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## 2016 Totally Vets Group Fishing Competition

**Carla Sheridan**

Round up your crew! Get your entry in! Bait your hooks!

Our annual fishing competition at Whanganui is being held on 16 April. Competition starts anytime from sunrise (high tide is at 5.33am, low tide 12.01pm) and any eligible fish must be queued for weigh in by 3.00pm.

Reports to date say that the fishing off Whanganui this summer has been really good with good sized snapper, terakihi and cod being caught.

Entry forms and detailed competition information is available at all Totally Vets Group branches and Turners Sportsworld in Feilding. For further information please call Carla or Sue at the Feilding clinic on 06 323 6161.

**Here's looking forward to a great day out with plenty of fun, laughter and fishy tales to tell!**

## Broader range of equine services available

**Sandy Wilson**

Whilst Tararua Vet Services has always provided basic and ambulatory horse care, to date we have not had a dedicated equine service. This has recently changed in Dannevirke and is about to also change in Pahiatua.

Having merged with Totally Vets last year, we have not only been able to pull from their professional equine services, but we nabbed one of their team! Joao Dib joined our Dannevirke Clinic last year and has been establishing many new strong relationships with clients via his equine dentistry skills on this side of the hill. Joao is also well respected for his hoof and laminitis knowledge among other equine ailments.

In April this year Helen Mather will also join us by coming over the hill to Pahiatua and the surrounding area every second and fourth Thursday of the month. Helen, like Joao, is an all-round vet with a special interest in equine medicine. Helen visits pleasure, competition and stud horses on a daily basis from her base clinic, Totally Vets Awapuni branch.



Equine services we can provide include:

- **Basic Services**

Parasite management, dental checks and treatments, vaccinations, blood sampling, hoof care, ill-thrift investigation, castration, wound management, emergency care etc.

- **Advanced Services**

Lameness investigation, respiratory problems, poor performance workups, nutritional advice, mare scanning and reproduction etc.

Our equine in-store areas have also had a facelift. We are now stocking many more commonly used equine remedies however, if we haven't got what you're after, please don't hesitate to ask.

Our current equine special is that if you book a horse dental for the month of April we will waive our fee for vaccinating and blood sampling your horse (laboratory testing and vaccine costs will apply).

**So, give us a call today at either our Dannevirke or Pahiatua clinics to arrange an appointment with one of our vets.**



# Drenching deer

Mark Eames

We know that to reduce the rate of development of resistant worms, combination anthelmintic products are better than single active.

The problem with drenching of deer is that no combination products have been through the process required for labelling. This has resulted in an overuse of single active pour-on drenches having been used in deer in New Zealand and hence an increasing resistance in the worm population.

The saviour here is that vets can recommend an "off label" product as there is no licensed alternative that is appropriate. Given this, we recommend the use of a triple combination that can be achieved by one of two options:

1. Matrix C at one and a half times the recommended dose rate
- OR
2. Moxidectin injection (such as Exodus®1% injection or Cydectin®) at a dose rate of 1ml per 50kg PLUS a 50:50 mix of Oxfen®C plus and Oxfen®C given orally at a dose rate of 1ml per 5kg

**Unfortunately, and importantly, both of these options require withholding the meat products from human consumption for 91 days.**

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# Looking ahead

Potential animal health issues, tasks to consider and reminders for April include...

## Dairy

- **Drying off** - as feed tightens and milk production is decreasing be sure to monitor cow body condition to ensure it doesn't drop too low. Make holistic decisions around which cows to dry-off when and book in your Milk Quality Consult sooner rather than later! - **article P3.**
- **Herd testing** - Bulk milk somatic cell count will be rising in late lactation. Seriously consider investing in a herd test that will give very valuable information to assist in making both dry-off and dry cow therapy decisions.
- **Facial eczema** - spore counts to date have been the highest ever recorded since monitoring began back in mid 1990's. Continue zinc treatment until spore counts drop to safe levels.
- **Leptospirosis vaccination** - autumn is a perfect time to boost your herd prior to winter (being the highest risk period). Ensure that young stock are included in

