

SEASONAL HOOOF PRINT

SHEEP, BEEF, DEER & HORSES



Issue: 010 – Winter 2016

Ph: (03) 578 6965

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Looking After Your Working Dogs

Our farm dogs do a tremendous amount of work, but sometimes their conditions of employment leave a bit to be desired i.e. the dog kennel. This is not to suggest that we all go and install heating systems or even bulk purchase dog coats, but it makes economic sense to ensure that your dogs who are worth a considerable amount of money, are housed well. A dog that has a warm and draft proof kennel will utilise less energy to keep warm and need less food to keep in optimal condition than a dog kept in a substandard kennel. It will also help keep them fitter and healthier. Maybe there is a place for installing

some wall and ceiling insulation in new kennels – it certainly has its place. Day to day on our farms we usually don't pay much attention to the state of the dog kennels so take the time before it gets too cold to look at yours with fresh eyes.

A simple check and a little bit of maintenance could make all the difference. Check the roof is not leaking and that there are no rotten boards that allow the wind in, and check the kennel position so that it is out of the wind, in the summer has shade, and in winter lets some sunshine in. Planting deciduous trees can also be useful. Hopefully we are all moving away from dogs tied under trees with rudimentary shelter and standing in the mud. This type of housing is very energy inefficient and also increases the risk of parasite worm burdens from the dogs constantly standing in faecal contaminated dirt. It also makes flea control much more difficult.

Diet

Your working dog team is just like our team of commonwealth athletes. They need to be fit, well-tuned athletes eating a well-balanced diet. This is important for any performance dog whether they be working or hunting. The following table lists the key nutritional factors for high performance dogs. To attain this high energy density it is important to aim for a protein and fat level of 50% or more. Unfortunately these are also the most expensive parts to incorporate into a diet and so cereals which are cheap are often used in these feeds instead. Read the ingredient list, the first is the largest component of the food. This should be an easily digested high quality protein source, ideally of animal origin e.g. chicken, beef.

Energy kcal/g - 4-5.5
 Fat % Dry Matter - 15-30
 Protein % DM - 22-33 (ideally > 25%)
 Carbohydrate % DM - 30-35
 Digestibility >80%
 Antioxidants Added



The diet must be of good quality nutrients that are highly digestible. It must also be properly balanced to maintain stamina, bodyweight and coat condition and to prevent nutrition-related diseases that reduce life-span. Nutrition related diseases seen in New Zealand working dogs include poor healing skin, bone weakness resulting in susceptibility to fractures, joint problems causing lameness, twisted stomachs (GDV) and poor immune system

function resulting in an increased frequency of infections. As mentioned the most important components of the diet are protein and fat. It has been shown that feeding a diet low in protein can increase the rate of soft tissue injury in exercising dogs. Protein use increases during exercise and this continues to increase with exercise duration.

A study was performed exercising dogs on treadmills and feeding one group 19% ME protein and 24% ME protein. The lower protein diet resulted in 8 times as many soft tissue injuries. The muscles of your work dogs have adapted to carry out endurance exercise, for this they use fats to provide most of the energy. If you are not feeding adequate nutrition to your working dogs their endurance will be compromised due to muscle fatigue. Studies have shown that feeding diets with the correct nutritional composition reduces this muscle fatigue. This means that you are likely to reduce both orthopaedic and soft tissue injuries. Feeding incomplete, unbalanced meat based diets to working farms dogs will not give you the best performance from your team. The common practice of feeding a meat based diet with commercial biscuit “supplementation” may actually approach the ideal macronutrient proportions of high protein, high fat, and low carbohydrate. However, such diets are likely to be deficient in several nutrients such as calcium, copper, vitamin A/D/E and B12. Requirements for several B vitamins and dietary antioxidants is known to be increased during heavy exercise.

