

GLOBAL VETERINARY SERVICES APRIL NEWSLETTER 2013

FACIAL ECZEMA

It is great that we are finally getting some rain, hopefully we will get rain regularly over the autumn period and try to recover some grass cover.

Up to recently the risks of facial eczema have been relatively low. Reports in the last few weeks have shown a significant increase but are still lower than the worst years. What is different however is that there is very little pasture cover so animals will be eating very close to the ground. You will remember that spore concentration is highest close to the ground this means that exposure to dangerous spore counts can be higher than expected. Offsetting this risk is supplementary feed. On many farms most feed intake will be supplementary and this will act to dilute the total spore count load.

Many believe that facial eczema risk falls in April however depending on climatic conditions the risk can remain high well into May. I have seen new clinical cases occur in June originating from high spore counts in late May. Even successive frosts do not eliminate risk if followed by a warm period.

The affects of drought mean greater loss of body condition score in the absence of extra feed inputs. It is well recognised that the condition score in the May/June period will affect your herds fertility in the subsequent mating. This affects both submission and conception rates. You can choose now; good or bad reproductive performance for next year. Every week you should be looking at condition score and planning how to manage those cows that are low. Do not forget the heifers. If they do not achieve target weights you will have problems for several years.



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NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Many of you will know that we been waiting for some time for our new veterinarian from Holland, Theo Weiggers. The long process of approvals, veterinary registration and immigration procedures is now complete and we are excited to welcome Theo to Global Vets this coming week. The veterinary university, Utrecht, in Holland is considered one of the best in the world and Dutch veterinarians already working in New Zealand are highly regarded. We know that you will make him welcome.

We also welcome Ruth Chamberlain as our new veterinary receptionist. Ruth has considerable experience already in this role and has a farming background. Ruth is working full time and you can expect to hear her cheerful voice next time you ring.

Those of you have been into the clinic in the last few months will have also spoken to Michelle. She has returned to us as a casual employee in the reception area. Michelle was our receptionist from the beginning of the business in 2010 until 2012. Michelle has produced all of our newsletters and is continuing in this role as well.

ZOO CORNER

The zoo has successfully raised triplet red panda cubs. Red Panda are rare and endangered. Because Tayla the mother had triplets they have needed supplementary feeding. They are now nearly four months old and getting very adventurous. Often they are now found outside the den in the Bamboo which they are also starting to browse. Just like kittens and puppies there is lots of play fighting.

We are pleased to be ahead of Auckland Zoo who raised one cub (seen on TV).

In the next few weeks we expect another Rhino baby. I understand that Hamilton Zoo is the most successful breeding establishment outside of Africa for White Rhino. This means we have to export some to prevent overcrowding. Later this year we will fly two of our young Rhino to Australia and either myself or Mike Goold (zoo vet) will have to accompany them. At the same time that this is occurring faecal samples are being collected from each animal daily, starting from several weeks prior to darting to measure by hormone assay when ovulation actually occurs.





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