

Develvetting; What are the risks?

As with most procedures associated with animals, develvetting has its risks. Complications with routine develvetting are relatively rare but an increased risk of death can occur under certain circumstances.

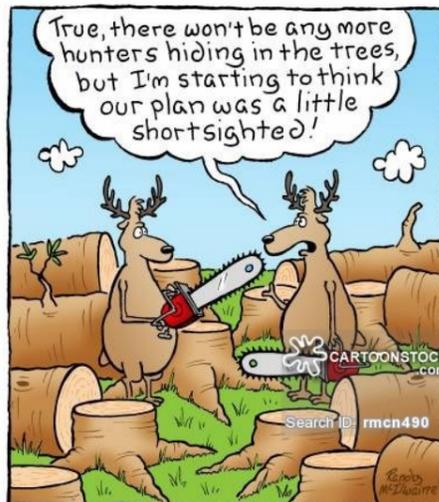
For greatest financial benefit and lowest risk it is best to remove the velvet when it is at a super A grade. When the velvet is left to overgrow the risks associated with sedation increase dramatically. These risks decrease somewhat once

the velvet starts to strip however it is still not as safe as routine develvetting at a more appropriate time.

Occasionally the head is left to grow out in order to allow measurement of the antler for breeding purposes or to be used as a trophy. If this is done it should be realised that there are greater risks when the animal is sedated.

If the farm is

planning on routinely dealing with stags in this late stage of antler development it may be a good idea to use a crush rather than sedation.



Vetco Ltd

Edendale Clinic
14 Sweeney Street
Edendale 9825
Ph: 03 206 6170
Fax: 03 206 6171

Kennington Clinic
11 Clapham Road
Kennington 9871
Ph: 03 230 4689
Fax: 03 230 4026

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www.vetco.co.nz

Herd Testing

With finances a little tighter this season there are a few who have decided to do away with herd testing.

Herd testing is a very valuable resource for us as vets as it gives a very good idea of the mastitis situation on farm.

We are also currently

seeing its value in detection of BVD in a herd and allowing the problem to be dealt with before it causes great issues.

With drying off in the back of our minds it is worth mentioning that good herd test information is very valuable when we come

to targeting dry

cow therapy. This means money can be saved while improving the efficacy of the dry cow therapy.

Information from three herd tests at the end of the season is invaluable when making mastitis decisions.

Merry Christmas!

Finally from the team at Vetco we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We appreciate your ongoing support and thoroughly enjoy working along side our customers.

Take care over the silly

season and look forward to seeing you again in the new year, all fresh and ready to go again.

Points of Interest

- Ram runs will be coming up in February. This is a great time to have the soundness of your rams assessed. Remember a ram that could do the job last year may have become unsound during his down time, a simple palpate will pick this up.
- There are some appealing Christmas hams on offer with selected drenches so be sure to get in prior to Christmas to feed the troops.

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Doggie dangers at Christmas time

Christmas time is a time for family and usually also a time for eating. Just be careful where the fatty food scraps end up.

Trimnings of ham fat, roast dripping, gristle from the BBQ are some of the high fat rubbish left over

from Christmas.

These foods smell and taste delicious to your dog but can be detrimental to their health.

A sudden intake of fat can lead to pancreatitis. This is a severe and extremely painful disease of the

enzyme producing part of the gut. It is a life threatening problem and should be avoided.

Please keep your dog healthy and the fat scraps in the bin.

The calf that came down with a cough

Have you ever had a calf with a cough? It's a serious condition at which you shouldn't scoff.

Away from their mums, in the rain, on their own, its in their lungs diseases make a home.

With elbows stuck out and neck extended, breathing is a difficulty they never expected.

The calves cough and they splutter, and begin losing their blubber, 'but what on earth is causing this!?' the farmer will mutter.

With deep investigation into experiences across the nation, its apparent two main diseases make coughing their vocation.

Firstly there are viruses,

like a cold or the flu. They spread from nose to nose, causing pneumonia where they feel it is due.

Bacteria gate crash once the virus has entered, in this case with antibiotics the results will be splendid.

The virus itself is immune to these drugs but if the calf is healthy the immune system can deal to these thugs.

Another disease to invade the lungs and stand firm is a notorious wee critter by the name of lungworm.

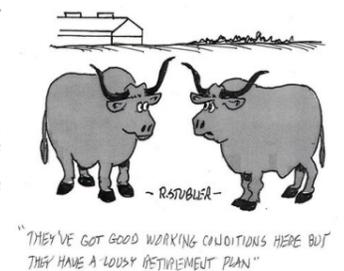
Like its intestinal cousin the larvae comes from the grass but it heads for the lungs not the intestine and arse.

A faecal egg count will shed

light on the number of worms present. It will allow targeted treatment these rascals will resent.

Lungworm's greatest enemy is a simple drench, a pour-on, Genesis, Eclipse will kill this wench.