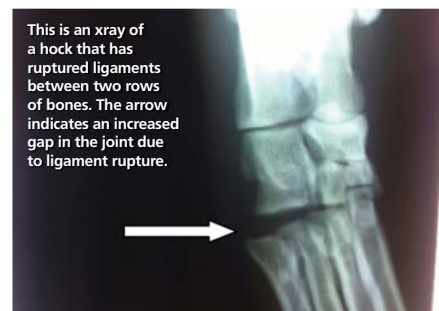
# Working dog worries... to operate or not?

Helen Sheard

One of your best dogs pulls up lame, he has ruptured all the ligaments in his hock and the surgery to fix it is going to be expensive. The key question is; what are the chances of him getting back to work as well as he did before?

Unlike most other joints in the body, both the hock and the carpal (wrist) joints are made up of lots of small bones held together by ligaments. Hyperextension injuries (most commonly done by trapping a foot when jumping off a bike or a foot getting stood on by a cattle beast) can be forceful enough to rupture more than one of these ligaments, causing a very unstable joint. Surgically repairing the ligaments often gives an unsatisfactory result. The ideal is to surgically open the joint, remove the cartilage surface of the bones and fuse the joint with a bone plate or pins, leaving it to heal much as a fracture would.

Studies from Massey University have found that eleven out of twelve owners whose dogs had their carpal joints fused were happy with the outcome of the surgery, with six dogs returning to full work. A further four dogs could nearly perform all of their duties. A similar study of owners whose dogs had their hocks fused found that thirteen out of fourteen were positive about the surgery. Eleven of these dogs returned to normal or near normal workloads.



This is an xray of a hock that has ruptured ligaments between two rows of bones. The arrow indicates an increased gap in the joint due to ligament rupture.



This is the same hock after surgery to place a bone plate and screws to fuse the joint.

**If you and your dog are faced with injury, decisions are not always easy, we are always here to provide information on options and support the decision making process.**



this and that the interval between annual vaccinations never extends beyond 13 months.

- **Trace element monitoring** - pre-winter is a good time for liver biopsies to ensure adequate levels. Samples taken from standing cows are best but results can also be obtained from cull cows - **article P4**.

## Sheep and Beef

- **Mating** - is now in full swing. Monitor plane of nutrition and ensure adequate ram ratios.

- **Facial eczema** - as per under dairy.
- **Planning for winter** - prepare an autumn/winter feed budget and relate it to body condition score management, consider timing of winter shearing, iodine supplementation and book in your scanning.

## Equine

- **Planning for winter** - regular hoof care will help decrease the risk of foot abscesses and timely dental checks will help, particularly in older horses, ensure

maintenance of condition through winter. Air out and check straps on heavier rugs and, if not done so already, now is a good time to ensure elimination of tapeworms and cyathostomes with a good drench!

## Deer

- **Mating** - monitor stag health and condition through mating.
- **Vaccinations** - if fawns are yet to have their first shot for Leptospirosis, along with Yersiniavax® for Yersiniosis, plan for this now.



# Planning for drying off

Sarah Hamer

The dry period is a really important time for udder tissue to regenerate and decisions made here will affect your herd for at least the next six to twelve months.

## WHEN TO DRY OFF?

To dry off or not to dry off; that is the question! The date of dry-off should be based around a variety of factors including:

- **Feed availability**
- **Feed budget going into winter**
- **Milk production** - dry off cows producing less than five to six litres of milk per day
- **Bulk milk somatic cell count (BMSCC)** should be monitored as it tends to increase in late lactation. High somatic cell count (SCC) cows should be identified by a herd test and dried off earlier

- **Body condition score (BCS)** of individual cows. Those in poor body condition should be identified and dried off at an earlier date to allow more time to recover before calving
- **Length of the dry period** - expected calving dates should be used to ensure that ALL cows get at least six weeks dry period (eight weeks is preferable). Less time than this has been shown to cause decreased production in the next lactation

