



Animal WOFs Newsletter – August 2012 –



Welcome to another *Animal WOFs for Lifestyle Blocks* newsletter.

Each issue we are covering important animal health issues relevant for that time of year. Please feel free to give us feedback or ideas for the next issue, with any topics you would like to see covered.

In this issue:

Animal Health Diary – things to watch out for at this time of year

Introducing your Farm and Lifestyle Vets – putting some names to faces

Dental problems in horses – prophylaxis and treatment
by guest writer Nikki Limmer, Vet nurse and Dental Technician at LHVC

Country Living Expo – September 8th & 9th in Feilding



Animal Health Diary July/August

Important aspects of winter animal husbandry



- Monitor your pregnant animals for risk of **metabolic diseases** like sleepy sickness, milk fever and grass staggers and call the vet if you are concerned.
- With the cold weather, ensure animals have plenty of **shelter, water** (not frozen) and enough feed with **supplements** (if needed) available. Don't restrict feed intake in late pregnancy as this can increase the risk of metabolic diseases.

- Consider **vaccination** for clostridial diseases for your pregnant animals. Ewes, cows and nanny goats can be vaccinated up to a month prior to birth, this will give good protection to the newborns through the colostrum. Young stock should then be vaccinated at three months age but can be done from one month onwards if colostrum intake was poor or the dam was not vaccinated.



- When raising orphaned farm animals, remember the importance of colostrum in the first 12 hours of life to give good immunity and protection to newborns until they are old enough for vaccination. For lambs, don't overfeed them, it is better to do little feeds more often, and always warm the milk to body temperature, as feeding large amounts of cold milk can cause bloat.



As a guideline for lambs, feed 100ml of colostrum 6 times daily for the first 4-5 days, then gradually increase milk feeds to 200ml 5 times daily until 1 week old, then feed 300ml 4 times daily until 3 weeks old. From 3 weeks old until weaning lambs should be fed around 500ml twice daily, with plenty of pasture, hay and lamb pellets offered.

Pet lambs can be fed smaller amounts more often to establish a good bond between the lamb and child.

- With all the recent rain and swampy conditions, keep an eye out for any lame animals with **footrot** and treat appropriately. Ensure animals especially goats have some dry areas available to get out of the mud.



Introducing your Farm and Lifestyle Vets – putting some names to faces –

With Levin & Horowhenua Vets being quite a large practice, it's difficult sending the same vet out to see your animals at all times, especially for emergency calls. So here's some photos and info on our Farm and Lifestyle Vets that you may come across out on farm or in the clinic:



Hugh Bentall

I have been with this practice for over 20 years. I enjoy working with animals as well as the ownership of the practice. I have special interests in dairy cattle reproduction and orthopaedic surgery. I find my work in this vet practice stimulating, and try to do something new or different each year in the vet world.

I enjoy being part of a team practice and the chance to share ideas and discuss cases.

I spend my spare time in the outdoors with my three kids; motor biking, swimming and walking. I'm helping with a few community groups now, with a few committee and board meetings!

Keith Christensen

I hail from up north, and came to Levin in 2002. I graduated from Massey University in 1999 after which I worked in the United States in a small animal clinic and in the North of England during the Foot-and-Mouth epidemic of 2001.

I live with my wife Amanda, daughter Elisabeth and our mastiff cross Jacob and tabby cat Ylang Ylang on a lifestyle block.

My interests are in dairy cattle production and medicine, lifestyle farms and alpacas, as well as tackling a varied surgical and medical caseload in the small animal clinic.

Out of the clinic I am the Group Leader for Kotuku Sea Scouts and I enjoy tramping, sailing and mountain biking.





Janine Janssen

I am born and bred in the south of The Netherlands and knew since a young age I wanted to become a vet. I attended Veterinary university in Utrecht (Netherlands) and after I graduated in 2007 I went to New Zealand to start a new life.

I have been with Levin and Horowhenua Vets since April 2008 and have been specializing in cattle and horses. I work only 2 days a week during the year and any extra days when one of the other vets needs a day off. During calving period (July to October) I will be working 5 days a week to support the other vets in their daily calls so that everybody gets to see a vet when needed.

My fiancée and I live on a dairy farm just south of Foxton where we milk 550 cows and rear 140 heifer calves each year. We have 4 cats, 2 dogs, a pig and 2 horses, so I spent a lot of time looking after my animals and partner. I am a member of Levin Pleasure Horse Club and try to ride some dressage and show jumping with my horse.

