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We're on the web!

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Duck shooting. Common dog injuries.

Duck itch— This is dermatitis that develops from dirty skin. Mud and pond weed need to be cleaned off at the end of the day to avoid problems.

Tail injuries— Occasionally tails can be damaged from getting caught or cut by something. Most likely will need to see a vet.

Cold water tail— This is when the tail becomes cold and fatigued, it will droop and become extremely painful. This can be alarming.

Treatment is usually several days of pain relief.

Shoulder injuries— While under high levels of exercise dogs can rupture their biceps tendon at the shoulder which is very painful and takes months to recover. Chronic stress and injury can also lead to ligament damage or contraction which can leave the shoulder painful or jutting out at an odd angle.

Foreign bodies— Sticks and thorns can become embedded in the dogs

tissues and should be removed by a vet.

Ruptured cruciate— This is similar to what sportsmen and women often get, a ruptured knee ligament. This is very painful and the dog stops using the leg. Usually surgery is required.

Trauma— Broken bones, dislocated hips, split nails, damaged eyes, cuts, bleeding, all are possible outcomes of hunting with dogs. If in doubt call the vet, hopefully we can sort you out.

Toxoplasmosis

Its pretty much tugging time and hopefully pre-tup vaccines are done. Here is a little bit of back ground on one in particular. Toxo.

Toxoplasma gondii is its full name. It is an intestinal parasite of cats but it must past through an intermediate host before it can infect another cat. So basically it lives in the guts of cats and in the muscle and brain of other animals.

From the cat intestines the toxo breeds and lays oocysts (eggs). These are passed in the cats poo,

kittens usually have more in their poo than cats.

It is then that other animals eat the cat poo. This can be some time after it left the cat and the poo itself has washed away, but those toxo oocysts still linger. In this non-cat animal the toxo hatches and migrates to the body tissues. Here it sets up a home and settles in for the long haul, until the animal dies.

Once the animal dies another animal will often make contact with the carcass. If this animal is not a cat then the toxo

will once again migrate to the tissues and set up a cosy cyst to live in. If a cat eats the carcass then the toxo starts the cycle again as an intestinal parasites.

The concern is when pregnant sheep or pregnant women catch toxo from cat poo or uncooked meat then it can migrate to the placenta and the unborn baby. This kills the placenta and the baby and causes abortions. The vaccine can also do this so must be given to non pregnant animals.

April 2016

Annual Consults – Dairy Farmers

Don't forget to book in for your annual consults.

As always you are required to do an annual leptowise, PAR and drycow consult to legally tick all the boxes.

Lepto consults allow us to supply vaccine so farmers can administer the vaccine

in a timely and appropriate manner to their stock without having to coordinate this with a third party, the vet. Compliance with the Leptowise Programme is important to maintain the integrity and survival of this scheme.

On a dry cow note if you have herd test records please remember to bring them in to the consult so we can recommend the best treatment for your herd.

And bring questions, it's a good chance to further educate staff.

- Get that dog fit for duck shooting. Starting exercise and refresher training now will pay off when your barrel is hot and the ducks are floating.



The Hobbling Hen

The morning was crisp, the day was young, but this little chicken's struggles were far from done.

She limped to the left, she limped to the right, soon she collapsed, in the grass, out of sight.

This chook was not old, just 15 weeks of life, this is the age that chicks often encounter this strife.

It was the day that she hatched that her fate was sealed, t'was a sneaky little virus she picked up in the field.

The virus she caught has 'herpes' as its name, and causing 'Marek's disease' is the aim of its game.

As the saying goes "herpes

is the gift that keeps on giving", but for this poor wee chick it'll soon stop her living.

Marek's disease causes tumours to grow, lymphoma is the type but externally they will not show.

The lymphoma invades the organs, kidneys, liver, the spleen, but it's when it grows in the nerves that the Marek's limp is seen.

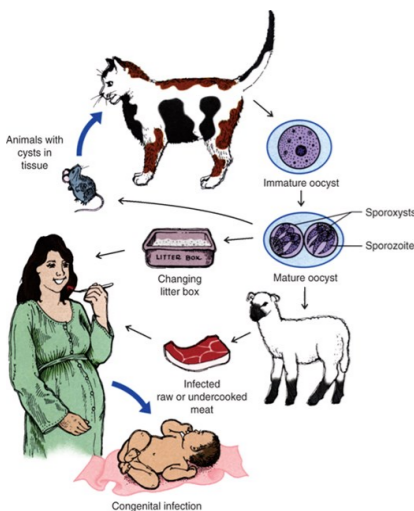
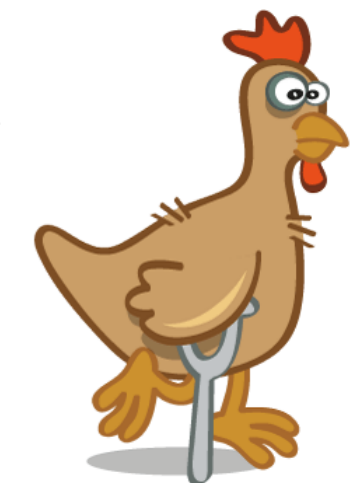
In days long gone up to half the chicks would die, but with vaccines they live on, making eggs + meat to fry.

