessed direct nose to nose contact between at least 20 of these cows and a couple of cows grazing the roadside behind a wire on a neighbour's farm that all the efforts of my clients to help me keep clean could potentially have been wasted by this mob of cows if it had happened when I was travelling between calls. Under the circumstances I would have thought that perhaps this year at least people might have considered trucking their cows rather than walking them home. I know the risk was, in all reality, very low, but it wasn't a good look.

So, let's all do our bit & here's to a much sunnier spring than last year. Good luck to you all!

Finally, we said goodbye to a long-serving team member this month. Linley Gilling has resigned & left Eltham Vets to become a vet for MPI. She will be working at ANZCO in Eltham, so she hasn't gone far but it was an opportunity for a change in career direction that she felt she couldn't turn down. So, from all of us at Eltham Vets best of luck in your new career Linley and thanks for all you've given to the practice over many years. We'll miss you.

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Premium Milled Product
Prevents Scours
Optimises Growth
AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VET

OptiGuard
premium scour prevention

"Our calves are looking healthy and amazing. In all honesty it's the best product we have used for calving."
Lannah Johnson, Cambridge



Once again our annual golf day was a great success. Pictured are some of our staff who eagerly participated.

Thank you to those who attended our 'Calves and more' evening. We had a great turn out. Thanks to some of our sponsors Agilis, Virbac, Vetpak, Anatahi and KMH Muscle Therapy and to our great presenters Teresa & Erika.

THE REAL COST OF MILK FEVER

For every one downer cow up to 20 cows could be affected with sub-clinical milk fever. Symptoms can include slow calvings, assisted births, retained membranes and high slink calf numbers. Recording this information can help build a picture about the risks facing the herd and how to reduce them.

Recent survey results suggest up to 40% of Taranaki herds have concerning downer cow rates.

The industry target is less than 1 down cow in 100 cows. However, many farmers have 2-5% of their herd affected.

An incidence rate of 5% downer cows will mean every cow in the herd may be affected by sub-clinical milk fever.

DID YOU KNOW?

Milk production will be up to 14% lower for a clinical milk fever cow, 7% lower for sub-clinical cases.

A down cow is 8 times more likely to get mastitis.

Cows free from milk fever are 2.5 times more likely to conceive than those with milk fever.

Introducing Dairy Antibigram

What is Dairy Antibigram?

Dairy Antibigram is a new test that is performed on bulk milk tank samples which detects and monitors antibiotic resistance in mastitis bacteria on your farm. Bacteria are cultured in the lab in the presence of different concentrations of all the mastitis antibiotics available in NZ.

From this you get a resistance level for your bacteria to every antibiotic.

Antibiotic resistance is a serious animal AND human health problem. It occurs when bacteria are exposed to repeated antibiotic treatments and become harder to kill/control. The end result is a situation where we are powerless to treat infections which were once very responsive to antibiotics.

Antibiotics are a valuable tool in the dairy industry, and when used responsibly, they are vital for the maintenance of good animal health and welfare. Bacterial resistance to these valuable treatments is a threat to the viability of dairy farming and is perceived as a threat to human health. Dairy markets are conscious of the development of antibiotic resistance, and are nervous about the impacts on consumers.

Who is responsible for preventing antibiotic resistance?

Everyone who is involved in the use of antibiotics. In the dairy industry this includes FARMERS, FARM WORKERS, VETERINARIANS and PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES.

The value of Dairy Antibigram to YOUR farm:

A Dairy Antibigram will give you valuable information which, with the direction from your vet, will help you:

- 1) Plan to use effective mastitis treatments
- 2) Avoid using expensive broad spectrum treatments when other cheaper options are shown to be effective
- 3) Know the resistance status and how this ranks compared to other farms in the country
- 4) Develop biosecurity plans to protect a "good" resistance status
- 5) Identify threats to your herd which can be investigated further and managed or removed
- 6) Monitor if your resistance status is changing over time
- 7) Help the dairy industry demonstrate that it is using antibiotics responsibly

Knowledge of the resistance status in your herd is the key to choosing the right treatments for your cows, and monitoring and preventing the development and spread of resistance.

The recommendation is to get two tests done per season. One in early lactation and one in late lactation. This allows us to capture an accurate picture of what is happening on your farm. Once we have this picture you shouldn't generally need to do another test for a couple of seasons.

Pricing is still to be confirmed but is looking in the \$430 - \$450 bracket per test.

Have a chat to Adrian or Polly if you want more information or to book a test.

Holdovers and Ketosis

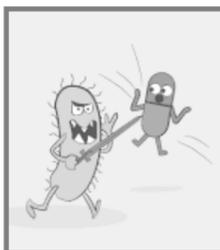
Primary ketosis is a disease of cows which lose too much weight in early lactation. Holdovers are particularly at risk because they tend to be both high BW and overfat, so they break down lots of their body fat to fuel good early production. Body fat does not break down perfectly and it makes by products called 'ketone bodies'. In high levels these ketone bodies depress appetite. So, your lovely, shiny, fat holdover starts off milking with a hiss and a roar but after a month or so she goes off her feed, her milk drops dramatically and she loses 50 kg.

Does this sound familiar to you?