Because of the high energy intake needed to support work, a high calorie low bulk diet should be fed to working dogs. As with any athlete it is important to feed them the right diet but also to feed them at the right time. Dogs should be fed within 2 hours following exercise. Dogs shouldn't be worked within 8 hours of a small meal, or up to 16 hours after a large meal to allow for complete gastric emptying. Digestible carbohydrate sources given during or immediately after exercise have been shown to improve endurance, and to promote greater muscle glycogen repletion. Consider feeding once the work day has finished as oppose to the end of the day especially if an early morning start is planned for the following day. Below is a table which compares several working dog formulations. Investigate the label when you next purchase your working dog food and ask yourself, is it allowing my team to perform?

	Tux energy Working Dog	Tux Country Performance	Proplan Working Dog	Chow Working Dog	Pedigree Working Dog	Champ Working Dog	Eukanuba Premium Performance
1 st ingredient	Cereals/cereal by-products	Cereals/cereal by-products	Chicken	Meat & bone material	Meat/meat by-products	Wheat	Dried chicken and turkey
Protein %	20	16	30	27	24	20	30
Fat %	18	7	20	15	15	15	20
Bag Size (kg)	40	40	17	17	20	40	20
Days bag lasts	82	104	50	39	43	76	57

Make sure you check the nutritional benefits against the cost per day to feed your valuable terms of workers next time you are purchasing your food. Our team of vets and staff have all of the knowledge to help you make the best decision for your valuable team.



Photo Credit: Andrew Fladeboe <http://www.boredpanda.com/working-dog-photography-shepherds-realm-andrew-fladeboe/>

PRE LAMB – Answering Some Of The Questions BIONIC Combination Capsule



- Treatment and 100-day control of internal parasites.
- Aids in the control of dags and associated flystrike caused by gastrointestinal parasites.
- For the promotion of growth and productivity through the control of gastrointestinal parasites.
- Reduces pasture contamination with worm

eggs for at least 100 days.

- Aids in the reduction of gastrointestinal parasites prior to weaning in lambs born to treated ewes.
- Suitable for the treatment and 100-day control of the following gastrointestinal parasites in sheep (*includes inhibited L4): *Haemonchus contortus**, *Ostertagia circumcincta**, *Ostertagia trifurcata**, *Trichostrongylus axei**, *Nematodirus spathiger**, *Nematodirus filicollis**, *Trichostrongylus colubriformis**, *Trichostrongylus vitrinus**, *Cooperia curticei*, *Cooperia oncophora*, *Strongyloides papillosus*, *Oesophagostomum venulosum*, *Chabertia ovina* and *Trichuris spp.*
- Protects against reinfection with the above worms for 100 days after treatment.
- Withholding:

Meat - Animals producing meat or offal for human consumption must not be sold for slaughter either during treatment or within 128 days of the last treatment.

Milk - Milk intended for sale for human consumption must be discarded during treatment and for not less than 128 days following the last treatment.

PRICE: \$ 3.17 + GST/capsule (\$3.12 + GST with discount)

Deferred payment is available until 20 November 2016 and a 1.5% discount for direct account payments or if put on your Farmlands account - non discounted payment not required until December 20th 2016, on Bionic Capsules purchases made between 1 June to 30 September 2016.

Plus receive a heavy duty WAECO 55L Iceboxes. *Conditions Apply. While stocks last.*

Clostridial Protection Through Vaccination

Ultravac 5in1®



- Safe and efficacious in young lambs and calves: Ultravac 5in1® is effective in the presence of antibodies from colostrum (first milk) so cattle and sheep may be vaccinated at any age. This allows for early protection which minimises the risk of a potentially fatal immunity gap.
- Breakthrough technology: Ultravac 5in1® uses a unique ultra filtration process to create a pure and concentrated vaccine that stimulates rapid and effective protection against the dangerous clostridial diseases.
- Low dose volume: Ultravac 5in1® has a 1 mL dose for sheep of all ages and a 2 mL dose for cattle of all ages. This means there's less fridge space required for storage and fewer pack changes required when vaccinating large numbers of stock.
- Long lasting Duration of immunity (DOI): Ultravac 5in1® has a duration of immunity of at least 12 months against tetanus and blackleg.