## DRY COW THERAPY

The SmartSAMM recommendation is to ensure that all cows are protected by some form of treatment during the dry period. Dry cow therapy (DCT) and/or internal teat sealants (ITS) use is the cornerstone of mastitis control, both at dry-off and in early lactation. The two main functions are:

1. To cure existing infections (DCT)
2. To prevent new infections during the dry period and at calving (DCT and ITS)

Options include:

- **Short acting DCT** - to cure existing infections and prevent new cases at

drying off. However, after around 30 days the concentration of antibiotic is decreased so there's potentially minimal protection in the late dry period. If there is a significant environmental challenge, such as calving down on a feed pad or grazing winter crops, we would likely recommend that you use a long acting product and/or an ITS

- **Long acting DCT** - gives good cure rates of existing infections and can protect against new infections and, depending on product used and dry period length, right up to calving
- **ITS** - form a wax plug to prevent new infections. This plug remains until it's stripped out once calved. If used on their own, ITS should ONLY be used in low SCC cows
- **Combination therapy** - treating cows with DCT and ITS prevents new infections at calving and early lactation

Some farms will treat their whole herd, while others are selective and use DCT on only 'at risk' cows. 'At risk' being those treated for mastitis during lactation, cows with a SCC of greater than 150,000 cells/ml and heifers with greater than 120,000 cells/ml. Analysing results of your past herd test(s) is vital to be able to make useful decisions on selective DCT.

**Our vets are available to assist you with these decisions. Completing your Milk Quality Consult early will ensure that you have a suitable plan in place for drying off.**

# Testing for trace elements

Sarah Clarke

Trace elements play a critical role in animal health and ensuring they are at optimal levels goes a long way to helping animals stay fit, healthy and producing well. In general, the three key ones to consider are:

## COPPER (Cu)

Soil Cu levels are poorly related to pasture Cu levels, so soil testing results are not helpful. Cu is ingested in feed and deficiency is generally caused by inadequate Cu in the diet.

Serum Cu levels only give a "snapshot" of the Cu available to the animal at that time. This may be misleading as animals will maintain "normal" blood Cu levels until the

stored Cu supply in the liver is exhausted, at which time blood Cu levels will drop sharply. Seeing as Cu is stored in the liver, analysis of liver tissue is a more meaningful sampling method. Stores are typically lowest through winter and late spring so testing in the autumn is generally the best time to establish if supplementation is required.

Cu levels can vary considerably between individual animals making interpretation of results more difficult so, in order to accurately estimate the Cu status at a herd level, the taking of ten or more samples is advised.

## SELENIUM (Se)

Contrary to other elements Se levels show a soil-plant-animal relationship, so soil and herbage testing can give information valuable to assist management decisions. However samples from the animal are still the most accurate indicator.

Serum Se reflects current intake or supplementation, while whole blood estimates Se adequacy over the preceding three months. Liver samples provide a useful

indicator for Se status and can be done in conjunction with testing to establish Cu status.

Se levels are much less variable than Cu, therefore smaller numbers (three to four) can accurately predict a herd status.

## COBALT (Co)

Co intake affects vitamin B12 concentration in the blood which changes rapidly in response to changes in dietary amounts.

As such, vitamin B12 concentration in either blood or liver samples can be used to establish Co status, however values may be variable and are influenced by management and/or concurrent disease.

**Investing in trace element testing is a cost but ensures time and money is not wasted on unnecessary supplementation. It also makes sure those that need extra get it and those that have enough aren't given too much.**



## Lower your spring time stress

Book your Milk Quality Consult now with your vet and check out your dry cow therapy options

Prices starting from  
**\$2.10** (inc GST) per tube



## A pour-on drench for drying-off

A SPECIAL OFFER EXCLUSIVE TO TOTALLY VETS AND TARARUA VETERINARY SERVICES

For the control of internal parasites and lice

**\$0.90** (inc GST) per 500kg cow  
Based on a 20L drum

