



Thank You

With the end of the year and the festive season almost upon us, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your custom and for choosing us to care for your pets or live-stock. The last year has been a time of consolidation after the merger which has gone very well. I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and look forward to being able to assist you again in the future.

Mark Anderson; *on behalf of all the staff at Vets North.*

Cattle Pregnancy Testing

It may be a dry summer & the milk pay-out is not going to be flash. Cull your empty cows early to reduce the number of mouths that you need to feed. We can pregnancy test from 6 weeks after the end of mating.

Beef farmers should also carry out pregnancy testing as soon as they can after the end of mating to remove culls early.

After Hours Vets

There are always two vets on call for urgent after hours cases. One small animal vet for dogs & cats and the second vet for farm animals & horses. Both on call vets work from their homes and are contacted on their mobile phones via the Clinic phones.

This means they are not always able to answer the phone immediately as they may be in the middle of a job or out of coverage (we work from the Manakau Harbour to the Kaipara Harbour). Leave a message and a number and the vet will get back to you as soon as they can. Also be aware that out of hours work is more expensive as we have to provide the vets with additional time off & pay. In addition, you do not have a choice as to which vet you get to see. With small animals you will be directed to the Vet on call's normal clinic of work, which may be in Kumeu, Waimauku or Helensville. (We share small animal after hours with Dr Bobs in Waimauku).

We can not provide intensive overnight nursing care for pets in the Clinics. The on call vet however, will often call in and check on a case in the evening. Intensive 24 hour care can be provided via the various After Hours clinics in Auckland if it is required.

Over Christmas & New Year both Clinics will be closed for the two, four day breaks, but will be otherwise open. The Clinics are open daily from 8am till 5.30pm. Our late night opening on Thursday in Helensville has been withdrawn due to a lack of demand. Both clinics are open on Saturday mornings from 9am till 12pm.



Vets North Helensville - Christmas & New Year Opening Hours

Thurs 24 th December	8am - 5.30pm
Christmas Day	CLOSED
Sat 26 th December	CLOSED
Sun 27 th December	CLOSED
Mon 28 th December	CLOSED
Tues 29 th December	8am - 5.30pm



Wed 30 th December	8am - 5.30pm
Thurs 31 st December	8am - 5.30pm
New Years Day	CLOSED
Sat 2 nd January	9am - 12.30pm
Sun 3 rd January	CLOSED
Mon 4 th January	CLOSED
Tues 5 th January	8am - 5.30pm

0800 VTS NTH

AFTER HOURS: 0274 957 986

68 Access Road, Kumeu - P: 09 412 9016 - Kumeu@vetsnorth.co.nz
45 Commercial Road, Helensville - P: 09 420 8325 - Helensville@vetsnorth.co.nz

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Facial Eczema

The facial eczema season has not started yet, & will not until at least the end of January at the earliest, yet I already have people wanting to treat stock with Zinc. The problem with this is; stock can only be safely treated with Zinc for 100 days. So if you start on Jan 1st what do you do in mid April? The other consideration is the cost of treating lambs with zinc bullets up to three times in a season.

Eczema is a fungal disease caused by a fungus growing in the base of the pasture. The rate of growth depends on the weather and microclimate. As our Winters get milder the eczema is extending further into the Autumn so you need to be alert until the end of April in most years. Excessive and prolonged zinc treatment can result in zinc toxicity and copper deficiency.

Take Home Message: Don't start zinc treatment too soon. Monitor spore counts and the weather.

If you use pasture spraying with Mycotak then to get the best results you do need to start early. A first spray in late January is probably the right time to start. If you are a dairy farmer and trough treat (& want the cows to get used to the taste), then start to dose the troughs at half strength in early February.

The big lesson from last season is the variability of spore counts between properties. We monitor on the same site located by the Helensville Showgrounds every year. This will give you an indication of the trend. We can do spore counts for your property if you bring us a half bread bag of grass.



Drench

The "worm of the week" at this time of year is Haemonchus, or barbers pole worm. This is a worm of sheep, goats and alpaca. This worm likes warm moist conditions and the number of larvae on the pasture can build up rapidly. This worm is also a blood sucker so is very dangerous.