Sheep including lambs: 1 mL dose followed by a 1 mL booster 4 weeks later.

- A booster dose of 1 mL given 12 months after the two basic doses of vaccine should confer lifelong immunity against tetanus and blackleg, but may not do so against enterotoxaemia (pulpy kidney disease) or black

disease. Further annual doses may be required to maintain effective immunity against these diseases in areas where the risks from the disease are known to be high.

- **Pregnant ewes:** If the ewes have not been previously vaccinated, a 1 mL dose should be given at the time of mating and a second dose of 1 mL should be given within four weeks of the expected date of lambing. If the ewes have been previously vaccinated, the dose at the time of mating may be omitted. Successfully vaccinated pregnant ewes will not only be protected themselves but will also pass on immunity to their lambs in the colostrum or 'first milk'; such lambs should be protected for the first 6 to 8 weeks of their lives against these diseases.
- **Development of immunity:** Immunity develops about 10 days after vaccination. The second dose, given four weeks after the first should ensure a high level of immunity against the diseases covered by the vaccine.
- **Withholding periods:** Nil

Available also with Se added – but as it contains 5mg of Se – it should not be used in young lambs or any sheep that are getting a source of Se from elsewhere.

Ultravac SD 6 in 1®

- Has all the key features of Ultravac 5in 1 but is active against *Cl. Sordelli* the 6th key clostridial disease of sheep and cattle in NZ.



Covexin 10®

On high performance farms, stock becomes more vulnerable to certain clostridial diseases including *Cl. sordellii* and *Cl. perfringens* Type A - pathogens associated with sudden death syndrome. Striking randomly and without warning, sudden death can hit farms where superior stock is bred or high performance farming methods are used.



- Covexin 10® offers advanced protection against ten types of clostridial bacteria. Developed and made in New Zealand for our sheep and cattle farmers, it's the most advanced clostridial vaccine on the market. A low dose 1ml for sheep that protects for at least 12 months.

NB. Pre lamb treatments for parasite control and clostridial disease as well as potential mineral deficiencies is an important part of any sheep farmers calendar. **As it is impossible to cover every possible on farm situation and there are a number of products available, including Nilvax, Eweguard and Multine,** please give us a call to ensure you get the right advise on which product or products are right for your situation. With a competent team of production animal vets we are here to give you the right advice when it matters.

Rugging Your Horse

Overheating is the main concern with rugging but there are several others factors as well that are very important to know about.

Take a moment to walk in your horse's shoes or in this case, rug:

Comfort – If we put rugs on, then we are responsible to make sure they are comfortable. It is really just a matter of common sense and putting ourselves in the horse's skin.



Rubbing – If your horse is getting rub marks on the shoulders or neck or from the front chest strap or over the points of the hips, not only is this cosmetically ugly but more importantly think about how *uncomfortable* it must be for the horse.

Twisting and Pulling – Many badly designed rugs don't stay straight, they twist crooked and pull on the horse. Some rugs stay straight but pull directly backwards and some cut down on the wither. Some do all of this at once. Heavy rugs over the top of cotton under rugs often pull the cotton rugs back so they start cutting into the horse in the chest area, some indications of this could be swelling and puffiness in this area in more extreme cases, other times you will just see lots of rug hanging out the back. Common areas affected are the base of the neck/chest, wither, points of the shoulders and the points of the hips. Badly designed rugs can make it uncomfortable for horses to have their heads down to graze as the chest strap cuts into the base of the neck. All of these discomforts impede the horse's movement. Rugs can restrict the forward swing of the shoulders (which then flows on to affect other areas of the body, namely the spine and hindquarters) preventing the horse from moving freely and causing the horse to be in poor posture and to have incorrect biomechanical movement, the opposite of what we are trying to train into them. This incorrect movement and posture in the long term leads to the skeleton and soft tissues of the body basically "setting" in these incorrect positions and then people view the horse as having bad conformation and the horse's performance and athletic ability is compromised. This reorganisation of the external parts of the body leads to the reorganisation and repositioning of the internal organs and thereby affects how they function, which of course then affects the health and wellbeing of the horse. This for sure is one of the results from incorrect riding and bad saddle fit but ill fitting rugs can also contribute. This is perhaps something that most people have never considered!