Stef Knaack

Originally from Germany, I have worked at LHVC since January 2008. I'm very passionate about all species of animals found on lifestyle blocks and am currently in charge of our WOF programme.

When I'm not writing WOF newsletters or participating in lifestyle events like the Country Living Expo, I can be found out and about on farms and farmlets as well as working with small animals in the clinic.

After work I enjoy taking the dogs out running (in preparation for the next half marathon) and spending time with my dogs, cats and other assorted pets.



Richard Munn

I grew up in Hamilton and came down to the Manawatu to study at Massey. I worked for a year in Palmerston North as a Veterinary Consultant to a corporate dairy group.

I joined LHVC 3 months ago and now treat both large and small animals.

Over winter I can be found at the Hockey turf playing keeper for Massey.

Charlene Christensen

I graduated from Massey in 2009, and recently moved to Levin after practising for two years in the Hawke's Bay. I enjoy a mixed practice caseload.

When I'm not working I enjoy running, gardening and vetting the occasional endurance ride.

My husband and I have two cats, and hopefully shortly a new pup.



Nicola (Nik) Bell

I enjoy being out on farm working with the large animals, but can also be found in the clinic doing behavioural consults for problem pets, and at puppy preschool.

I am the typical vet owning many animals including 2 useless horses, some semi useless beef cows, 3 cats and 4 dogs.

I travel around the country competing in dog agility with my dogs, and also instruct dog agility at Horowhenua obedience dog training club. I have recently purchased a young heading pup 'Skip' who is keeping me very busy, training her and trying to keep her out of trouble!

Jane Langton Burnell

I am English, but have been with the practice on-and-off since 1985!

I am married to a dairy farmer, and we have 3 teenage sons, 2 dogs and a cat, so never a dull moment at our place!

I have always been involved with production animals, particularly cows, but I am now involved with the management side of the practice too, so I am usually in the clinic. I may be the person you are referred to if you call in or ring the clinic for advice.



You may come across most of us Farm Vets in the clinic aswell, dealing with dogs, cats, rabbits, birds etc, but we also have two dedicated and very experienced small animal vets in the clinic:



Simon Clark

I will have been with Levin and Horowhenua Vets for three years this August. I really enjoy working here with our great team, and I work exclusively with companion animals.

I completed a veterinary internship in Los Angeles and have worked at the Massey University Veterinary Teaching hospital and at Emergency Hospitals. I have a special interest in both emergency medicine and critical care, and I am passionate about evidence-based medicine.

I am a member of the Manawatu Smallbore Rifle Association and the Rifle, Rod and Gun Club Manawatu.



Anna Macnamara

I was born in Scotland and raised in London. I moved to New Zealand at 12 years old, and graduated from Massey in 1995. I have worked at the clinics in Levin & Otaki for over 12 years.

I live on a lifestyle block with my husband Steve, our twin girls, Sasha and Leah, and our ever-expanding menagerie.

I work with companion animals and have a special interest in internal medicine and ultrasound.



Dental problems in horses – prophylaxis and treatment

by our guest writer, vet nurse and equine dental technician
Nikki Limmer

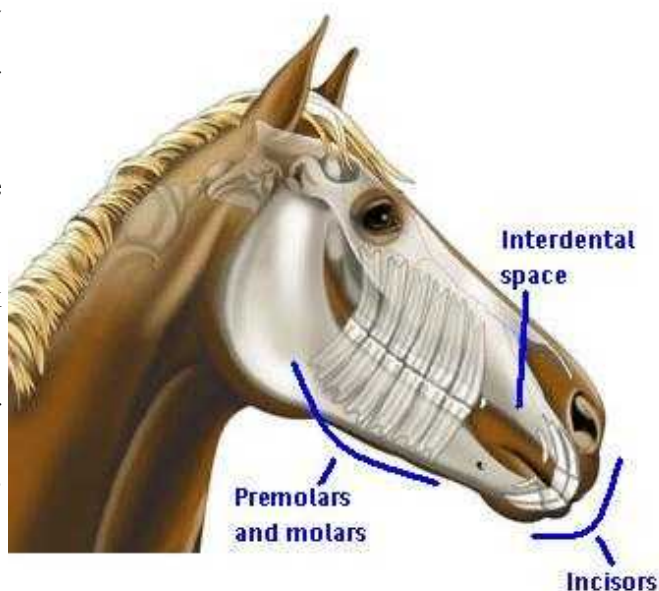
Nikki Limmer is a member of the LHVC Veterinary nursing team and is our very own equine dental technician committed to providing excellent dental care and client education.

