

CVC CLINIC NEWS After a slow start to Summer, it is now well and truly here! We hope everyone is enjoying this warm weather and have managed to get away for some beach days or water sports at the lake.

This season, we have seen another flare up of pink eye and urge you to contact us for advice if things are getting away on you. We would also like to stress the importance of watching your cattle for heat stroke and have included a checklist of symptoms to watch out for.

2023 Scourshield supplies are very limited globally with no Rotavec in sight but we are relieved that we have stock in clinic so if you are going to vaccinate and haven't already placed your order, get in quick!

This edition is also a must-read if you're drying off your cattle.

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

- 8:00am – 5:30pm (Monday – Friday)
- 8:30am – 12:00pm (Saturday)

Medication and food collections only on Saturday mornings

24-hour emergency service available by calling 5593 1077 and pressing "2" .

DRY COW VACCINATIONS

Animal vaccines are used to expose the immune system to diseases without the negative effects of the disease itself. Vaccines promote special white blood cell production called antibodies which then protect the cow when they do come into contact with the disease naturally.

Colostrum is full of antibodies and therefore when cows are vaccinated while they are making colostrum, the disease-specific antibodies are passed on to calves through colostrum.

Colostrum production starts 4-6 weeks prior to calving and therefore vaccinating your cows during this window will optimise antibody levels in colostrum at time of calving. High quality colostrum is the best way to ensure your calves protection until their own immune system matures.

We recommend the following vaccinations for dams at dry off:

- **7in1 e.g. Ultravac 7in1** - provides protection to cows and calves against clostridial diseases and two types of Leptospirosis. **Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease** - this means that it can be spread to humans through contact with urine or reproductive secretions at calving. Its can also cause abortion storms but is easily prevented with vaccination.
- **Calf scours vaccine e.g. Ultravac Scourshield / Rotavec Corona** - provides highly effective protection to calves against the three major calf scour pathogens, Coronavirus, Rotavirus and E.coli.
- **Salmonella vaccines** - prevents salmonellosis in calves and highly susceptible recently calved cows. This is essential in herds where Salmonella has previously been diagnosed, cultured and typed.



Drying Off

We are getting to the time of year when our farmers are starting to think about drying off (if you haven't started already). **The dry period is a critical time in the production cycle of dairy cattle** as this allows the udder to heal any residual mastitis acquired through the lactation period. When performed correctly, drying off will reduce mastitis in your herd going into the following lactation.

A successful dry off involves the following steps:

- *Triggering an end to milk production.* This is achieved by feeding maintenance levels of nutrition. High fibre / low energy and moderate to low protein feeds are best.
- *Reduced milking frequency.* Milking can be reduced from twice daily to once daily in the last 5-7 days of lactation to decrease milk production. Once cows have been dried off it is important to keep them away from the milking shed and milking herd to avoid the normal milking routine and noises which may stimulate milk let down.
- *Hygienically infusing dry cow antibiotics +/- teat sealants into the udder and teat canal retrospectively.* The antibiotics will help cure existing mastitis infections and teat seal helps provide protection from new bacteria entering the udder and developing into mastitis during the dry period. It is important the application is performed hygienically. If bacteria is introduced to the udder during this process, new mastitis infections can occur and can be life threatening. Additionally they can start the cow off with a high cell count coming into the new lactation period.



Dry Cow Management

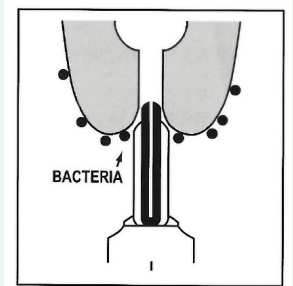
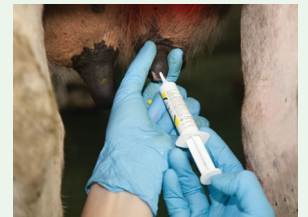
Consultations

In the interests of providing the best possible service to our clients, CVC is offering a '**Dry Cow Management Consultation**' to any clients purchasing teat sealant or dry cow antibiotic treatments from CVC. The discussions in these consultations can be directed wherever the client wishes but may include:

- Selecting the appropriate dry off protocols and products for your herd
- Analysing herd testing, on-farm mastitis treatment records and / or milk processing company production/quality results to determine areas for improvement next season
 - Mastitis case identification and prevention at key stages of the season
 - Farm specific mastitis treatment plans
 - Milking management to optimise milk production and quality as well as milking efficiency
- Any other aspects of cow health, milking

Hygienic intra-mammary methods

1. Restrain the cow so she can't move around too much. Another person holding the cow's tail as a 'tail jack' can be helpful.
2. Before infusing any antibiotic into a quarter, ensure the quarter is completely milked out.
3. Put on clean disposable gloves!
4. Clean and treat each teat sequentially so you do not contaminate. Always start with the front teats first (those furthest from you).
5. **Completely disinfect the end of the teats to be treated.** This step is critical.
 - **Disinfect** by vigorously scrubbing the teat opening with metho teat wipes for a minimum of 10 seconds.
 - Check the wipe - if there is any dirty colour, the teat is not yet clean so **repeat** the scrub using a clean wipe until there is no more dirt seen.
5. Insert the antibiotic tube into the teat canal.
 - Remove the cap of the tube and, without touching it's tip with your hand, gently insert the nozzle into the teat canal.
 - It is not necessary to insert the nozzle to its full depth – this can dilate the teat canal excessively and predispose the cow to mastitis.
 - Infuse the contents of the syringe into the teat.
 - Massage it up the teat into the udder.
7. **Disinfect teats with teat spray immediately after treatment.**
8. Clearly mark the treated cow.



Heat Stroke

We have already covered heat stroke in previous newsletters, but with these warm days we thought it a timely reminder of clinical signs to watch for in case you suspect heat stroke in your cattle.

- Increased respiratory rate (greater than 40-50 breaths per minute)/ panting
- Decreased milk production
- Decreased appetite
- Increased water intake
- Lethargy

Move any suspect cattle to shade and if you have any serious concerns, give us a ring on 5593 1077

Did you know that it is thought that Freisians will start to have reduced milk production with temperatures over 21 degrees and Jerseys are affected when temperatures are greater than 25 degrees