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We are on the Web  
[www.tararuavets.co.nz](http://www.tararuavets.co.nz)

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## Companion Animal Newsletter

SPRING 2013

### Raising baby birds and ducklings—Natalie Smith

Every Spring, without fail, someone will come in to see us about baby birds that have fallen out of nests, or ducklings that have been brought in by the cat. Generally speaking, if you find a baby bird or duckling in the garden, lock the cat inside and the Mother bird will come back for it. Sometimes it helps to put the chick in a cat cage with the lid open so that the mother bird can see and hear it, and the baby will stay in one spot.

If things get desperate, and you need to keep and raise these babies, here are a few tips:

#### Ducklings:

Ducklings learn by watching their mothers eat. Obviously you won't want to eat what they are eating, so you can use a spoon to swish the food around instead of a beak. Make a mixture of weetbix, water and cat jellymeat making the mixture quite watery (when they eat in the wild it's generally sifting through pondwater). Gradually as they get older you can start mixing other things in with the food—the last duckling I had loved tinned spaghetti and lettuce mixed in! Older ducklings also eat grass, so access to this is important. You can add cooked veges; potato, spinach, carrot etc to balance the diet out. Ducklings don't water proof their feathers until they get their adult plumage, so even though they love having baths, it's important that they are limited to sunny days, or early in the day so they have time to dry out!

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## TVS & New World Pet Photo COMPETITION



### Do you have a really cute or funny photo of your beloved pet??

Submit your photo to Tararua Vet Services and go into the competition for the cutest and funniest pets.

Photos will be displayed in the New World Pah and in Clinic TVS Dvk. The winners will receive a gift hamper full of goodies from Tararua Vet Services and New World and your photos will be printed in our next TVS newsletter.

A gold coin donation to submit your photo goes toward the Retired Working Dog Adoption program. [www.facebook.com/Retired.WorkingDogs](http://www.facebook.com/Retired.WorkingDogs)

**Retired.WorkingDogs**

Submit your photo before the 25<sup>th</sup> October to go into the draw to WIN

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### Baby Birds:

There are so many types of chicks out there, it's hard to know where to start with diet plans. First of all, try and identify what kind of bird you have (what does its beak look like? Is it an Insect eater? Nectar drinker? Seed eater?) This will help decide what you should be feeding.

I raise baby birds on a diet of cat biscuits soaked in water, this is a great starter diet for all babies (except nectar drinkers) while you research what they eat in the wild. The biscuits need to be soaked right through. Baby birds will open their mouths up so you can poke one biscuit down their throats at a time-make sure they have swallowed what's in their mouths before you put the next one down! The mother bird also regurgitates water for her little ones, so you will need to give them half a ml or so of water from a syringe every time you feed them. I would feed them every couple of hours.

As they get older (depending on the type of bird) you can add cooked vegetables to the mixture that you are feeding them; potato, spinach, carrot etc. Eventually, when they get all their feathers, you can add the appropriate seed to their diet and teach them to eat that. Nectar drinking birds can be raised on lorikeet wet food.



For more information on feeding wild birds go to <http://www.wildbirds.org.nz/Feeding-a-bird.html>

When the birds have learnt to fly, they can be released-I put mine out in the aviary for a few weeks first so that they get used to the weather, and then I let them go somewhere away from cats and dogs.

Good luck!

## Protecting the wildlife from our pet cats—Suzie Weston

Cats are natural born killers. They have evolved to hunt in order to survive. Our domesticated cat will hunt regardless of whether or not they are hungry. You can't stop this instinct but there are some ways you can minimise the impact that your cat makes on wildlife.

**Keep your cat indoors at night.** Sunset and sunrise are the times of day when cats like prowling most. As well as minimising hunting there are other added advantages. Night time is commonly when cats roam and fight. Keeping them inside will reduce cat bite abscesses and road accidents from occurring.

**Bells can be added to collars.** It is better to add two or more per cat as they can learn to move without jingling if only one is added. They will not stop your cat hunting but can help warn birds they are about. If you have a collar on your cat make sure that it has a safety release clip to stop your cat being caught up.

**Feed your cat well.** Although a well-fed cat will still hunt, your cat is likely to be more content and therefore spend more time sleeping.

