

## Pink Eye – Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis

Pink eye is an infectious disease of cattle caused by the bacterium *Moraxella bovis*. Pink eye causes conjunctivitis, as well as ulcers on the cornea which can fill with blood vessels giving it the characteristic pink appearance. Other signs include blinking, avoidance of light and discharge. Your vet can usually diagnose this condition by having a look at the eye.

Pink eye is often transmitted from animal to animal by flies. Dust, pollen, light, and long grass can also cause damage to the eye, making it more likely to become infected. Keep an eye out for pink eye at this time of the year when it is starting to get warm and dusty. As well as being painful for the affected animal, pink eye can lead to weight loss and should be treated as soon as possible.



Early stage of pinkeye with watery eye

Here are some tips to avoid pink eye this summer:

- ◆ Consider use of insecticides to control flies
- ◆ Try to reduce dust (use heavy bedding material in calf pens)
- ◆ Avoid grazing cattle in paddocks with long grass
- ◆ Separate any potentially infected animals as soon as possible to avoid transmitting the disease to others

If you suspect one of your animals has pink eye give us a call to discuss an appointment and treatment options.

### Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products

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# CHB VETS LTD

Veterinary newsletter

January 2019

## Foal Care Plan!

This time of year is a joyful time – all the young foals are running and bucking through the pastures. We are very fortunate to live in a country where we can just keep our favourite mare in a paddock behind the house and breed our own upcoming Superstar. But don't forget that foals are just like any other young animal – more susceptible to parasites and disease thus it is crucial to have a vaccination and worming plan ready so your foal will grow to the best of his potential.



**Tetanus** is one of the most important bacterial diseases we vaccinate against - *Clostridium tetani* - which enters through wounds– and can lead to muscle spasm/ paralysis and death. The antibodies that the foal receives from the mother's milk will protect the foal for the first 3 months and then vaccination is required:

**First year: 2 Tetanus Vaccinations 4 weeks apart to any foal over 3 months**

**Second Year: 1 booster tetanus**

**Following: Booster every 5 years**

**Strangles** is another threat to our little ones – not a common problem – but there are always outbreaks happening all over the country. It is highly contagious but seldom fatal. It causes high fever and swollen pus filled lymph nodes of head and neck. The foal will be lethargic and subdued. Foals who are exposed to outside horses or equipment which gets in contact with other horses through shows etc. are more at risk and recommendations are to vaccinate:

**First year: 3 Strangles Vaccinations 2 weeks apart to any foal at higher risk over 3 months (can be combined with tetanus vaccination)**

**Following: Annual Booster**

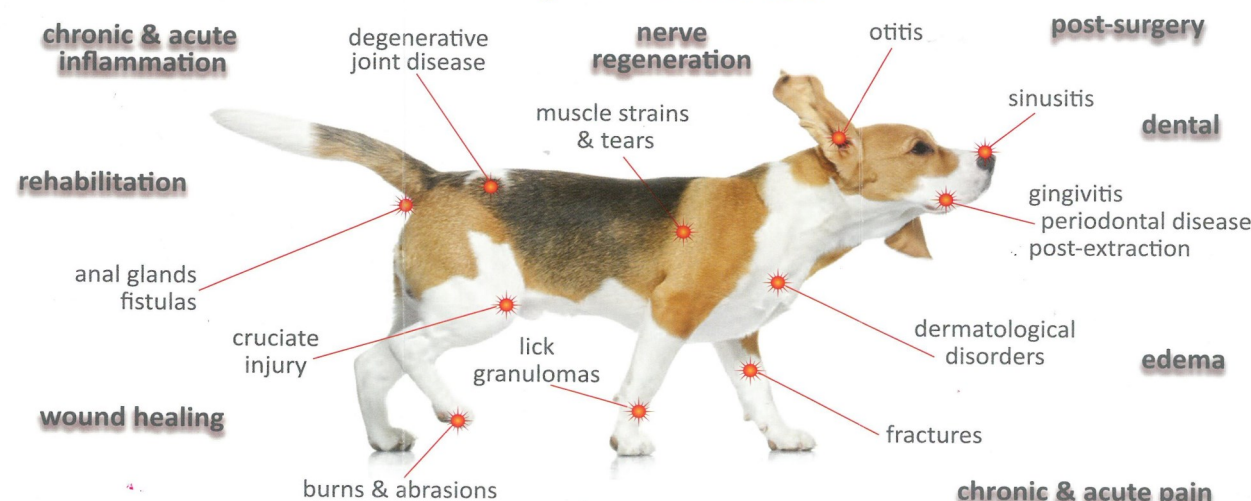
Besides vaccination – we also have to protect our young horses from an overload of parasites. In horses—as in all grazing animals—we are facing the challenge of drench resistance. This can be slowed through good grazing management as well as only drenching older animal if necessary (determined by faecal egg counting) and will also help to reduce the worm burden on young foals.