High larval intake can rapidly lead to anaemia in both lambs and ewes. The animals become weak, sit down, and die (Just finding dead animals is often the first sign of a problem). Infested sheep do not scour.



Prevention is by avoiding over grazing and drenching with a long acting drench. We recommend one of two drenches to use against Haemonchus; Genesis Ultra Oral or Exodus. Both of these products provide 6 weeks protection against larvae. Seriously affected animals need to be drenched and then treated for anaemia (Iron injections, B12, blood transfusions etc).



Matrix Tape Hi Min 5 Litre

This is a triple combination lamb drench with minerals & a tapeworm drench added. This drench is excellent as a quarantine drench or a normal drench to maximise effectiveness and to delay the onset of drench resistance.

We have a limited number of 5 Litre packs on special at **\$280 each** (RRP \$318).

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New Puppies for Christmas

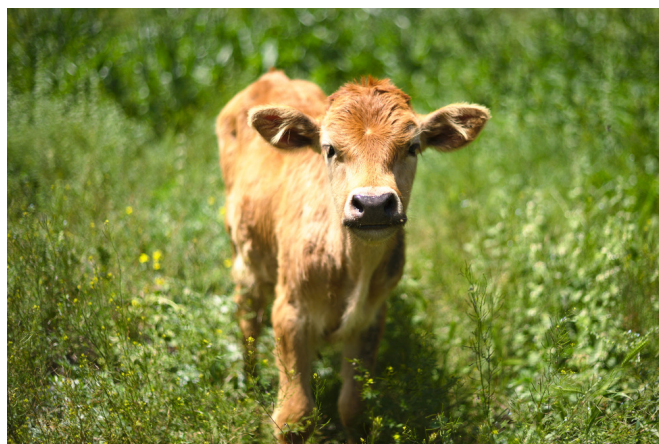
What are the 7 important health considerations for your new puppy so it grows up well?

1. A **puppy food** diet. The development of puppy food has been the single biggest advance in dog health over the 30 years I have been a Vet. A puppy must be fed a proprietary puppy food until it is at least 8 months of age. Other diets are always low in calcium and high in phosphorus resulting in thin bones, poor joints & leg fractures.
2. **Vaccinations** against Parvo virus, distemper, hepatitis and leptospirosis. All these diseases are serious & potentially fatal. The vaccines are safe & work very well.
3. **Worming**. Pups may be born with worms & are certainly susceptible to worms whilst young. Start with regular worming every 2 weeks for the pups health. Some worm larvae can injure humans.
4. **Microchipping** is a legal requirement and an excellent idea. It enables us to easily positively identify lost and injured dogs that turn up at the clinic so we can get them back to their owners. (An excellent idea for cats as well).
5. **Desexing**. Neutering & spaying dogs reduces aggression, wandering, unwanted pups & the risks of some tumours. All pet dog should be desexed before they are 6 months of age. Dogs do not need to have a heat, or a litter before they are spayed.
6. **Socialisation**. Pups need to get out and meet the world at a young age so they learn how to behave, although they will not have full immunity so you need to have control of the situation. Do not take pups to open public places but rather choose a friend's house with an adult fully vaccinated dog. Pups also need to experience the things they are going to meet in life (the car, horse truck, boat, shotgun etc)
7. **Training**. Dog need boundaries so they need to know at least the basic commands and have manners.



New Puppies for Christmas *(continued)*

At the end of the day a pup should be fun and grow up in a loving caring environment. Hopefully your dog will live a long and healthy life. Unfortunately accidents and illnesses do happen. As Vets we can now do great things, but we are not cheep. Consider taking out health insurance to cover the big unexpected Vet bill and it will enable you to provide the best care for your pet.



Calf Drenching

There are four worms in calves that we care about. One of them is Cooperia. Unfortunately 98% of all Cooperia in New Zealand are now mectin resistant. This means that single active pour-on or injectable drenches will not remove Cooperia from your calves, so you must use combinations.

Come in and talk to me and we can put together a drench programme for your calves that will work for both them and you and will maximise their growth.

The days when any drench will do the job are over – you need to know what you are doing or you will waste your money.

Mark Anderson

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