**Although we cannot change a cats innate drive to hunt, there are ways we can help to reduce the impact that they make on wildlife.**



**ADVANCE**  
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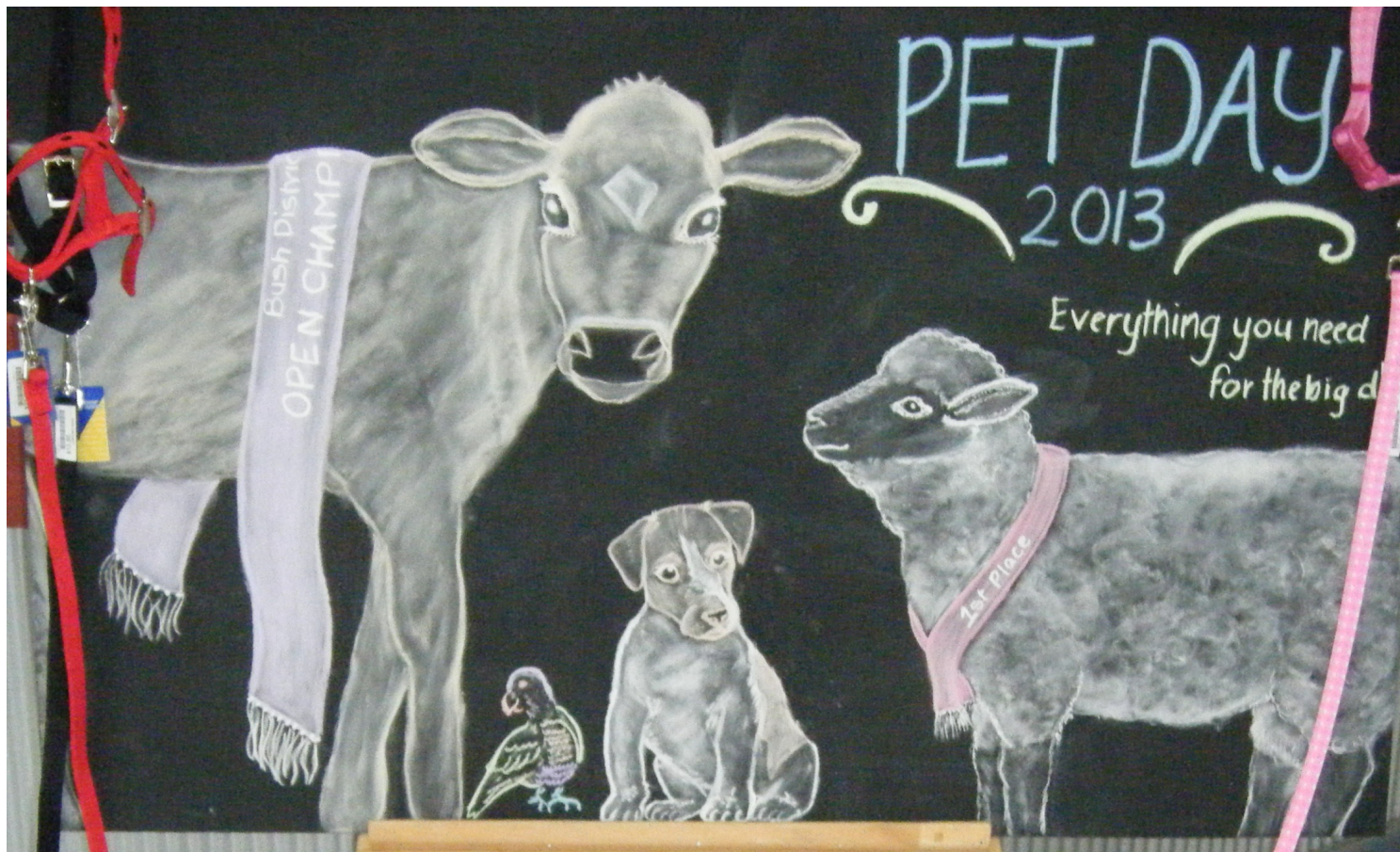
**Eukanuba**  
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# Are you sorted for Pet Day?

Carry Cages, Brushes, Shampoo's,  
Muzzels, leads etc. etc.





## Successful Calf Rearing

### A Quick Calf Rearing Checklist To Help you on your way;

#### First Colostrum Feeding;

2 litres 1st Milking colostrum tube fed within 6 hours of life, 4 litres within 12 hours

#### Continued Colostrum Feeding;

Keep feeding colostrum for at least the first 4 days—preferably 2 weeks

Feed twice a day for 1<sup>st</sup> week – fortnight

#### Feed and Water;

Meal available from a few days old- starter meal is good

Fresh, clean water source

#### Housing;

Calves must be dry and draught free

Ventilation – no ammonia smells

Adequate bedding, drainage

#### Calf Scours/disease;

No sudden feed changes—make gradually

Consistent amount and time of feeding

Access to clean water

Treat with electrolytes as soon as scouring is noted

Use a thermometer to check a sick calf -  $> 39.5$  = high temp



## Common Lamb Rearing Issues

### Housing and Feeding

Lambs need to be kept in a warm dry environment for the first 3 weeks.

