



# The Vet Centre

WAIPU | RUAWAI | MANGAWHAI | MAUNGATUROTO | RUAKĀKĀ

August/September  
2024

**G**reetings to you all during this wet and rainy season. We hope you are keeping warm with these winter frosts. It is amazing to see that we are over halfway through this year already. Our clinics are geared up to assist all farms with calving, down cows, drenching, metrichecking and any other animal health tasks. We have an awesome team of vets and vet techs ready to come and assist as needed.

Our on-farm team has been busy administering rotavirus vaccinations for spring cows and heifers and attending to repro programmes on the autumn farms. The clinic phones have been ringing to get the vets out for some eventful calvings. We have been blood testing and BVD vaccinating bulls on beef farms.

In clinic, the consulting vets have been smashing the keyboards filling out RVM scripts, completing animal wellbeing plans and sharing key information with all our farmers around their flock and or herds.

Our clinic teams are starting to embrace the enhanced performance of the new software system. Hopefully, you have not noticed too many glitches while we have been learning our way around.



**What do you get from a pampered cow?**

**ANSWER ON PAGE 4**

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## A Funky Fungal Abortion



**Sarah Briggs**  
BVSc  
Farm Vet

A local beef herd had two young cows abort at approximately five months gestation. The farmer had just introduced some yearlings from another property and, rightly so, they wanted to check that BVD was not the cause of these losses as this could affect the rest of the cattle on the property. Surveillance of possible incursions is an incredibly important part of biosecurity, and luckily for this farm they all came back negative.

Another top tip – always attempt to find and keep the placenta and foetus. This farmer had succeeded and there were some round lesions on the foetus, as well as rotten-looking cotyledons that were sent to the pathologist for analysis and came back as fungal lesions (see pics).

Now this was a funky fungal diagnosis, as the property does not feed any silage or supplementary feed that could have grown this particular bug.

### So where did it come from?

The pathologist was very honoured to inform me (as I was learning something new myself!) that fungal bugs that cause abortions in cattle (*Mortierella* and *Aspergillus*) can actually grow on pasture in the right conditions. WOW!

Albeit not very common, this was a very interesting case that luckily has seen no further losses and has also ruled out BVD being on this property.





# Pre-mating Checklist

The most important thing to remember at mating time is that what you do now affects calving patterns and milk production next season.

**A key dairy calendar date is 35 days pre-PSM. If 10th October PSM, that's 5th September! We are usually still calving then. This is why a reminder system is vital to ensure this date is not forgotten.**

On this date, tail paint should be applied and the below should be considered to increase your cow's cycling early and their fertility:

- 'Why wait' injections/PG programme to bring already cycling cow's heat closer to the PSM
- Heifer weights at target and drench pre-mating with an effective, broad-spectrum drench
- Herd BCS and nutrition
- Metricheking the whole herd and treating infected cows to increase in-calf rate
- Trace mineral blood testing
- Heat detection – training and aids
- Non-cyclers – treat before the PSM to get maximal days in milk the following season
- Heifer synchrony/PG programmes
- Bulls – BVD tested and vaccinated – numbers adequate (account for lameness, synchrony programmes etc).



## Defend your sheep with New Zealand's own triple star

In an industry dominated by foreign drench companies, Alleva stands proud. Since opening the doors over a decade ago, our kiwi owned business has thrived thanks to innovative products and the support of kiwi farmers like you.

Now BOSS® Triple Mineralised Drench continues our story. With the power of three individual drenches all packed into one convenient dose, it's truly a worm control triple star. See your local veterinary practice for further details.



**PURCHASE BOSS® Triple Mineralised Drench and we'll support kiwi made by giving you a FREE double pack of merino work socks with every 20L drum purchased\***

Targets
3-week submission rate 90%
Heifers PSM – 10 days before the main herd



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# Drench options

Confirm the dose rate for any animals that require drenching by weighing the animal by scales or weigh tape. This ensures you are dosing correctly and not overdosing or underdosing which can cause harm to your animal. Talk to the Vet Centre team about drench options.

### Dairy cows & Heifers:

– *Eprisure* – Pour on and an injectable option. WHP for milk is Nil on both options.

### Dairy calves:

– *Turbo Initial* – Oral option with anti-coccidial included WHP – Meat 35 days, Milk 35 days or Corporal - Oral option WHP Meat 10 days, Milk 35 days.

### Beef cattle:

– *Boss Pour on WHP* – Meat 42 days.

### Lifestyle cattle:

– *Turbo Pour on WHP* – Meat 42 days, Milk 35 days.

### Sheep farm:

– *Boss Sheep Oral option WHP* – Meat 10days.

### Lambs:

– *Corporal plus Tape Oral option WHP* – Meat 10 days.

### Goats and Alpacas:

– *Please discuss options with our team around your needs for drenching.*



## Goat service

Did you know your goat could need a drench, a good foot trimming, body condition scoring or vaccination? Disbudding is done ideally at less than five days old, and a maximum seven days old.

