



## NOVEMBER 2017

I'm sure you are all happy to see the back of the wet spring we have experienced, and though you don't complain as much as the cow cockies do, I'm sure there will have been many of you hurting during these months and happy now to see some sunshine and the grass finally starting to come away.

Most appear happy with docking rates, however we have heard of a few farms with higher wet/drys than expected and some with lambs lost at docking due to Tetanus. The success of certain vaccines can lead to complacency and episodes such as these serve as timely reminders of the importance of vaccinations such as Campy, Toxovax and the clostridial vaccines.

Hopefully you have all received a flier regarding our farmers BBQ at Mangamingi hall later this month. The talks in the afternoon will be very informal around fly strike treatment and prevention, and potential drench decisions for the coming summer with plenty of time for any burning questions you may have. If you're not interested in either subject come along anyway for a steak and beer. With a good turnout we will be able to convince management to let us put on more free feeds for you in the future, with the odd interesting speaker thrown in as well.

*Leon*

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### Tapeworm in Lambs

Since Adam was a boy drenches such as **First Drench** by Merial-Ancare have been employed by farmers as a docking/first-up drench to treat for roundworms and control Tapeworm.

Unfortunately for **First Drench, and any other BZ/levamisole combo**, it has resistance rates as high as 85% in New Zealand and 40% locally meaning this first-up drench may not be significantly reducing the amount of nematodes within your lambs and may also be increasing resistance development on your farm!

There is varying information out there from trial work on whether tapeworms have an impact on lamb growth rates or even dag scores for that matter. Now I know there will be many of you that swear black and blue that you have seen the lambs pick up after treatment for tape or that you "haven't treated them for it in the past and they were the daggiest lambs you've ever seen!" but the cost of using a product where there is widespread roundworm resistance far outweighs any benefit to treating tapeworm.

Thankfully there are other options out there for those of you who want to treat with a tape specific drench and **Matrix TAPE** is one of the best options on the table. It is a triple combination that includes praziquantel, the active which kills all stages of tapeworm, so you know you will be getting a near 100% kill on roundworms AND dealing to those pesky Tapeworm as well.

### Things to do before Christmas

- \* **Get your order in for Toxovax with Daniel so as not to miss out (order form enclosed)**



- \* **Any of you interested in service testing your bulls as outlined in the last newsletter you will need to do this ASAP to make sure they are all up and running for mating next month**
- \* **Book in ram testing, the more time you give yourself if a problem does arise the better chance you will have of fixing it prior to tupping.**
- \* **Come in early and pick up selected lamb drenches to secure yourself a Christmas ham. WHILE STOCK LASTS**
- \* **Flystrike talk at Mangamingi Hall**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1pm**
- \* **Christmas shout at the vets -**  
**Tuesday 19th December**
- \* **Organise the wife's present early, happy wife, happy life. Probably safer not to get this from the vets though, but I'm sure the girls in the front office can help with plenty of ideas!**



## Vasectomies in Rams

Teaser rams are not a commonly used tool in our area but can have a great impact on lambing. Due to an increased interest from a few clients here is a bit of info regarding the process:

- Vasectomy in the ram is a management technique used principally to increase conception rates in a compacted lambing period, i.e. more early lambs!
- The ewe flock is isolated for at least one month from sight, smell and sound of rams or wethers, after which a vasectomised ram is put with the flock for a period of 12-16 days. The pheromones released by the teaser ram bring the first and usually silent heat on in the ewes meaning 18-26 days later they will have a fertile heat.
- The vasectomised ram is then removed and replaced by normal rams. Provided the timing is right, this results in a close compacted lambing, usually in two peak periods some six to eight days apart.

### Choosing Rams to be vasectomised

They should be strong and healthy, with good incisor teeth occlusion, sound feet and no signs of any arthritic condition, head or brisket sores. Young rams are preferable to older failed stud animals because they are relatively easy to operate on and there is less risk of them having previously acquired transmissible disease. The chosen rams should have had some sexual experience and have well developed genitalia. Two toothed are ideal but well grown hogget rams can also be used. The penis and prepuce should be normal, and it should be ensured that the testicles are free of any palpable lesions from Brucellosis.



Rams need to be vasectomised at least 6 weeks prior to introduction to the ewes to ensure they are not producing viable sperm so this would need to be done early in the new year for most of you.

## Feeding your Growing Pups



Feeding young pups is very important in the development of your dogs bones and joints and is a key area to get right to make sure your dogs have a long and productive working life for you as adults. It is not advised to feed raw meat diets to growing dogs (<12 months old) due to the low calcium and high phosphorus levels leading to demineralized bones and a serious condition known as rickets, which causes weak bones, fractures and permanently deformed legs. This can be avoided by feeding good

quality puppy specific biscuits. All commercially available puppy feeds should contain appropriate levels of calcium and calcium/phosphorus ratios of 1.2-1.4:1 but check with us at the clinic if you are concerned about what you are feeding your young pups and we will point you in the right direction.

For many years it was thought that, like your livestock, the best way to get your dogs to grow fast and be healthy was to feed them 'ad-lib' which means to feed them as much as they can eat of a good quality, high protein feed. However it is now proven that overfeeding young dogs under 12 months of age can actually increase the chance of joint disease and early onset arthritis. This is more of a problem in large breed dogs such as Huntaways and Labradors. When a dog is fed too much at a young age it grows too fast and this causes stress on the pups developing joints, especially the shoulders, elbows and hip joints, which leads to damage to the surfaces of these joints and arthritis in dogs as young as 1-2 years old. The damage can be reversed if caught early but treatment can include costly surgical fees at referral vet clinics. If it is not treated, it will most certainly lead to arthritis and damaged joints often ending in retirement or euthanasia before the dog is even in its prime. To avoid this it is best to restrict the amount of feed your pups have access to, however you don't want to starve them either. All scientifically produced feeds such as Eukanuba, Royal Canin and Hills Science Diet have guidelines on meal sizes for the breed of your puppy and if you follow these you will avoid any issues with overfeeding.

So in summary - feed your pups a specific puppy diet from a reputable source and follow the guidelines on the back of the pack. These are hopefully the next generation of your working dogs and no doubt worth spending a little bit more on them when they are young to make sure they are in optimal health.