Drench recommendations as a general guideline for foals are as followed but testing the faeces of foals to check their actual Worm Burden is highly recommended.

**8-10 weeks : First drench Ivermectin/Abamectin base, after that every 2 month – perform a FEC and worm accordingly.**

If you have any more questions don't hesitate to contact us directly.

## Healing from nose to toe!



Laser Therapy is a specific form of photobiomodulation that uses laser light to modulate biological processes.

By controlling the amount of light, and where and how it is delivered to the tissue, we can modulate the biological processes taking place to generate the best therapeutic outcomes for your pet.

**SpectraVET Laser Therapy**  
is  
**'therapeutic photobiology'**



SpectraVET Laser Therapy is a safe non-invasive procedure that offers anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving effects equal to NSAIDs but with no side-effects.

Laser Therapy also promotes wound healing and the repair of soft tissues and bones, enhances the body's immune response, and encourages nerve tissue regeneration.



# Grass seed invasion

With the growing conditions ideal for grass, there is plenty around to cause problems. These seeds have the ability to get in through the skin and cause a nasty infection as they track inwards. They also get into eyes, ears and any other opening they can find. We speyed a pup recently and found a seed right up by her ovary that had tracked its way up from the outside.

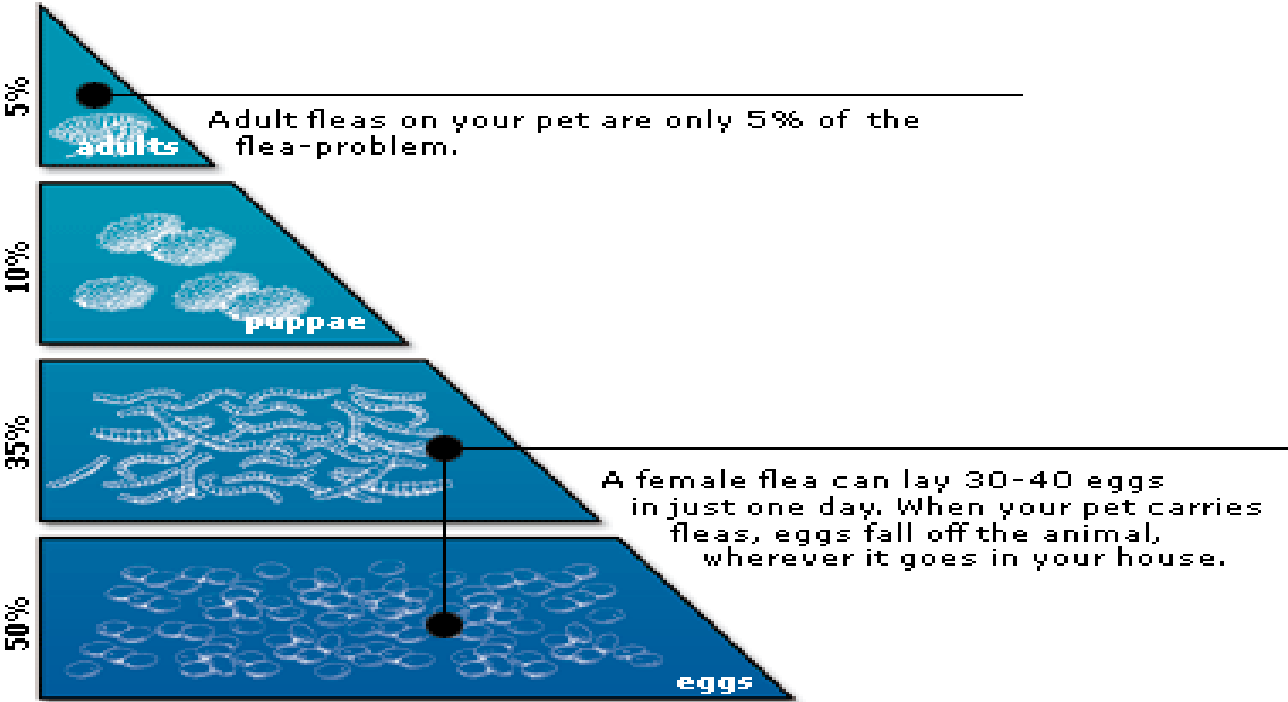
When seeds get into these places they burrow in deeply and can cause ear drum rupture, blindness or a life threatening infection. Removal involves sedation or even a full anaesthetic and surgery, depending on where the seed ends up and sometimes we never find the seed.