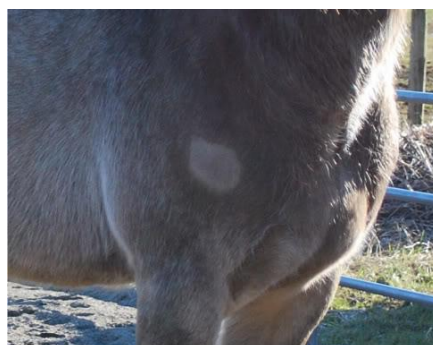
Think yourself of the times you have been uncomfortable and restricted when wearing heavy winter jackets or had the pressure of a heavy oilskin jacket on your shoulders affect you after wearing it for a while, or had a handbag or backpack cutting into you. How annoying and frustrating was it and how did it affect your posture and ability to move freely? The worse the fit and design of the rug and the heavier the rug, the bigger problem this is. One of the advantages of the synthetic rugs is their lightness; the disadvantage is that they are less breathable so over heating becomes more of an issue.

Pressure points – The discomfort points as stated above can become pressure points on horse's bodies limiting circulation to those areas and can even lead to sores and open wounds forming because they eventually can cut into the flesh, this is especially common in the wither area with heavier canvas rugs. These pressure points at first would be very uncomfortable just like having a wrinkle in your sock or stone in your shoe, you might try and put up with it for a while but then there comes a point where you just can't stand it any longer and just have to fix it! When the discomfort can't be removed the area goes numb which is not going to be healthy for the horse, shutting out circulation and sensory awareness in the nervous system. You may not always see physical signs of these pressure points on the body, as in sores or rub marks, but your horse will feel them, hence the reason for taking rugs off daily.

Sunshine & Vitamin D – Horses need and love the sun on their skin. Just like us they need the sun for Vitamin D to be healthy. Lack of vitamin D is now recognised as one of the major causes of disease in humans and it can become a major problem for horses always covered in rugs. Fully rugged horses with neck rugs often have thin manes and mane hairs that just start to fall out due to a fungal infection caused by lack of sunlight.

Horses love to be free and unrestricted – to play, roll or run. When horses have a good gallop and hoon, which is what happy healthy horses should do, how hot must they be in their rugs but they can't take them off once they have warmed up. As soon as we exercise, we start warming up and need to get some layers off.

Think about it from their perspective rather than ours. Many people rug horses so their horses don't get so hairy, look good and stay clean and that is OK as long as the horse's comfort and well being is equally considered. Remember growing a winter coat and getting dirty is natural – it is part of being a horse. Rather than how they look, we need to consider how they feel. That is what is more important. Start to think about things from your horse's point of view. Your horse will truly respect and appreciate you for that.



Good to go



WITH UNRIVALLED 100 DAY PROTECTION

One dose of BIONIC® and your stock are good to go for 100 days - giving you time to focus on *other* things. And for a limited time we'll throw in one of these heavy duty WAECO 55L Iceboxes.* They can keep ice for up to 10 days, so whatever you choose to do with that spare time, you're good to go for longer.



BIONIC. NOTHING ELSE MEASURES UP.



*WAECO 55L ICEBOX QUALIFYING PURCHASES: 2500 CAPSULES OF: BIONIC® HI-MINERAL, EXTENDER® SECO OR IVOMEC® MAXIMIZER ADULT. 2450 CAPSULES OF: BIONIC® PRIME, 20X EXODUS® LAI INJECTION 500ML



PROUDLY AVAILABLE FROM YOUR LOCAL VETERINARY CLINIC.

*PROMOTION RUNS 01 MAY - 29 SEP 2016 OR WHILE STOCKS LAST.

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