



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](mailto:TokRecep@tokvets.co.nz)

#### TAUPO CLINIC

3 Oruanui Street  
PO Box 637

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

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#### WHAKAMARU CLINIC

Tihoi Road

Mon – Fri  
8:30 am – 4:30 pm

07 882 8094 (24 hours)

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We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all the new farmers who have moved to our district. We look forward to meeting you over the spring time. Don't hesitate to call into the clinic to say "hi", and we are also more than happy to answer any questions you might have.

We also bid farewell and good luck to the farmers leaving the district, it has been our pleasure working with you, thank you for your support and we wish you well in your new endeavours.

#### Reminders

- Come in and renew your RVM for the season.
- Are you ready for calving? Use our Spring checklist as a guide
- Is your herd leptos up to date? We are heading into the biggest risk period
- Is your herd on target to meet pre-calving BCS. Target continued condition increases for the lighter, late calving cows.

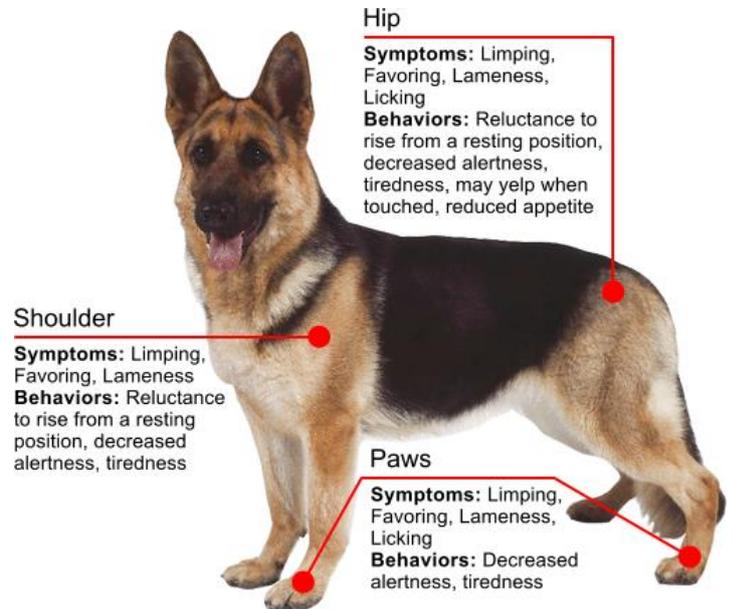
Have you checked the herds mineral status heading into dry off? Se, B12 and Cu need to be adequate heading into calving.

## Is Your Dog Suffering from Arthritis?

Just like in humans, arthritis is a painful and debilitating disease that has significant effects on mobility as well as quality of life. Arthritis affects 1 in 5 dogs over the age of one and progressively becomes worse over time. Some of the signs of arthritis that you may notice in your dog include:

While there is no cure for arthritis, there are options for pain relief which can reduce the impact of the disease and improve quality of life. Options include daily (or as needed) dosing with Carprofen or Metacam anti-inflammatories or Trocoxil – a chewable anti-inflammatory tablet that requires only monthly administration after two initial treatments 14 days apart. This is a very easy and effective way to manage arthritis in dogs in the long term. We often use injectable joint supplements in combination with the pain relief, which proves more effective in managing the arthritis than with anti-inflammatories alone.

Your working dogs are valuable members of your farm team, so give us a call if you think yours would benefit from some TLC.



## Update on *Mycoplasma bovis* testing

We have had queries regarding testing options available to farmers for detecting *M. Bovis* and for accreditation as “mycoplasma free”. Unfortunately, testing for *Mycoplasma* is incredibly complex and not straightforward. A commercial diagnostic tool, which will allow farmers to test *Mycoplasma* themselves, is being developed by a partnership comprising of commercial laboratories, industry representatives and MPI.

The tool will be released once sampling guidelines, a testing strategy, and possibly an accreditation programme have been developed – to ensure the test can be accurately applied and interpreted. MPI response director Geoff Gwyn said since the discovery of *Mycoplasma* in New Zealand last year, the partnership had been working hard to provide practitioners and farmers with better diagnostic tests to assist in detecting the cattle disease on their farms.

"However, while testing options and solutions are becoming available, we have identified that interpreting a one-off test result, even at the herd level, in isolation to other factors is challenging and carries an inherent risk for farmers when in isolation to other factors. The tests currently available will lead to a significant number of farms being falsely identified as positive and farms that may be real positives being missed. Any accreditation programme will likely not only consider test result, but also factors such as herd management, animal health, and record keeping (including NAIT records) – all of which will be used to inform farmers of the likely risk of *Mycoplasma bovis* in their herd.

MPI is continuing to test milk from every dairy farm in New Zealand and this process is nearly complete.

## Dry Cow Mastitis

Most dry-cow mastitis occurs in the first and last two weeks of the dry period. Cows should be checked for signs of mastitis 7 – 14 days after drying off; this is best done by running them through the shed looking and feeling for hot and swollen quarters.