Check paws, ears, and armpits regularly after walks to catch the seeds before they break the skin. A suddenly droopy ear, head shaking, swollen weepy paws or a closed eye can be a sign that a barley grass has gone astray.

These seeds have hundreds of tiny barbs which means once they get in through the skin they can only move forwards and will keep travelling through the body. Finding the seed can be like looking for a needle in a haystack as they have often moved on by the time we get to treat the animal.

Prevention involves avoiding areas where these seeds are found if possible. Unfortunately long seedy grass is widespread in Hawkes Bay and becomes seedy as soon as the weather starts to dry off. Clipping the coat of long haired dogs will help you see the grass seeds before they break the skin and will help keep the dog cooler in the summer.

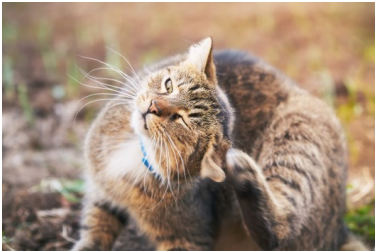
If you suspect your animal may have a grass seed in it, please bring it in to be checked as soon as possible to help make removal that much easier.



# Itchy, scratchy?

At this time of year with the heat and dust, many skin problems show up in our animals.

These conditions may be difficult to deal with and can be very irritating for the animal and for you as their companion. To identify the cause of the itching involves a process of elimination of the different factors involved:



- Number 1: those little critters, fleas. This year the weather conditions have allowed a flea explosion which means there is much more opportunity for your animals to become infested. Luckily for all concerned (except the flea!) we have some very good products available to deal with this problem. The most effective products kill the fleas on the animal and any new ones they pick up.
- Number 2: Animal or plant materials that come in contact with our pets. These include sheepskins, woollen blankets, long grasses and other garden plants. Removing contact with these materials will allow the allergy to resolve.
- Number 3: Food intolerance or allergy. This can be managed through special dietary changes to make sure the proteins in the food are different. Even if an animal has been on the same food for its whole life, it can develop a food intolerance to that food.



- Number 4: Inhaled allergens, which is things like pollens, dust etc. This is a lot harder to prevent because we can't control what is in the air. In these cases we use medications which help moderate the body's reaction to those allergens.

As you can see an 'itchy scratchy' animal can be due to many different causes. Talk to us about how we can identify and manage your animal's itch. And remember—you will notice a dog itching and scratching obviously while a cat may not be quite so obvious. Hair loss and a rough coat can be signs that your cat is very itchy.

- Fleas can live for about 100 days.
- A pair of fleas can produce 400-500 offspring in their lifetime.
- Fleas don't fly. They jump from one place to another.

**General Information** A flea can jump up to 20cm high. That's 150 times its own height. If you could do this, you'd even be able to leap over tall buildings.

<b>Size</b>	1.5 – 4mm	<b>Shape</b> —Flat	<b>Colour</b> —Dark reddish brown	<b>Legs</b> —6	<b>Wings</b> —No
<b>Antenna</b>	Yes	<b>Diet</b> —Fleas are parasites that feed on blood.			
<b>Habitat</b>	Fleas can live on any warm-blooded animal, but seem to prefer to live on humans, cats, dogs, possums, rats and other rodents. They can also be found on shoes, pant legs, or blankets				
<b>Impact</b>	Fleas are best known for spreading the Bubonic Plague. They also transmit the bacterial disease, Murine Typhus to humans through infected rats. Their saliva causes allergic reactions in pets and humans. Fleas can also transfer tapeworms and cause anaemia in pets. Flea bites cause painful, itchy red bumps.				

**Prevention** Clean and vacuum frequently. Keep your yard clean of rubbish and pet droppings. Protect pets by giving them regular flea treatments, washing their bedding and take them to the vet at least once a year to make sure they haven't been infested.

- If you think you have fleas in your home and property, talk to us about a pest management plan!