The average adult horse has between 36 – 44 teeth which can be divided into 2 groups, the incisors at the front of the mouth, used for cutting off the grass when feeding (and sometimes biting other horses or owners or nibbling on themselves when flies are itching the skin), and the premolars and molars, which form a flat grinding surface for processing the feed prior to swallowing.

The premolars and molars are positioned at the back of the mouth and are not easily visible.

Equines have deciduous (baby) teeth just like other mammals. These start being replaced by the permanent teeth from the age of 2 1/2 years until 4 1/2 - 5 years old.

Unfortunately for the horse this is when we introduce bits at the start of their riding career and expect them to behave and learn!



Wolf teeth (remnants of the first maxillary cheek tooth, just where the bit sits!) are small shallow rooted teeth that can cause pain when knocked and therefore should be removed prior to the introduction of a bit.

There are numerous signs of ongoing dental problems in a horse, some are more obvious than others.

These may include :

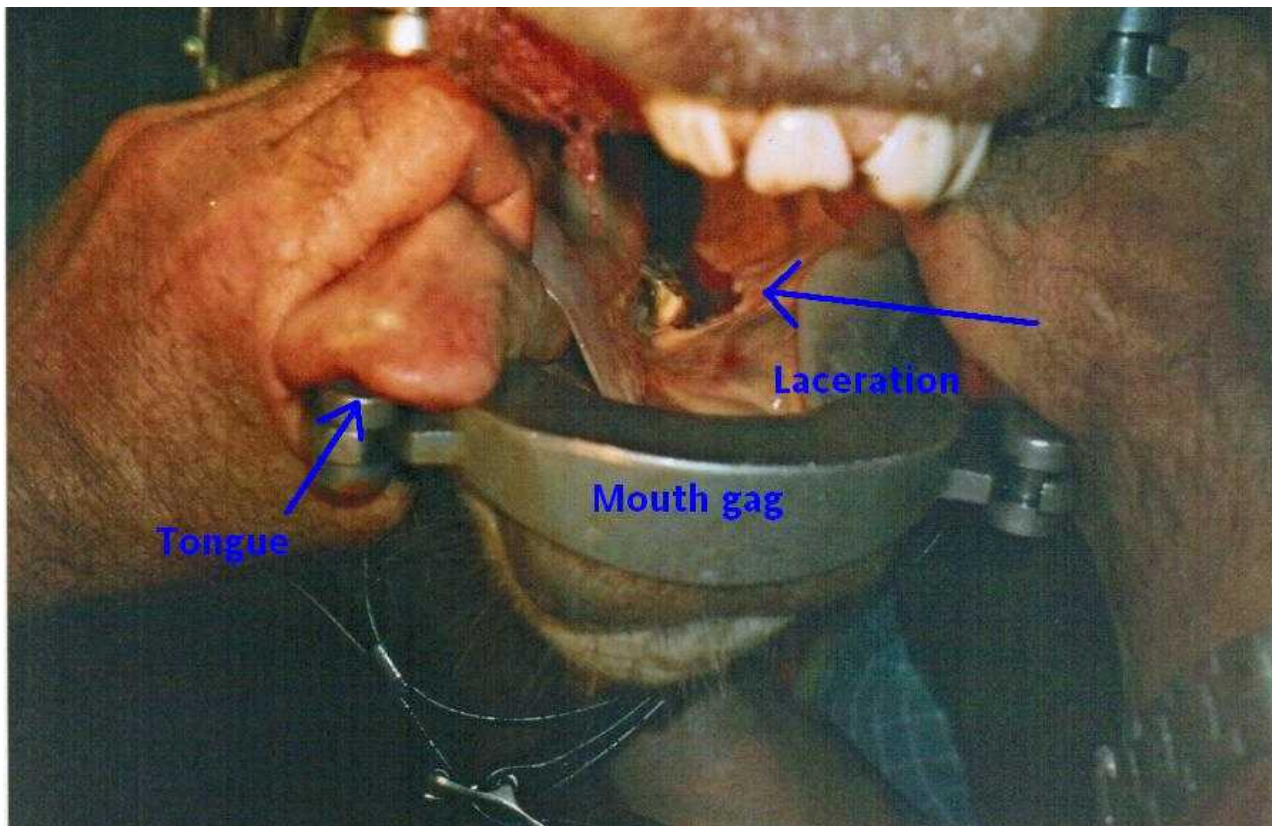
- ➔ Food packing and quidding
- ➔ Raising the head to chew food
- ➔ Undigested food particles in manure
- ➔ Weight loss
- ➔ Swellings along the jawline or face etc etc.....