For the backyard layer, things aren't so easy, the vaccine is difficult, unfeasible, and the price

will make you queasy.

If Marek's is your problem then the environment and older chickens is to blame. Thorough decontamination will surely be your aim.

If the virus continues to cause your flock loss, buy chooks over 20 weeks, old enough to show herpes who's boss.



Fitness for transport – Works Certificates

If you have an animal of any species, usually a dairy cow, that requires a vet certificate for transport, please realise there are some important points to note.

1. Under ALL circumstances the certificate is only valid for a maximum of one week. The vet may choose to shorten this time allowance if necessary.
2. The animal can only be transported to the closest meat processing plant, practically this means only plants in Southland are acceptable.
3. The special conditions of transport such as 'lower deck only, alone in pen, last on first off will be indicated on the certificate. The owner of the animal must notify the transport company of these special conditions.
4. As vets we are responsible when writing a certificate for transport. Animals that do not meet the transport criteria will not be issued a certificate.



Lame cows must be weight bearing on all four feet to even be considered for transport.

Roar

Throughout the deVelveting season the antlers get harder and the stags get angrier. It just builds the anticipation for what is coming, one word. ROAR.

With the stripping velvet and the thickening necks its not just you who should be getting excited, your dog should be pumped as well.

A skilled dog will easily double the enjoyment of a deer stalk. Most dogs have the hunter instinct in them, some it is easy to hone, some it isn't. Putting in a bit of work with deer skin to get them tracking the sent. Getting a solid heel and stop command on your dog goes a long way, the last thing you want

is a dog that chases deer.

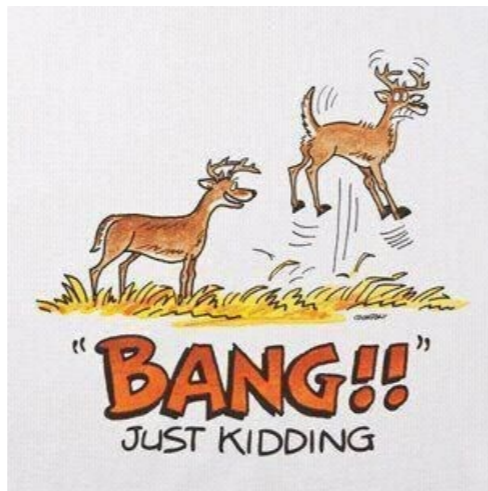
Once your dog knows what the smell of deer is and doesn't roam too far when stalking then the rest is mostly up to you. Time in the bush will get you used to how your dog indicates and gets your dog used to your hunting style.

Admittedly some dogs will be much quieter when stalking than others which can make or break the stalk, there isn't a lot that can be done for this other than gaining experience with your dog so they calm down more in a hunting situation.

The big difference your dog can make is locating that trophy stag who took off, wounded into the bush. Just keep in mind, if you have

a lab there will probably be a lot of meat missing from the carcass when you get there.

Remember to check for local pest baiting operations in the area and whether you are allowed to have dogs where you are intending to hunt.



Teatsealing

Now is a good time to start considering your heifers next obstacle—Calving. If they are well managed with good condition on their backs and small calves in their guts then calving will be a breeze. With Southlands infamous muddy winter and spring ahead, mastitis will once again be one of their major obstacles.

Most mastitis will occur in the first 4-6 weeks of lactation. In most cases it will be caused by a bacteria that entered the udder in winter.

Teatsealing is a solution to this problem. The way it works is by blocking the entry of bacteria into the teat. It will stay there until it is stripped out prior to milking.

By all accounts those who teatsealed their heifers last autumn and winter certainly reaped the benefits come spring. Many recall one to two heifers with mastitis in the first 6

weeks of lactation, certainly a big time and money saver.

The teatsealing operation through our teatseal trailer is very smooth running. Once the team gets in the groove we can seal 40-60 heifers an hour. Packing them tightly into the trailer constricts their movement and most farmers are very surprised how well behaved their heifers are throughout, very few kick with any intent.

Teatsealants may also be used as a very effective compliment to your dry cow regime. It can either be combined with dry cow antibiotics which improves cure rates of the antibiotics and reduces new infections come spring time. It can also be used alone in uninfected cows without the need for antibiotics. This provides much longer lasting protection from new infections and as the cow is uninfected, she doesn't require the cure from antibiotics.

Some farmers have the concern that teatsealants can 'seal an infection in'. They are worried that this will cause black mastitis and kill the cow. This is a misnomer. If teatseal is used alone in a subclinically infected cow then that cow is not likely to cure the infection however the infection will not get worse. Black mastitis is caused by inserting cow faeces into the udder when inserting teatseal, for this reason, you need to be extremely clean when inserting the tubes.

Come and discuss if teatsealing is right for you at your dry cow consult. Heifers can be sealed anytime from late March through to 2 weeks pre-calving so book in early and secure the date you want.



Jabbed yourself?

If you accidentally inject yourself with a vaccine or other drug please contact your vet and your doctor for advice. All products have published advice on treatment which your GP can access.

Two cows in a paddock

Two cows were out in a field eating grass. One cow turns to the other cow and says, "Moooooo!" "Hey", the other cow replies.... "I was just about to say the same thing!"