Treat cows that develop mastitis in the dry period the same way you would any other time of year – strip out the affected quarter twice daily (but leave the others!) and use a lactating cow intramammary (Penclox, Lincosin Forte, Mastalone, Intracillin). A course of injectable antibiotics (Penethaject, Tylo) is advisable if she is sick or has more than one infected quarter. Talk to your vet to decide which is the best drug to use.

Remember not to use Dry Cow intramammary products on mastitis cases as these are designed only to be used at drying off. The way they work is by dispersing through the milk in the udder when cows are dried off. Once cows are successfully dried off, there will be insufficient milk present to disperse the product and this can lead to an antibiotic residue grade when the cow begins lactating again.

## Ewe abortions

With ewes now well pregnant, it is a good time to remind you of ewe abortions – what to look for and when, and what you can do about it.



### Campylobacter:

- \* Infection occurs in the last six weeks of pregnancy
- \* Abortions occur 7-25 days after infection
- \* Ewes usually remain healthy
- \* Aborted foetuses generally don't have specific tell-tale signs of infection – diagnosis is usually by bacterial culture of foetal stomach content

**In the face of an outbreak:** reduce stocking density, remove stock from contaminated pasture, remove aborted foetuses and aborting ewes from the flock, maintain strict personal hygiene, can vaccinate in the face of an abortion storm

- \* Vaccination is pre-tupping with a booster 4-6 weeks later, then yearly boosters

### Toxoplasma:

- \* Infection can occur any time during pregnancy
- \* <60d – dry/dry ewe
- \* 60-120d – foetal death, mummification, abortion
- \* >120d – normal lamb
- \* Ewes usually remain healthy

Little can be done in an outbreak except disposing of dead lambs and placenta and maintaining cleanliness. Prevention involves a single lifetime vaccination >4 weeks pre-teaser introduction in maiden ewes

## PRE-LAMB DRENCH

The use of pre-lamb drenches in ewes should be kept to a minimum and given on an "as required basis".

The use of long-acting drench (capsules or injection) has always been debatable both over the cost-effectiveness of the practice and its contribution to the development of parasite resistance.

As an alternative to this, you can selectively drench your lighter ewes and those bearing twins or triplets while leaving the main flock untreated. Studies show that drenching these harder working ewes can benefit the ewe's body condition score, as well as reducing the amount of parasites on the ground for the lambs to get infected with. By not drenching your single-bearing ewes and those with good body condition, you are helping to slow down the development of worm resistance to the drench (refugia). We do recommend the use of long acting drenches in lambing hoggets.

Any drenching should be given two weeks before the expected start of lambing so as to minimise the risk of sleepy sickness during yarding. The need to drench is never straight forward and a drench plan should be discussed on a farm-by-farm basis.

## Take control of calf scours

Every farmer that has had a bad outbreak of calf scours knows just how stressful this situation is. Super sick calves (that often die), stressed farm staff and the seemingly never ending battle when more calves fall ill. Add in higher veterinary bills, electrolyte treatments and the critical care required and you have yourself what many farmers call “a living nightmare”.

To ensure your future herd gets the best possible protection against scours right from the get go, you can vaccinate the herd against Rotavirus, E.coli and Coronavirus (the three main pathogens causing calf scours). The idea is to vaccinate pregnant cows and heifers to raise antibody levels against these pathogens, so when new born calves drink their colostrum they receive these antibodies to help prevent the incidence and severity of scours. The feeding of colostrum from vaccinated cows:

- \* Reduces severity of E.coli scours
- \* Reduces the incidence of Rotavirus scours
- \* Reduces the shedding of virus from infected calves into the environment



Two bats are hanging upside down on a branch. One asks the other, “Do you recall your worst day last year?” The other responds, “Yes, the day I had diarrhoea!”



We have two products this season to choose from that cover all three pathogens;

**Rotavec Corona** - One shot 3-12 weeks before calving (it does not require a booster if the cow is being vaccinated for the first time).

**Rotagal** - Previously unvaccinated cows require two shots three weeks apart. The last shot needs to fall three weeks before calving. Previously vaccinated cows only require one shot three weeks before calving. If Rotavec Corona was used the previous year, this is not an issue and one Rotagal shot provides adequate protection.

The timing of vaccination is important. It must be done 4 to 12 weeks prior to calving. Outside of this timeframe, insufficient antibody production will occur, therefore you need to know your calving dates. You may need to vaccinate your herd in two or more mobs.



*A blonde canvassed a wealthy neighborhood looking for odd jobs. She went to the front door of the first house and asked the owner if he had anything for her to do.*

*"Well, you can paint my porch. How much will you charge?"*

*She replied, "How about \$50?"*

*The man agreed and told her the paint was in the garage. A short time later, the blonde came to the door to collect her money.*

*"You're finished already?" he asked. "Yes," the blonde answered, "and I had paint left over, so I gave it two coats."*

*Impressed, the man reached in his pocket for the \$50. "And by the way," the blonde added, "that's not a Porsche; it's a Ferrari."*