

## Sweating Like a Pig



The phrase "sweating like a pig" actually has nothing to do with the animal that you might find on a farm. Instead, it refers to iron "sows" and "piglets" made when smelting pig iron. In traditional iron smelting, liquid iron is poured into a mould shaped like one long line with many smaller lines branching off of it at right angles.

This looks similar to piglets feeding from their mother, so these pieces became known as pigs. After the pigs are poured into the sand, they cool, causing the surrounding air to reach its dew point and turn into moisture on the pigs, like they are sweating. When the pig is sweating, it's cool enough to be moved.

## Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and products  
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## Why Southern Cross is number 1 with Kiwis and pets

At Southern Cross Pet Insurance, they have New Zealand's most satisfied customers and – not to scratch behind their own ears – they're awfully proud of that. They're also chuffed to be a trusted partner of the New Zealand Veterinary Association and proud supporter of the SPCA.

They love looking after New Zealanders' pets. And here's why Kiwis and their pets love them back:

- \* They look after the whole family
- \* Simple plans for all budgets
- \* Coverage for inherited conditions
- \* Discounts for multiple pets
- \* Add extra cover like dental

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# CHB VETS LTD

Veterinary newsletter

May 2019

## Eww what's that smell?

Does having your beloved pet on your knee make your eyes water?

Does their breath remind you of something dead?

## Dental Disease could be the culprit!

More than 85% of dogs and cats that are 4 years or older have some form of dental disease.

Dental disease begins with plaque build-up on your pet's teeth. Plaque is a substance that forms when bacteria multiply on the teeth and gums. It mixes with saliva, hardens and forms a brown coating on the teeth known as tartar. Tartar irritates the gums causing tenderness, redness and swelling. This is called gingivitis.

Eventually the inflamed gums separate from the teeth, creating pockets that can trap more food and bacteria. These pockets deepen, exposing the tooth roots leading to loosening and eventual loss of teeth. The gums also bleed, the breath smells and the animal feels pain when eating. This is periodontal



This is what a clean mouth should look like

disease. The bacteria involved can be released into the blood stream leading to disease in other body organs.

Dental disease is treatable and often preventable. The key to your pet's dental health is professional veterinary care and good maintenance at home. Few pets receive both and most don't receive either. You can change that today!!

## Case of the month: Charlie

Charlie came to us as he'd been developing bad breath / been grumpy and didn't like anybody near his mouth. The Owners were concerned that he might have a bad tooth but weren't aware to what degree Charlie's teeth had been deteriorating. We did keep him in to do an 'urgent dental' on the day of his appointment but didn't realise how bad it really was until he was under anaesthesia. We ended up extracting 17 teeth!!! When we saw him 1 week later his owners couldn't believe about how happy their dog suddenly was again – and he surely hasn't lost his appetite despite having almost no teeth left.





# Facial Eczema

Have you had one or several sheep in the past that looked like this? If so than you are just one of many sheep owners that got affected by the devastating wave of facial eczema that hit Central Hawkes Bay in the last month.



We usually write about Facial Eczema in our Newsletter around January/February as we will see the first cases at the end of February – this year it took a little longer before we got hit but by the beginning of April every second person that came in had sheep that showed signs of facial eczema to a different degree - and a lot of those were lifestyle block owners who never had seen it before. Thus we decided to write about Facial Eczema again - as many of you have experienced it now and we are hoping will be able to help you—so next year you will be prepared to fight this devastating disease.

## What is Facial Eczema?

Toxin of the fungus “*Pithomyces chartarum*” growing mostly low to the soil on dead matter of grass

This Fungus is present all around the World but thrives under NZ conditions in late summer FEBRUARY-APRIL Grows quickly with high temperature +moisture (night temp >12-13degrees)

## How does it affect your ruminant animal?

A ruminant animal –Sheep –Cattle –Alpacas – get “INTOXICATED” by eating the Fungus infected Gras – the spore damages the LIVER and the BILE DUCT

Due to liver failure and bile duct blockage – waste products accumulate in the body – leading to skin sensitivity making it susceptible to UV radiation –which causes the typical FE appearance of- SWOLLEN FACE, ITCHY SKIN, RUBBING,BURNED NOSE

The changes of the face/skin is what you will SEE but by then the animal already suffers from liver damage

## How to diagnose it?

A Facial Eczema affected sheep has a very typical appearance and with the occurrence during the right time of the year- this is usually enough to diagnose the disease

HOWEVER – some severely affected sheep may just drop dead, and the ones with the changes in the face are just the tip of the iceberg – so to check the rest of your flock we can test a Liver enzyme called GGT in the blood – which is elevated when we have liver damage

## How to treat affected animals?

Damage has been done (time between ingestion of spores and visual damage = around 10-14 days) BUT!!!! If the spore count is still high - the animal continues to get intoxicated.

So take it off the infected pasture - feed out hay/silage. DO NOT force them to graze down low PROVIDE SHADE

Give Liver support – Seaweed, Metabolase

## How to prevent it?

- Plan ahead – **Facial Eczema will be back next year**- maybe not as severe as this season – but monitor the National and Hawkes Bay spore count on the AsureQuality website
- To be more accurate – take your own grass or faecal sample to test the level of spores on your property
- Once we are close to hitting the spore threshold of causing problems – start with zinc supplementation— either Zinc bolus (last 6 weeks) or Zinc spray on pasture or Zinc drench every 10 days
- Spray pasture with fungicide
- Graze other forage than grass – plantain, Lucerne
- Get FE tolerant sheep

Don't hesitate to contact us if you want to sit down and discuss with us your situation. We can tailor a plan with preventative means to suit your property/animals



## Abscesses!!

Cats are known for wandering around great distances whilst establishing their territory and hunting. Unfortunately, this is how their paths cross with other cats. Usually intact cats are the ones causing the problem because they roam more often. Abscesses are a very painful process for the cat to go through but, diseases can also spread through bites and scratches. An abscess usually takes between 3—5 days to develop whereafter it ruptures, pus comes out and the dead skin will slough.



The symptoms your cat might show are depression, lethargy, anorexia, limping or hiding. Sometimes there is only a tiny scab covering the abscess. We often see them around the head and tail base, or the legs. Because cats have long hair and they are outside most of the time. owners sometimes only pick it up after the



Treatment depends on the location, chronicity, severity or damage done. It is therefore very important that when you suspect your cat has been in a fight or has an abscess to take him/her to your vet for a check up.

Preventative measures includes neutering, vaccinating and keeping them in at night.



## EQUINE FOOT ABSCESSSES

The arrival of wet weather has brought with it an increase in the number of lame horses being seen. A common cause is infection in the foot. This occurs when bacteria gain access to the tissues of the foot and form large colonies—abscesses— on the inside of the hoof wall and/or under the sole. Pressure builds up, leading to severe lameness until the pressure is relieved. This occurs either through the abscess being opened (by a vet or a farrier), or by it bursting out the top of the hoof at the coronary band. The first method is the best, as waiting for an abscess to burst out the top can leave the horse in severe pain for several days, as well as interfering with hoof growth long-term. We will normally poultice the foot after opening up an abscess, which draws out the remaining pus and prevents mud from re-sealing the hole.

We will also give anti-tetanus injections (immediate anti-toxins, or vaccination, or both) as required.

Prevention of abscesses is difficult in wet conditions, but keeping shoeing or trimming up to date is the starting point. Cleaning out the feet every day is also a must, as it helps you to identify problems (such as cracks or holes) early. Being up to date with tetanus vaccination saves worry as well.

