

CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP
FARM NEWSLETTER DECEMBER

2016



Update on Amy's Adventures in New Zealand

Hi All,

Thought it was about time I sent you a message from NZ, the first two weeks was non-stop, I joined a tourist bus to get from Auckland to Queenstown and then onto Invercargill where I am currently based. I did a bit of everything during that two weeks, kayaking, white water rafting, walking and making international friends

Since arriving in Invercargill I have made the most of my weekends, visiting the Catlins, Doubtful Sound and last weekend was a bank holiday so I completed the Hump Ridge Track, a three day 61km tramp mostly on my own but with company at the huts each evening. My feet have just about forgiven me. I've seen penguins, seals, sealions, Hector dolphins and hump back whales

Waikiwi Vets have made me pretty welcome, it is smallholders lambing season, I have seen lots of neurological and bloated pet lambs and done a couple of lambings. It took a few days to get my head round the change in seasons and guess what....no on call, not quite sure how I got so jammy! They sent me to euthanase a horse.....it went ok but needless to say I have quietly made my opinions on horses known again since!

Hope all is well with you. As the weather improves here I will think of you TB testing in the dark

Amy xx



Friendly Wellington resident



Whanganui river, I cycled 52km of this route back from the mountains in the distance

Christmas Opening Hours

We will be open as normal on Saturday, 24th December, Christmas Eve. We will be **closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Bank Holiday Tuesday 27th December** and will resume normal working hours on Wednesday, 28th December.



Orf & Scabivax

Orf outbreaks can be costly

- Labour/time/medicines/vet costs
- Increased time for finishing lambs
- Increased feed/forage costs for finishing lambs
- Lost income on finished lambs
- Replacement ewe costs vs cull prices
- Reduced ewe forage from overwintering lambs



Lambs with Orf weigh less

A study was carried out with cases of Orf in lambs compared to unaffected 'control' lambs in the same flock. Lambs with orf lesions were found to:

- Weigh significantly less (up to 2.2kg at end of study)
- Have significantly lower body condition scores
- At any stage, the orf lambs weighed approximately 10% less than their controls
- Financial impact £1.06 - £14.03 per ewe

In the past we have experienced difficulty in securing supplies of Scabivax vaccine. However, we have vaccine now available in stock for those clients with early lambing flocks.

Please telephone the surgery and speak to Jo or Sami to discuss your vaccine requirements.



All good things must come to an end...

The free funding for our in house test for diagnosing neonatal calf scour (Rotavirus, Coronavirus, E.coli & Cryptosporidia) has come to an end. We are still offering this test at a fee of £10 ex vat per sample from the 1st of November. The test is very quick so results can be given as you wait at the surgery. For more advice about calf scour please speak to one of our vets.

The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme

provides business advice and support to help improve your farm business. Through a series of essential and practical workshops you will be able to explore the options that are right for you, your family and farm business for a more efficient and resilient future. For more information see the website www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/farmresilience

New Year Opening Hours

We will open as normal on Saturday 31st December (New Years Eve) but we will be **closed New Years Day** and **Bank Holiday Monday** before opening again on Tuesday 3rd January, from when we will be open as usual until Easter!



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

