

# VETS ON ALABAMA

## Seasonal HOOV PRINT

SHEEP, BEEF, DEER & HORSES



Issue: 004 – Summer 2014/15

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## EVERY FARMER KNOWS THEY SHOULD VACCINATE AGAINST TOXOPLASMOSIS – BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY

Vaccinating for Toxoplasmosis is one of those 'must-do's' on the farm – and there is a very good reason why. *Toxoplasma gondii* occurs everywhere in New Zealand and because of its hidden nature, farmers may not be aware it exists on their farm. Ewe hoggets and two-tooths are most at risk, and if they contract Toxoplasmosis during pregnancy, they are likely to aborting or giving birth to weak non-viable lambs. Toxovax® helps protect breeding ewes against the ill effects of Toxoplasmosis. **Toxovax® must be given to maiden ewes at least 4 weeks before mating**, and because it's a live vaccine that must be used within 10 days of manufacture - it's made to order for your farm. **You should aim to order your Toxovax® 4 weeks before you need it.**

Please contact the clinic to place your forward orders now.  
Toxovax® is available now through until the week commencing  
April 28<sup>th</sup> 2014.

### PLAN FOR SUCCESS: ORDER YOUR TOXOVAX® NOW!

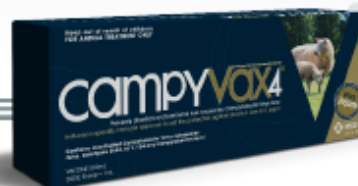
- ✓ Order from your vet at least 8 weeks before you intend to introduce the ram.
- ✓ One shot gives lifetime immunity.
- ✓ Up to 8% higher lambing percentages (3% national average).



**AVOID ABORTION STORMS AND LOSSES  
WITH ONE-DOSE LIFETIME PROTECTION.**

### PLAN FOR SUCCESS: ORDER YOUR CAMPYVAX4® WITH YOUR TOXOVAX®!

- ✓ Protects ewes against the important strains of *C. fetus fetus* and *C. jejuni*.
- ✓ 2-doses to maiden ewes, and an annual booster to MA ewes to maintain immunity.
- ✓ Increase lamb numbers by up to 9%.



**PREVENT ABORTION STORMS AND LOSSES,  
AND INCREASE LAMB SURVIVABILITY.**

## IF YOU HAD UNEXPLAINED LAMB LOSSES THIS YEAR – CAMPYLOBACTER MAY BE PLAYING A PART.

Most farmers see toxoplasmosis as the biggest threat to their lamb numbers, and they're right. But it pays not to overlook the risk of Campylobacter. Vaccinating for Campylobacter as well as Toxoplasmosis is important for managing potential lamb loss on the farm – and with good reason. Campylobacter is present on 88% of New Zealand farms, and causes foetal loss, the birth of weak lambs with low survivability, and abortions. In severe cases, some farms may experience abortion storms with losses of up to 70%. It is the most common infectious agent causing abortion in our sheep flocks, with 60% of sheep abortions diagnosed attributed to Campylobacter. Vaccination with **Campyvax® 4** is the only way to help prevent reproductive losses due to Campylobacter and should be completed prior to mating so you can time it with giving **Toxovax®** to maiden ewes. Just ensure you administer the vaccines in opposite sides of the neck.

## Sheep Measles Reminder - Not just from Farm dogs!

We are still hearing of an increased incidence of sheep measles being reported from sheep going through the works. This has primarily been associated with sheep that have previously been grazed through vineyards, though the incidence has been slowly rising since compulsory treatment for hydatids was removed.

Sheep Measles is the common name of a lesion seen in the muscle of sheep (also goats), caused by *Cysticercus ovis*, the cystic or intermediate stage of the tapeworm *Taenia ovis*. It is seen as small, hard, white regions in the muscles. Dogs are the primary host and carry the tapeworms in their intestines.

The tapeworm segments passed out of dogs can contain up to 70,000 eggs and up to three segments are produced each day. The eggs are able to survive on pasture for up to six months. A sheep then ingests the eggs which take 35 days to become a mature cyst. The cysts are very infective; only one cyst consumed by a dog is likely to result in infection. It then develops into an egg producing tapeworm in about 35 days, completing the lifecycle.

Control is centred around the dog - The most effective ways of making the meat safe from infection by destroying the cysts are: cooking the meat thoroughly to a core temperature over 72 degrees or by freezing it to -10 degrees for at least 10 days, offal must be boiled for at least 30 minutes. Raw meat scraps should not be feed to dogs and home kill areas should be fenced, plus dogs should be prevented from scavenging dead carcasses.

