



Te Awamutu Veterinary Association Inc. trading as

TOKOROA & DISTRICTS VETERINARY SERVICES

TAUPO
VETERINARY
CENTRE

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TOKOROA CLINIC

Ashworth Street
PO Box 182

Mon – Fri 8:00 am – 5:30 pm
Sat 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

07 886 6119 (24 hours)

TokRecep@tokvets.co.nz

TAUPO CLINIC

3 Oruanui Street
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Sat 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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WHAKAMARU CLINIC

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February already!! Oh how time flies when the weather is nice, as it has been this summer. Although as the mornings start to get colder and the kids head back to school, we can't deny that summer is on the way out; which means it's time to book in your herd leptovaccinations.

Remember your annual booster should be done BEFORE the Autumn wet weather sets in, as high rainfall is the most important risk factor for infection. Don't forget about your calves and dogs either as both are at risk of developing severe disease if infected. All naïve animals need two vaccinations four weeks apart, with an annual booster. Simple! Give us a call and book it in.

Equally as important as staying on top of the business tasks is ensuring you take the time out to make the most of the remaining summer days. There is still warm weather predicted in the coming weeks so get out there and make the most of it!!



Say hello to the recent additions!

This summer we have three new graduate vets joining our team, Jevan and Riannan will be involved in both small and large animal vet work in Tokoroa/Whakamaru, and Sam will be working as a small animal vet in our Taupo clinic.



Jevan

For the record Jevan is pronounced “Kevin but with a J”. From British decent, Jevan Eady was born and raised in rural Canterbury, growing up in a small town called Southbridge (better known as Carter country, home town of All Blacks legend Daniel Carter).

A recent Graduate from Massey University Jevan is excited to be putting into practice everything he has learned. His main interests are in production animals, but he also thoroughly enjoys small animal practice; you may see him out on farm shoulder deep in a cow’s backside, or in clinic caring for beloved companion animals.

Outside of work Jevan is an outdoors enthusiast and will be spending his weekends exploring the many lakes, rivers and bush walks the Waikato has to offer. He’s always keen for some social (or competitive) sports especially football.

Riannan

Riannan Bardoul was raised in Matamata alongside seven brothers and sisters - but before you ask, not on a dairy or equine unit. Her parents run bull beef and she has always had a passion for production animal practice.

Recently graduated from Massey University, Riannan is keen to get involved in both small and large animal work in the region- although hopes to spend more time on farm than indoors.

Outside of scrub tops or overalls, her main interests are sport (especially Netball, Touch and Swimming), hiking and spending quality time with family and friends.



Sam

Sam Bate was born and raised in Wellington with her three sisters ... Her poor dad! but they did have a token male parrot to keep him company.

Sam has recently graduated from Massey University and is really excited to fulfill her lifelong dream of working as a vet. She has a keen interest in companion animal medicine as she grew up surrounded by a plethora of pets.

In Sam’s spare time, she loves to play the cello and dance.

An elderly gentleman had serious hearing problems for a number of years. He went to the doctor and his doctor was able to have him fitted with a hearing aid that allowed him to hear 100%.

He went back to the doctor a month later and the doctor said, “Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be so pleased that you can hear again.”

To which the gentleman replied, “Oh I haven’t told my family yet. I just sit around and listen to the conversations. I’ve changed my will three times!”



Drenching calves

As the days get warmer and wetter, the worm numbers are on the rise so it is important to stay on top of parasite control. As calves are busy eating grass they are also ingesting hundreds of infective larvae. It takes time for calves to build up immunity to parasites so it is vital that they are on a good drenching programme to avoid poor growth rates and intestinal damage.

We recommend a monthly oral drenching programme from weaning until late autumn. Other management techniques involve grazing on 'safer' pastures, or cross-species grazing – talk to one of our vets for more information on this topic.

We recommend the use of combination drenches where possible; drenches that contain only one active ingredient increase the risk of resistance developing. Many drenches that are safe for adult cattle are not safe for calves - please check the label or talk to a Vet or our reception staff if you are unsure which products to use. Safe drench options for calves include Arrest C (oral), Oxfen C plus (oral), Boss (injection) or Eprisure (pour-on).



Sheep; a busy time - plan ahead

From now until ewe tupping is a very busy time.

Toxovax needs to be given at least four weeks before tupping. We only order this vaccine as required so let Heather (Whakamaru) or Julie (Taupo) know when you will need it.

Campyvac. Two shots four weeks apart initially, so if you are going to complete the course before tupping you need to think about it now. If you are out of time you can delay until after tupping as most losses are in the last part of pregnancy so there is still time for the vaccine to work.

Salmonella. We don't recommend using this vaccine within a month of tupping (either side) so use it now or after the 70 day mark

We are starting to hear of a few Pulpy Kidney deaths. It's not surprising with the amazing summer growth. Maternal protection has run out by 12 weeks of age so lambs are unprotected until they have had two doses of 5 in 1.

Traditionally this has only been given to replacement hoggets but at current values it is cheap insurance.



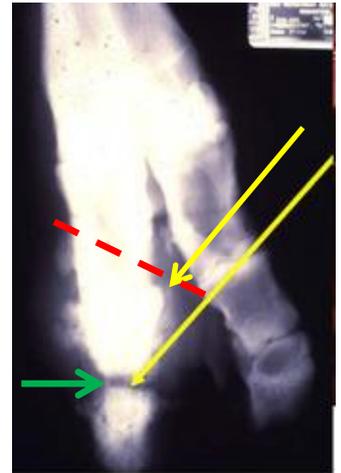


Joint infections

Lame cows are a headache at the best of times. The worst are the girls, who despite several attempts of antibiotics and examining the hoof, are still lame! This is incredibly frustrating for all involved; chances are she has a joint infection.

Joint infections most often start off as white line disease (WLD) which is seen at the sole.

As the infection worsens and pressure builds within the white line, it tries to find a way out and will travel the path of least resistance. This is either to the heel or the hair line at the top of the hoof where it will burst out, or track inwards towards the joint (green arrow on the x-ray).



When this gets invaded by bacteria it causes damage to the cartilage leading to arthritis. If the infection is caught early and treated with the right antibiotics, cartilage damage is minimised and the cow will carry on.

If not, the cartilage damage can be very extensive (yellow arrows on the x-ray). Signs you might see are swelling above the hoof, especially if more to one side and the toe pointing up.

If all else fails another way to relieve the cow of pain is to amputate the claw (red dashed line on the x-ray) as this removes the arthritic joint. This is not necessarily a salvage procedure; on average a cow will do another 2-3 seasons in the herd. Some cows reportedly are around for another 10 years! Farmers often comment how comfortable the cow is even the next day.

An Update on Spore Counts

Pasture spore counts are on the rise with our most recent tests showing spore counts of 45,000 in Tokoroa, 20,000 in Atiamuri and Whakamaru, 50,000 in Mangakino and 40,000 in Taupo.

We have begun seeing the first few cases of clinical facial eczema, which means subclinical production losses are hiding beneath the surface. Now is the time to ensure your zinc prevention plans are well underway, remembering that dosing in the water is rarely sufficient as a sole means of supplementing zinc, therefore other methods of supplementation may be required for your herd.

To check the effectiveness of your zinc supplementation we recommend testing blood levels from 10 cows in the herd approximately two weeks after starting the supplementation.

As always, we recommend dropping in grass samples from your own farm to provide a more accurate indication of individual risk. Call us to book in your blood samples or to talk about spore counting and managing facial eczema.