If the difference between virus and lungworm has you confused, consult your friendly veterinarian, they'll get this problem diffused!



Scanning cows



It is approaching the time to scan your herd and see who is in calf and who has failed in this pursuit. Scanning is obviously an important procedure to allow feed to be better allocated to cows who need it and cull cows who failed to get in calf.

The ultrasound allows the size of the calf and its various features to be measured and this gives an idea of how old the unborn calf is. To most reliably age the calf the pregnancy check should be done between 30 and 90 days post-insemination. At 30 days the calf is the size of a pea and at 90 days its head is 3cm across.

February for most farms. At the start of February there may well be some cows that are less than 30 days in calf. These show up as empties or 're-checks'. Waiting another 3 months and re-scanning the re-checks will mean that all cows can be allocated an expected calving date.

Often a third scan at dry off is also used to identify any cows that have become empty since the last scan. This means empty cows can be identified and don't have to be wintered.

Scanning is done using an ultrasound probe to get a visual image of the uterus. This can be used to identify an embryo, fetus or empty uterus. An empty uterus will often be confirmed by manual palpation (hand in a long glove).

This means in order to get an expected calving date for your cows scanning needs to be done 3 months after the start of AI. This will be around the first of

Take the bulls out

In order to stop calving and mating from overlapping remember your bulls will need to be removed from the herd in mid to late January.

Keeping them short in the tooth

It has been said that the phrase; 'long in the tooth' stems from old horses as their age can be determined by the state of wear of their teeth.

Unlike the teeth in your mouth horse teeth continue to grow throughout their life. This continued growth is in order to counter act the wear that a horses rough diet causes on their teeth.

Horses will run into

problems when their feed doesn't require much chewing. This means the teeth grow faster than they are worn away. The lack of side to side chewing motion means the teeth also wear unevenly.

This is where the horse dentist comes in. We are able to file the teeth back into shape and to the correct length. It is a good idea to have your horses teeth checked every year

even if they are on a rough diet. This should be done more regularly if they are fed a higher energy grain type diet as it is lower in fibre.

It is fairly straight forward to keep tooth length under control however once the teeth become overgrown and misshapen it becomes difficult to remedy. For this reason regular checks are much better for your horses health.

A policeman in the big city stops a man in a car with a sheep in the front seat. "What are you doing with that sheep?" He exclaimed, "You should take it to the zoo." The following week, the same policeman sees the same man with the sheep again in the front seat, with both of them wearing sunglasses. The policeman pulls him over. "I thought you were going to take that sheep to the zoo!" The man replied, "I did. We had such a good time we are going to the beach this weekend!"



Is my drench working?

There are a myriad of treatment and 10 days post drenches on the market, most of which are a combination of drugs that have been on the market for decades! It is fairly safe to say that most single active drenches don't cut the mustard in this day and age. On the other hand it is not all that clear cut as to which drench will handle the job.

It is now widely accepted that parasitic worms are becoming or have become resistant to drenches and many of the farmers reading this would have experienced this first hand. Just which drenches they are resistant to varies from farm to farm and in extreme cases could feasibly vary between paddocks.

The ideal way to know this is to test how effective each drench is on your property. This is done by treating different mobs of lambs or calves with different drenches. A larval culture is done prior to

treatment and 10 days post treatment. The larval culture allows the species of parasites in the poo to be identified and the number present.

The drench's efficacy can be calculated by working out the reduction in parasite numbers in the poo after drenching. If less than 95% of parasites are killed by the drench then resistance is suspected and if fewer than 90% are killed then there is definitely a resistance problem.

So what is the benefit of doing this? There is no question that the vast majority of farmers realise the huge benefits of using drench. When worm burdens increase then animals can fall ill and die rather quickly, in less extreme cases there is still a significant financial loss caused by worms.

If there is a resistance problem on your farm but it is not yet obvious then it means you will still be

having a reduction in growth rate and you are spending a fair chunk of your animal health bill on a product that is not fully effective.

By doing a drench resistance check we are able to pick up on subtle resistance issues and alter your drenching regime to better target the parasites causing concern.

If you are interested in checking your drench then please contact the vet clinic to enquire. The best time to test is usually around late January or February to ensure all parasite species are present.

Teasers

Remember ram teasers need to be vasectomized 6 weeks pre-tupping to ensure their tubes are empty. A ratio of 1:300 is usually adequate and the smellier the ram, the better he will work.



Scratching the summer itch: Fleas

With the weather warming up its about the time fleas once again become a problem. It's important to keep an eye on your dogs including working dogs for fleas. Many treatments are available from the clinics with varying duration of effectiveness including chewable tablets .



Bopriva

If you are considering using Bopriva in beef bulls to calm them down for winter it is a good idea to give it some consideration now so you can plan the ideal time to vaccinate your animals and stop them causing paddock damage.