Castration by rubber ring should be done between 8-12 weeks of age. Vaccinate from two weeks of age with a clostridial vaccine (the same as lambs). The Vet Centre team is happy to help with any health needs for your goats.

## ILLUMINATE YOUR WAY

**PURCHASE a 5L of TURBO® or BOSS® Pour On and receive a Ledlenser H3.2, a lightweight headlamp boasting 120 lumens of illumination.**

**Or with every 2.5L of TURBO® or BOSS® Pour On receive an Alleva Puffer vest\*. Your go to layer for on or off the farm.**

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# Introducing the fantastic farm animal team

## Dr Sarah Briggs

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Sarah moved to Mangawhai and joined us in 2019 after working and travelling since she graduated in 2011. Sarah is our main large animal veterinarian on the east side and enjoys being out on farm with dairy clients, with a particular interest in disease prevention and herd reproduction. It is known that Sarah does enjoy a good cup of tea and conversation.



## Dr Thomas Traill

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Thomas worked at *The Vet Centre* as a new graduate in 2019, before heading to the Manawatu to work as a large animal veterinarian for several years. He has re-joined *The Vet Centre* as an owner and veterinarian who slotted straight back in with the farming clients in the area. His wife Chloe is currently working in Brisbane as a veterinarian and is returning in early 2025 to make Northland home too.



## Dr Emily Buswell

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Emily has been with *The Vet Centre* since she graduated in 2012 and has become a highly respected veterinarian amongst the local farming community. She also has a passion for our companion animals and is our resident ultrasonographer. Emily lives in Waipu on a small drystock/dairy support farm, with veterinarian/farm consultant husband Liam and their two boys.



## Nicole Hill

### Senior Veterinary Technician

Senior Vet Tech Nicole, our superstar lead tech, rallies the team together and works with clients to organise many of our farm services. Nicole studied Veterinary Nursing in 2012 and was an AI tech for LIC for several years. Nicole grew up in Kaiwaka, and now lives with her family on a small lifestyle block in Maungaturoto.



## Dr Liam Bawden

### Large Animal Vet & Consultant

Liam is a well-known large animal vet who worked with *The Vet Centre* since 2012 before moving into farm consultancy. He is known for his practical, solutions-based vet style and is great at giving our farming clients that extra bit of knowledge for their business. He works at *The Vet Centre* periodically to contribute to the high-quality service we strive to offer our clients.



## Dr Michelle Stodart

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Michelle has been with *The Vet Centre* for approximately 18 years and is a well-respected, knowledgeable, and thorough Mixed Veterinarian. She has worked with both companion and farm animals throughout her career, providing a valued contribution to our practice.



## Dr Ellie Green

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Ellie, originally from Lancashire in the UK, graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2022 and joined us in 2023. After graduating, she worked in a corporate small animal practice in the UK before moving to New Zealand to become a mixed vet and learn more about the extensive agricultural system New Zealand has.



## Dr Janine Hames

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Janine has been with *The Vet Centre* since 1999. She is the “go-to” practitioner in the equine sector with a wealth of experience to share with customers. Janine’s years of experience have seen her working with animals both large and small and she now has an interest in equine, equine dentistry, and emergency care.



## Dr Ashlee Larsen

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Ashlee joined *The Vet Centre* last year as a new graduate and is surpassing all expectations by becoming incredibly competent, confident and a fan favourite of our customers and clients! She is a Waipu local but moves between the eastern clinics to broaden her experience.



## Dr Tara Brophy

### Mixed Animal Veterinarian

Tara is in her first year of veterinary and has hit the ground running in our Waipu and Mangawhai branches. She is from a farming background and has the practical nature to show for it.





## ← Dr Rosie Gillis

### **Mixed Animal Veterinarian**

Rosie graduated in 2020 from Nottingham University. Since graduating Rosie has been working in a small rural mixed practice in North Wales and has done some locum shifts for a small animal practice in Manchester. Rosie made the big move to NZ in Jan 2023 and joined our Waipu clinic. She is here to learn about the farm sector in NZ and compare it to the UK. When not at the Vet Centre you can find Rosie watching football, swimming, and hiking (especially if it ends at a good pub).



## Mel McKenzie

### **BVT Veterinary Technician**

Vet Tech Mel joined the team in 2022 after graduating from Massey with a Bachelor of Veterinary Technology and is based out of the Maungaturoto clinic. As a tech, Mel is very capable of working sole charge or out with the tech team, and her favourite part of the day is assisting our vets on farm. Farmers will see Mel out on farm across all areas of The Vet Centre region. Her interests are spending time with her horse Vicki, her dogs Alfie and Scrappy, and her fiancé Rory.