A lamb needs at least 10–15 % of their body weight in milk daily. Initially this should be divided into four feeds per day. The number of feeds can decrease to 3 then 2 as the lamb gets older. Lambs will enjoy being out on the grass during the day.

### Problems

#### Scouring

Generally scouring is caused by over feeding of milk, feeding of cold milk or the wrong mixing rates. The best treatment is to stop feeding milk for 24 hrs and



feed the lamb electrolytes instead. Nutralyte and Revive are good quality electrolytes. Check that the milk is correctly mixed and at a warm temperature before feeding again. Introduce in small feeds gradually increasing the dose. Other less common causes include bacterial diseases such as Salmonella and E.coli, these require antibiotics and are best seen by a vet.

### Turned in eyes - Entropion

This is when 1 or both eyelids roll in and cause irritation to the eyes, they appear red and sometimes weepy. These can be treated by rolling the eye lids out twice daily and using terramycin powder. This often resolves the condition after 7-10 days of treatment. Alternatively you can bring the lambs in and we will inject paraffin oil under the eyelids to keep them out.

### Bloat

Abomasal bloat is a very common cause of death in lambs 3 weeks or older. It occurs generally when lambs are on once daily feeding, or drinking more than 500mls/feed. Cutting the end off the feeding teat so that lambs can drink faster is not advised as this often causes bloat. Within a couple of hours of feeding the lamb's stomach becomes very tight and they get sad and depressed. Death is a frequent outcome if they do not receive treatment soon as possible. Treatment requires lambs getting 3mls of penicillin orally, this penicillin goes directly to the stomach killing the gas making bacteria. Some lambs may need their stomachs depressed by placing a needle in them, this should be done by a vet. After an episode of bloat lambs should go back to twice a day feeding and remain fed this way until weaning. Adding acidophilus yoghurt to the milk can also help in prevention.

### Navel Ill

Swollen and infected navels or joints are caused by bacteria which enters the navel when the lambs are a few days old. These bacteria enter the bloodstream and circulate until they enter joints or the liver. It sets up infection and results in hot and swollen joints. These lambs need long-acting penicillin every second day for at least 3 treatments (or 4 days).

### Vaccinations

Lambs need vaccination against the sudden death clostridial diseases such as pulpy kidney and tetanus. Vaccination is the only method of prevention. The lamb will need to start its own vaccination course, which consists of 2 vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart.

## Good luck at Pet Day

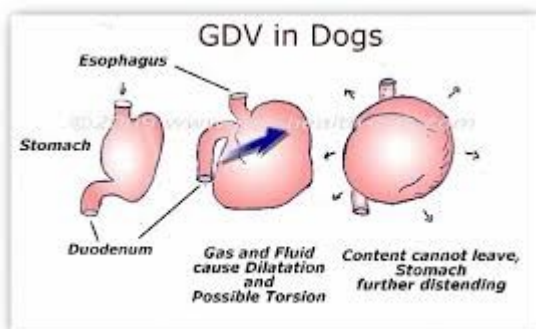
### GDV—Gastric Dilatation and Volvulus —Sam Allott

GDV is a disease in dogs where the stomach bloats and twists. This condition is an emergency and can be fatal. The most common symptoms associated with a GDV is looking bloated in the abdomen and retching. The twist in the stomach prevents the dog from being able to vomit or release the gas building up. The blood supply to the stomach wall is compromised and can lead to the stomach wall dying and potentially rupturing.

GDV is an important condition in working dogs occurring most frequently in deep chested dogs such as Huntaways. GDV's most commonly occur when a dog has scavenged or eaten a large meal too quickly. To prevent your dog from getting a GDV, avoid feeding them large meals and avoid overfeeding them with

offal and meat which produce a lot of gas when digested. It is often recommended to split daily requirements into 2 meals, however this is often not practical on farm. Feeding a premium diet can help reduce the risk for a GDV as dogs get their nutritional requirements without the excess bulk.

**If you notice your dog is depressed, retching and their abdomen looks like it's swelling, do not hesitate to bring them to the vets. This is a true emergency and the sooner treatment is received, the more likely your dog will survive.**



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