

**Clinic News** – The last few weeks of weather have presented some real challenges for farmers and vets alike. We would like to thank all of those farmers who have been able to accommodate changes to their scheduled teat sealing date due to the extensive flooding on the Taieri or a particularly wet or snowy day. Thanks to you, and some excellent work from the whole team, we have been able to keep pretty much on track with the teatsealing schedule, well done Elspeth and the team.



*No calving gown or maxi gloves here!*

Steve has just returned from a stint of voluntary vet work in Tonga where he spent most of his time neutering dogs, however he did still manage to get the odd calving in between surgeries. Teresa is away in Ireland for the next few weeks catching up with her family and friends and we have Alisa McDonald back 3 days a week to help cover for absence of Jason and Teresa.



*Adjustable height surgical table*

## **Carry Over Cows**

At this time of year many people are purchasing or making decisions around keeping carry over cows. These cows have a very long lead in time to becoming productive animals and if they fail to get in calf in the coming November can become rather costly. There is also the chance that a stray bull has jumped the fence with your cows, or potentially a recording issue at pregnancy testing which can mean that the odd cow happens to be in calf.

We therefore recommend that all carry over cows be rechecked now as you go into the winter. This would involve ultrasound pregnancy testing them followed by a full rectal reproductive exam to check for any abnormalities such as uterine infection, uterine or vaginal abscesses, or adhesions between the reproductive tract and surrounding tissues. The ovaries are also palpated to check for cysts. These cows have already failed to conceive so it is important that any that have damage to their reproductive tracts are identified and removed now, as any damaged cows will have a much reduced chance of getting in calf in the coming breeding season.

## **Free cow health training for your staff**

Clutha Vets, in collaboration with DairyNZ, will be running Healthy Cow Workshops at convenient locations across the district during winter. These workshops are aimed at farm staff new to the dairy industry, or those wanting a refresher course on cow health. We will cover identification, monitoring and basic treatment of unwell animals in an accessible, practical way. The course will be fully funded by your DairyNZ levy payment. Please let us know if you or your staff are interested in attending a course by emailing [kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz](mailto:kbrennan@cluthavets.co.nz)

## **Remove barrier to reaching target weights in heifers**

By July most replacement calves will be over 10 months of age, and so are old enough to have a sample of 15 from the mob tested to see whether they have had much exposure to the BVD virus. This will give an indication of how likely it is that there is a persistently infected (PI) animal in the mob. Unfortunately, if there is a PI in the mob it will have had at least 10 months to expose the rest of the calves to the virus, ultimately leading to more disease and significantly reduced growth rates. There is an option to test calves individually from birth to find any PIs sooner to avoid this situation and remove one of the hurdles in reaching target heifer weights.

## **An interesting case...**

Sometimes we have cows which are unwell and even after a thorough clinical examination it can be very hard to come up with a good diagnosis. These cows are very frustrating and it would be nice at times be able to unzip the

cow and have a wee peep inside as you know something is going on in there, but at what point do you attempt to do this?

Sometimes it is helpful to be able to do a post-mortem in these cases to finally see what did go wrong....

Case in point: A 6 year old cow that was dried off a couple of weeks earlier with no issues. It was put on Kale and then pulled off the crop and put on grass as it wasn't doing well. On the grass it ate well and then became bloated and stopped eating. On examination its temperature, heart rate and lung sounds were all normal, and in fact the only abnormalities were a bloated rumen and a small amount of watery faeces. Suspecting rumen impaction or a partial blockage of the gut, the cow was treated conservatively, however it died later that day.

The next morning on post-mortem the rumen was huge with a large amount of grass in it, with the rest of the intestines being fluid filled. The omasum, which is the 3<sup>rd</sup> stomach, and generally the size of a basket ball and filled with compacted grass, was at least 10 times its normal size and fluid filled. Tracing the omasum back to its origins a partial twist was located which explained why the cow could only move fluid and not grass out of its rumen. This is an uncommon finding and can probably be put down to the change in feed as the cow transitioned onto the crop. The twist would not have been able to be corrected surgically due to the size of the Omasum. This case demonstrates the importance of performing a post mortem on animals which die with a vague set of presenting signs.

### **Restricted Veterinary Medicines (RVM)**

July is the time of the year when we have to renew your Restricted Veterinary Medicines prescription. This is a legal obligation that allows you to be able to collect the drugs from the clinic when you need them. It also gives you a chance to discuss with your veterinarian any animal health problems you have had over the season, as well as refreshing you on the correct treatments for different diseases. This year we have produced a number of one page laminated resources which can be used to help remind farm staff how to treat common diseases seen on farm. We are also offering short on farm training sessions which are useful to ensure that all staff know how to perform common procedures and diagnose and treat basic animal health problems. Those who are interested in accessing either of these resources can discuss them with your vet during your RVM. If you are able to make an appointment with our receptionists for your RVM at a time that suits you then that would be much appreciated.

### **Joke**

The only cow in a small Kentucky town stopped giving milk. The people did some research and found that they could buy a cow just across the state line in Illinois for \$200.

They brought the cow from Illinois and the cow was wonderful. It produced lots of milk all of the time, and the people were very happy. They decided to acquire a bull to mate with the cow to produce more cows like it. They would never have to worry about their milk supply again.

They bought the bull and put it in the pasture with their beloved cow. However, whenever the bull tried to mount the cow, the cow would move away. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow would move away from the bull and he could not succeed in his quest. The people were very upset and decided to ask the Vet, who was very wise, what to do.

They told the Vet what was happening. "Whenever the bull tries to mount our cow, she moves away. If he approaches from the back, she moves forward. When he approaches her from the front, she backs off. An attempt from the side, she walks away to the other side."

The Vet thought about this for a minute and asked,

"Did you by chance, buy this cow in Illinois?"

The people were dumbfounded, since no one had ever mentioned where they bought the cow. "You are truly a wise Vet," they said. "How did you know we got the cow in Illinois?"

The Vet replied with a distant look in his eye, "My wife is from Illinois."

### ***This Month's Retail News:***

- ***Eclipse E Injection & Eclipse Pour-on*** – With 4 x 500 ml injection & 2.5 or 5 lt or pour-on receive "The Angus Book", a glossy colour book celebrating 150 years of the Angus breed in NZ.
- ***Eprinex-Pour-on*** - Buy 3x5lt and get another 5lt free.
- ***Dectomax Injection*** - Receive an electric knife sharpener or a high quality sheath knife with every 2 starter packs
- ***Boss Cattle Injection*** - a new combination injection of ivermectin, eprinomectin and levamisole for cattle treatment for new company Alleva. Also effective against lice.
- ***Cydectin Pour-on*** – Receive an extra 10% free.
- ***Milligan's Calf Milk Powder*** - Our price for this season will be \$92.67 nett incl GST for a 20kg bag. Get your orders into retail now to secure supplies at this price. Tonne price \$90.61 nett inc GST. Ring retail with your order