Some dental problems can be noticed during riding. These include:

- ➔ Resisting bridling
- ➔ Refusing to hold an outline
- ➔ Difficulty turning
- ➔ Excessive mouthing and/or getting the tongue over the bit



However, there may also be no outward signs at all, even if the stoic little pony has a mouth full of lacerations. All equines are prey animals after all and to show weakness of any kind in their natural environment may result in their death.



This photo shows the metal mouth gag used to open a horse's mouth for a dental examination and procedure. The tongue is pulled over to the left and a deep laceration is visible between the teeth and the tongue, leading to discomfort and reduced feed intake. If these are not treated correctly, infection can develop and cause ongoing problems.



Dedicated oral healthcare can start at a very young age, Nikki's own horse needed floating at just 3 1/2 months!

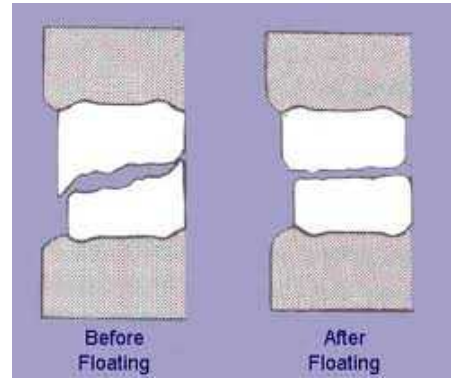
Floating refers to the rasping of overgrown or uneven teeth to get a better and more even surface for chewing and biting. Nikki has her own set of dental instruments including a mouth gag to facilitate safe and gentle dental examinations and procedures as well as a range of dental rasps.

When continued, good regular dental care can and will prevent many major abnormalities and quite possibly extend your horse's longevity.

Equine dental problems can often stem from the caps (remnants of deciduous teeth) not shedding appropriately. Therefore it is recommended that between the ages of 1 - 5 years, bi-annual dental checks are scheduled, this may be extended to yearly checks and floating after 5 years of age.

Adult and aged horses are more likely to suffer from such abnormalities as:

- ➔ Excessive transverse ridges (ridges on the biting surface of cheek teeth, especially due to our dairy grass)
- ➔ Hooks, ramps and excessive tooth length
- ➔ Diseased and loose teeth
- ➔ Sharp points and associated soft tissue trauma
- ➔ Incorrect bit size



This horse was presented to Nikki for a dental checkup after the owner noticed some problems with eating. The incisors are worn down unevenly in waves, which makes grazing very difficult and can lead to weight loss and illthrift.

The upper incisor on the left side of the picture also has some pocketing of food around the gum line and can cause dental pain.



This picture shows the same horse after its dental procedure.

The damaged upper incisor has been removed, the wound left by the extraction looks painful but usually heals very fast and causes much less discomfort than a rotten tooth.

The lower incisors have been rasped down to a more even surface to make chewing easier for this horse.

Of course it is not just horses in work that require dental care; ponies, donkeys, broodmares and companions all have teeth too.

Routine dental examinations are often carried out on the well behaved, un-sedated horse. However working with the large animal vet team at LHVC allows for the safe sedation of a horse, giving the opportunity for superior and safer work along with the added bonus of tetanus vaccinations, antibiotics and pain-relief medication following more complex procedures.

Manawatu Country Living Expo



We had a great time at last year's expo, with our stand and very successful seminars so we are back again this year, with some more great seminars and an even better stand than last year.

Check out www.countrylivingexpo.co.nz or see the attached flyer for more information.



Also please find attached our spring lifestyle shoof catalogue with lots of awesome and useful products for small block holders, like sheep foot shears, calf covers, lamb feeders etc.

All products can be purchased or ordered through the clinic

Looking forward to see you at the Country Living Expo, the clinic or at your place,

*Step of the team
@ LHVC.*

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