Even meat purchased from a butcher or abattoir can be a risk and should be treated accordingly. For control of infection in dogs, regular treatment with a product containing Praziquantel is the most reliable, simple and cost effective solution. All dogs entering onto farm land or land where stock may graze should be regularly treated. The most commonly used products are Droncit (which purely does tapeworms), Popantel® F Drontal®, Endo-Guard®, Dolpac® or Milbemax® (these four will all also cover for roundworms, hookworms and whipworms). We would recommend dogs that frequently cross onto grazing land to be treated every 6 weeks even the pet dogs, as they are often found to be the source of infection.

Remember that dogs do not respect fences, so a stray dog carrying tapeworms has the capacity to infect many surrounding properties.

## A change to the dog worming program at Vets On Alabama

### We are making a change from Drontal® to Popantel® F

These new tablets have the same active ingredients as Drontal and are used in the same way. The tablets are round rather than oval.

We are making this change for several reasons:

- They are cheaper than Drontal
- They are individually packed for freshness
- They use yeast to bind them together which helps with taste

Droncit will continue to be used in the sheep measles program.

## Farm dog vaccinations

It's worth remembering that many of the diseases we vaccinate our dogs against can kill, irrespective of whether your dog is your pet or your prized working dog. As it is almost impossible to eliminate the risk of introducing the various diseases onto your farm, only vaccination can prevent these diseases.



### What important diseases do you need to protect against?

**Parvovirus (parvo)** is of particular importance. It causes severe bloody diarrhoea and is usually deadly.

Infected dogs shed parvovirus in their faeces for three weeks or more. The virus can then survive for months in the environment and be quickly spread between dogs and farms from shoes, clothing and vehicles.

Unfortunately, veterinarians and farmers around the country still regularly deal with outbreaks of parvo in unvaccinated farm dogs. Puppies (under the age of 6 months) are the highest risk of parvo infection. This is particularly devastating when it is so simple to prevent with vaccination.

Early diagnosis of parvovirus can increase the chances of survival. Treatment involves hospitalisation and intensive care. Even then, there is no guarantee of survival.

It is very costly from a financial and emotional perspective, but also from lost productivity.

**Kennel cough** is a highly contagious disease caused by several different organisms and results in a persistent dry cough. This may also lead to retching, lethargy, loss of appetite and a fever. These symptoms can have a severe impact on working and competitive dogs. Recovery may take several weeks.

Farm working dogs are at high risk. An outbreak of kennel cough in your dog team is costly and difficult to treat. It will affect the productivity of the affected working dogs.

## Why vaccinate your working dogs?

Your dogs are valuable. They contribute a significant amount of labour on your farm, which means that the cost of a disease outbreak is devastating. Vaccination is the only way to protect your dogs from disease.

*Content courtesy of MSD Animal Health.*

**Dog vaccination is simple and cost-effective. Protect your investment - talk to Vets On Alabama about vaccinating your dogs with Nobivac® today. Working dog vaccinations can be done at the same time as a farm visit.**

## Strangles – The Facts

### Overview

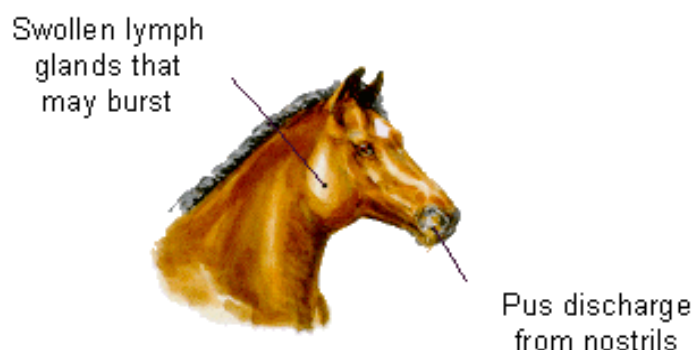
Equine strangles is a respiratory disease of horses, which is caused by bacteria called *Streptococcus equi*. It is a highly contagious infection, especially in young horses. The bacteria are easily spread by direct contact between horses, and also by people, equipment, tack, feed and water which have been contaminated by nasal discharges from infected horses. Some horses can become carriers of the bacteria and continue to spread the infection for many months or even years. Large outbreaks often occur, with many horses affected at the same time.