## Jenna Fraser

### **Veterinary Technician**

Jenna is an experienced and qualified large animal vet tech. Jenna is a very familiar face at the Ruawai clinic and has been with us for several years.

Working alongside the vets, Jenna is ready to tackle any jobs on your farm from mastitis milk culturing to disbudding and everything in between. When not in the clinic or on farm, you could find Jenna at her children's school and sports games, walking the beautiful tracks in the area, or camping with her family.



## Kallum Green

### **Veterinary Technician**

Kallum is a large animal Vet Tech is based out of the Waipu clinic. Kallum graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Technology in 2022 and has spent the last 2 years practising out of the Massey University Farm Services clinic. Kallum has mainly worked with dairy and lifestyle animals but is always excited to see something new. You can find Kallum fishing and diving in his free time, as well as just being outside.



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# Calf & Cow Health Products we recommend this season

## Optiguard

Optiguard is a calf supplement for minor cases of diarrhoea. It can be added to milk or be given in a trough for calves to self-manage their own intake as they need it.



### Why use OptiGuard?

- ✓ Calves love the taste
- ✓ Prevents scours
- ✓ Enhances resistance to disease
- ✓ Aids digestion processes
- ✓ Calves grow to weight quickly and wean earlier
- ✓ BioGro certified input for organics

## Multimin

Multimin is an injectable mineral supplement containing copper, selenium, zinc and manganese. This injection is best given in the first 24 hours after birth. New Zealand research shows that in Multimin-treated calves, sickness and death rates due to scours, navel infections or other diseases can be decreased by 50%!



## Sprayfo Blue Premium Calf Milk Replacer

Sprayfo is a premium calf milk replacer we will be stocking this season. It is a whey-based milk replacer made exclusively for calves. It contains hydrolysed wheat protein, which is proven to have better digestive properties than other commonly used proteins, offering a safer option for young calves.

- ✓ Premium quality whey calf milk replacer
- ✓ Can be fed to calves from 4 days' old
- ✓ Whey protein for faster digestion
- ✓ Hydrolysed wheat protein aids digestibility (no soy)
- ✓ Dissolves easily, even in cold water
- ✓ Superior suspension – won't drop out of solution
- ✓ Can be mixed with liquid whole milk
- ✓ For optimal, safe calf rearing
- ✓ Antibiotic free
- ✓ Available in 20kg bags



# PERFORMANCE READY ON EVERY FIELD

Enhance calf immunity. Double survival rates.\*

ASK YOUR VET FOR  
**MULTIMIN**

\*Bates et al. (2019) Veterinary Record. Registered pursuant to the ACVM Act 1997, No.A009374 © Virbac 2024





## ← Calf & Cow Health Products we recommend this season



### Turbo initial

Turbo initial is a go-to oral drench designed for weaned calves. It provides coverage against internal worm parasites and coccidiosis. This combination helps to protect during the vulnerable period after calves start to transition to a pasture-based diet, whilst still supporting the development of a calf's natural immunity to coccidiosis.

## Selekt range to give your cows a boost when they need it on farm

**Restore** – A balanced formulation of dextrose and electrolytes, including calcium and magnesium, specifically designed for adult ruminants.

**Fresh cow** – For reduction of the risk of milk fever and ketosis in freshly-calved cows. Also provides rehydration. Contains no potassium so does not block absorption of magnesium. Contains dry yeast to stabilise the rumen flora.

**Off Feed** – For inappetant cows. Based on SELEKT Fresh Cow 500, but with potassium to compensate for anorexia, and gentian root to stimulate the appetite. Provides vital nutrients and supports the rumen flora.

**Antacid** – Contains magnesium oxide and sodium bicarbonate to stabilise rumen acidity and dry yeast to support a healthy rumen flora. For use when rumen buffering action is likely to be required.

**Glycerol Plus** – A glucogenic formulation to aid with the reduction of risk for ketosis in dairy cows. It contains glycerol and propylene glycol to deliver both a rapid and sustained increase in blood-glucose concentration.

**The robust and durable SELEKT Pump and Drenchers, together with the SELEKT Formulae provide rapid delivery of fluid and clinical nutrition for cattle.**

Ask our team today.



### Waipu Clinic

53 The Centre  
Waipu  
P 09 432 0693

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:  
8.00am-5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am-12.30pm

### Ruawai Clinic

23 Jellicoe Road  
Ruawai  
P 09 439 2506

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:  
8.30am-12.30pm  
1:00pm-4:30pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

### Mangawhai Clinic

36 Moir St  
Mangawhai  
P 09 431 4535

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays:  
9.00am - 12:30pm

### Maungaturoto Clinic

184 Hurndall St  
Maungaturoto  
P 09 431 8318

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Friday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED

### Ruakākā Clinic

385 Marsden Point Road  
Ruakākā  
P 09 433 4916

#### Opening Hours

Monday-Thursday:  
8.00am - 5.00pm  
Saturdays: CLOSED