The best prevention is to give any overfat cows a Rumensin bloat bullet a couple of weeks before they are due to calve. When you draft them into the springer mob is a good time.

The Rumensin reduces the risk of ketosis by over 90% because it changes the population of bugs in the rumen.

At \$16.95 a bullet it's a very good investment.



PREMIUM CALF DISBUDDING SERVICE

Changes to the welfare code as of October 2019 will require all calves to receive local anaesthetic for disbudding (currently those under 6 months old do not require it). This will be able to be done by other trained service providers, not just vets, so this does not mean you will have to use our premium service which includes sedation, local anaesthetic, extra teat removal and clostridial vaccination.

For those of you who would like us to do your disbudding this spring - below are a number of things to consider to help us get through the considerable number of calves we have to do;

- **Calves should be between 2-6 weeks of age.** The sedation works more reliably in this age group and the buds are easier to remove.
- Ideal mob size is approx. 20-25 calves. This allows us to use less sedative to keep them asleep making it safer and more likely for calves to recover quicker and drink earlier post disbudding.
- We can do larger groups at a single visit but will require a way to divide them into mobs of 20 of similar weight range ie. gates to split large pens.
- Ideally the farmer should provide foot baths and clean water for our teams to clean gear between pens/sheds.
- Pens for disbudding should be dry & clean with fresh bedding to reduce the chance of infections & spread of disease.
- While the calves are sedated many farmers find this an ideal time to complete other painful jobs such as tagging, DNA testing and BVD testing. We are quite happy for you to do this while we are there.

The cost of disbudding is \$11 inc GST per calf, but for any disbudding done after the 14th October each calf will be charged at \$15 inc GST due to the increased time taken to disbud older calves. If calves are left too late the horns become very hard to remove and require a lot more time and effort. This is now considered a dehorning not a disbudding.

Please give the office a call to book in disbudding early to avoid any added cost, we are taking bookings now!



Multimin in New Born Calves?

Get them off to a great start - It's well known that trace elements are essential for production and immunity in cattle, and that a newborn calf is the most susceptible to disease on the farm. It makes sense to ensure that every calf has enough trace elements to give it the best chance of fighting off the challenges they'll face in their first weeks of life.

Multimin® + Cu trace elements directly impact on general immune response and ensure maximum response to vaccinations and specific antibody production.

What if we told you that a shot of Multimin given to replacement calves on the day they come into the shed could reduce overall rates of sickness in your calves by nearly half? A recent NZ trial has shown the benefit of calves treated within the first 24 hours of life, despite their dams having access to mineralised water supplement prior to calving. Sickness and death rates due to diseases such as scours, navel ill or pneumonia were almost halved in supplemented calves. The primary effect on these results was from improved immunity associated with optimising the specific elements in Multimin® + Cu. The 200 ml pack size of Multimin® + Cu is ideal for calves and can be kept on the four-wheeler or by the calf pen. Farmers in the trial injected calves on the first day they arrived in the shed, a process they found convenient, easy to implement and easy to remember.

A cost-effective health strategy - An injection of Multimin® + Cu costs about 76c for a 40 kg calf given 0.8 ml (based on a dose rate of 1ml per 50 kgs). That's pretty cheap insurance if it can reduce your rates of disease by up to 50%. It's certainly worth considering this season. Injecting calves with Multimin® + Cu during the first 24 hours of life could be a simple, safe and cost-effective way to have a significant impact on calf health.

DO COCCIDIOSTATS IN CALF MEAL WORK?

Feeding calf meal containing a coccidiostat may not be doing the job we all thought it was. That's the finding of a large-scale investigation carried out by Bayer Animal Health over the 2017 calf-rearing season.

An independent analysis of 1,302 poo samples from around NZ showed that the level of coccidia infection in calves was pretty much identical, regardless of whether or not they were getting a coccidiostat in their meal. The next step is to try & figure out why this is. It could be there's just not enough coccidiostat in the bag, or that the calves simply aren't eating enough. Either way, it's worth thinking about whether your calves would benefit from a dose of **Baycox C** as extra insurance.

Why? Because Baycox is coccidiocidal, which is quite different to a coccidiostat. Coccidiostats suppress coccidia but don't kill them so there's always scope for re-infection. **Baycox C, a coccidiocide, kills every stage of the parasite with a single dose and boosts the calf's own immunity against re-infection.** BUT a calf treated with Baycox C won't develop immunity if it hasn't had

some exposure to coccidia already. In other words, we want the calves to be exposed, but to treat early, before serious damage is done. Like a booster vaccine. And because you're treating at a younger age than you traditionally might, it will cost considerably less.

The only way to know when to treat is by individual on-farm testing. This lets us figure out the coccidia status in and around your sheds. Ideally this test would occur at around 4-6 weeks of age. If it looks like coccidia is starting to become an issue we can get in with a one-off dose of Baycox and remove coccidia as a handbrake on your calves' progress.

The results speak for themselves - a study carried out at Massey University showed gains of up to 5kg over five weeks, with an overseas study showing age at first service coming almost a month earlier.

So if you want to find out whether coccidia is holding your calves back, talk to your vet about Bayer's limited time offer of free coccidia testing.