### Causes

Strangles is an important infectious disease affecting horses which is caused by the bacterium, *Streptococcus equi*.

### Clinical Signs and Diagnosis

Horses usually develop the first signs of the disease 3-4 days after infection, although this period can be as long as 12 days. Typically, horses suffering from strangles have pus discharging from the nostrils and swellings (abscesses) forming in the lymph glands under the jaw. These abscesses often burst and exude thick yellow pus. Affected horses can have fever, be depressed and may stop eating.



## Management and Treatment

In the event of an outbreak of strangles, horses should be segregated into three groups and handled as follows:

1. Those affected by the disease should be treated, but not vaccinated
2. Horses with no known contact with the disease should be vaccinated immediately
3. Horses known to have been in contact should be observed for seven to ten days and vaccinated after that stand down period only if they have a normal temperature and show no clinical signs of the disease.

Most animals recover, but horses that contract even a mild case of strangles must be isolated and removed from training or heavy work for up to 3 months. In some cases the infection can cause chronic illness or even death.

Penicillin is the antibiotic of choice against *Streptococcus equi*. Abscesses may need to be opened and drained and good supportive care is vital for recovery.

### Prevention

It is strongly recommended that all horses be included in a regular program of vaccination and consideration should be given to vaccinating high risk horses (eg. brood mares, stallions, performance, pony club, racing and eventing horses) every six months. It is particularly important that booster doses be given prior to periods of greater risk of infection, such as the breeding or performance season. Pregnant mares may be vaccinated up to two weeks before foaling.

In common with other respiratory diseases, such as canine cough and feline respiratory disease, immunity is short lived and incomplete. In fact 25% of horses infected with strangles do not appear to develop immunity. This makes it very difficult for a vaccine to provide complete protection and it is not claimed that the vaccine is an absolute preventative. However, field experience has shown that vaccination can control the disease by reducing the degree of clinical disease and reducing the number of horses affected.

When horses and foals are vaccinated against strangles for the first time, they require a primary vaccination course consisting of three doses of Equivac-S or Equivac 2 in 1. The three doses are given with an interval of not less than two weeks between injections. Booster doses should be given at least annually and six-monthly revaccination should be considered in circumstances where the risk of infection is known to be high.

*Content courtesy of Zoetis*

***VETS ON ALABAMA WISH  
YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS  
& ALL THE BEST FOR THE  
NEW YEAR***

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT IN 2014***





# You'll make the Cut

CHOOSE EITHER:  
Kiwi ½ COB Ham 4.5-5.5kg or  
Kiwi Banquet Ham 2.8-3.5kg\*



THIS FESTIVE SEASON WHEN YOU PURCHASE SELECTED MERIAL ANCARE PRODUCTS, YOU'LL RECEIVE A 100% NZ KIWI HAM.

PROMO STARTS 01 NOV-20 DEC 2014.  
FROM PARTICIPATING VETERINARY CLINICS.



QUALIFYING PRODUCTS: ARREST® 2x 20L, ARREST® Hi-Mineral 2x 20L, ECLIPSE® Pour-On 1x 2.5L, 5L, or 10L, ECLIPSE® E Hardpack 4x 500mL, EPRINEX® 1x 5L or 20L, EXODUS® 1% Injection 4x 500mL, EXODUS® Se 1x 20L, EXODUS® Pour-On 2x 5L or 1x 20L, EXODUS® Long Acting Injection 4x 500mL, FIRST® Drench Hi-Mineral 1x 20L, GENESIS® Hi-Mineral 2x 20L, GENESIS® Injection 4x 500mL, GENESIS® Injection B12 + Se 4x 500mL, GENESIS® Pour-On 1x 5L or 10L, GENESIS® Ultra Oral Hi-Mineral 1x 20L, GENESIS® Ultra Pour-On 1x 5L, IVER MATRIX® Tape Hi-Mineral 1x 10L or 20L, IVERMECTIN® Plus 4x 500mL, MATRIX® C 1x 10L or 20L, MATRIX® Mini Dose 1x 10L or 20L, MATRIX® 1x 20L, MATRIX® Hi-Mineral 1x 20L or 50L, MATRIX® Tape Hi-Mineral 1x 10L or 20L, SWITCH® 1x 20L, SWITCH® Hi-Mineral 1x 20L or 50L, SWITCH® C 1x 10L or 20L, TRIMOX® 1x 20L.



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