

Lice in pigs and chickens

Maybe your pigs and/or chickens aren't looking so good lately – they seem to lose weight – may have gone off the lay - and just seem to constantly scratch themselves as if they are constantly itchy. Have a closer look – you may see little insects crawling all over them – if so your animals probably have a lice infestation.

The lice on pigs and chicken are different. The pig louse is called *Hematopinus suis* - it penetrates the skin and sucks blood from its host. It is larger than the chicken louse but looks similar. The chicken louse is called *Menophon gallinae* and doesn't suck blood but only ingest skin scales. Both



Haematopinus suis

types of lice can have a detrimental effect on your pet - or production animal – causing discomfort, weight loss, skin injuries and can lead to secondary problems.

Lice ARE Host specific – so even if you may accidentally find a louse on you – it won't stay there very long

The female louse lays eggs daily and attaches them to the hair shaft. They tend to live for only a few weeks - but by then have multiplied more than a 100 times – quickly reinfestation.

Lice can be transmitted from animal to animal but also through equipment, machinery, bedding, and even on humans – but lice only survive for a few days without being on their host (pig or chicken) .

So if you think one of your animals is infested then the others will be as well. Your single pig/chicken can get them from wild animals or you could have brought them on yourself onto your property.

In Pigs: The lice are grayish-brown with black edges and will most often be located in the following body areas - folds of skin around the neck, jowl, and flanks, along the back and on the inside of the legs. The nits (eggs) may also be observed attached to individual hairs, especially in the areas mentioned above.



Menophon gallinae

In Chickens: The chicken louse thrives on the warmth and moisture of your chicken's vent but also can be found on the breasts and thighs.

Treatment: The little sucking critters can easily be killed with an insecticide by injection or a pour on treatment. If you aren't sure if your animal is scratching due to lice or another skin issue then contact us.



Greetings NZ! My name is Erika Senekal-Basson. My husband, 20 month old baby and I moved to Waipukurau at the start of February. I graduated from Onderstepoort Veterinary Faculty in South Africa in 2008 and have been practising as a veterinarian for 10 years. I have been working with sheep, cattle, horses, dogs, cats and game in SA. My interests are mixed practice as I love to work with all creatures in and out of the clinic. I must admit I love horses a bit more and even enough to ride them! My hobbies include camping, cycling, painting/drawing, going for long walks, I love the moon and basically anything that has to do with outdoor activities. I'm looking forward to meeting our clients and their animals. I'm super excited to be a part of this awesome CHB team!

Contact Us

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

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CHB VETS LTD

Veterinary newsletter


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Lumpy, bumpy pets?

At some point in their life, just about every pet will develop a lump or bump somewhere. Most of these are found by you while stroking or grooming your animal, whilst others may be found when we are examining your pet at the clinic. Some lumps are nothing to worry about whereas others can be very serious and require further treatment.



If you find a lump or bump on your pet, it is always best to have it checked.

 An assessment of the lump will be made, along with the general health and condition of your pet.



It is impossible to say accurately what type of lump is present and how serious it is without help from a laboratory. In most cases it may be recommended that part or all of the lump is examined by the laboratory to get an exact diagnosis.

Sometimes we may put a needle in the lump to suck out some cells. We can then send these to be analysed to get an idea of whether we need to go ahead and remove the whole thing. This is a quick and fairly painless procedure which usually doesn't involve any sedation.

In other cases we may suggest a biopsy of the lump. A portion of the lump will be removed and sent to the lab. This will require heavy sedation or an anaesthetic. The lab should then be able to give an indication of whether the entire lump needs to be removed.

If your pet needs a lump removed, it involves a general anaesthetic and it is usually recommended that the lump be examined at the laboratory. They will be able to tell us whether the lump has been fully removed, if it is something we need to worry about and monitor your pet for further recurrence, or if the problem is solved and we need not worry anymore.

Don't ignore lumps and bumps, bring your pet in for an examination and get them checked out.

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MONITORING
Gentle on pets
TOUGH ON PARASITES

Case of the month :

A 4 year old working heading dog was brought into the clinic first thing in the morning as she was almost unresponsive to her environment. On examination we found dead wasps in her coat - and on a closer look hundreds of wasp bottoms with their stings stuck to the skin. She was diagnosed with muscle necrosis caused by the wasp venom which led to acute kidney damage which put her into a life threatening situation. After several days on IV fluids, medication and intensive care she finally started eating again and is now on her way to recover. She only survived due to the fast reaction of her owner who brought her in immediately.



“Boots scooting bottom”

There was a dog called Boots – and once in a while he would be biting his bottom- just like if he had fleas. But Boots mum just flea treated him and wormed him as well. Now he also liked to sit on his bottom with the back legs in the air – scooting along the grass. The kids thought it was quite funny and entertaining to watch him – but Boots Mum was a little concerned and brought him into the Vet clinic. His anal glands were full – those are two round glands sitting just left and right of the anus – and are usually expressed when Boots goes to the toilet – Nr 2 – but Boots loves his wet food and also gets scraps of the table so he has usually very soft stool. Boots felt a lot better after his anal glands were emptied and asked his mum if he could have a food with more fibre – so his bottom wouldn’t get so sore again. The friendly Veterinarian was more than happy to talk with Boots mum about the different options. Now Boots is his happy usual self again and runs around chasing the kids – for his entertainment.

Barber’s pole worm time

Conditions are perfect for *Haemonchus contortus*, also known as Barber’s pole worm, to cause severe losses in lambs and in older sheep as well. Be aware that this worm causes anaemia and death often before eggs are seen in the faeces. Prevention

involves using a drench that has an extended period of action against this parasite to help combat the enormous number of larvae being ingested by the stock. This is one of the few situations where extended activity is warranted.



Cat behaviour—scratch and play

Cats were once described as asocial animals, but this is no longer regarded as true. Although very different from dogs, cats also need interaction and most importantly, your loving attention! When you bring a new kitten or cat into your home you’ll have to decide whether your pet will live strictly indoors or will be allowed outside. There are advantages and disadvantages in both cases. Free-roaming cats are prone to more illnesses and have a much shorter life expectancy, as they can be hit by cars, attacked by other animals and exposed to internal and external parasites such as fleas, worms and ear mites. Conversely, if your cat never ventures outside you must provide him or her with physical and mental stimulation, including interaction with you, exercise, scratching posts and a clean toilet area. Whatever decision you make, following a few simple guidelines to direct your cat’s behaviour can ensure that harmony reigns in your cat-loving household!

Make sure you have a post that’s up to scratch

Scratching just comes naturally to cats. An instinctive activity that begins when kittens are five weeks old, scratching allows cats to leave chemical and visual signals that, among other functions, serve as “messages” to other cats and animals. However, what’s entirely normal for your cat can become a big problem for you if they start scratching your carpets and furniture. If this happens, you should cover or remove the tempting object and provide kitty with a special scratching place, usually a post, of their own. As befits the feline reputation, you may find that your kitten or cat may be slightly picky about what kind of scratching post he or she will agree to use.



Posts that some cats might find acceptable have sisal, cardboard, wood or wool composite surfaces. The most important characteristics of a post are that it be taller than the cat when they stand on their hind legs, sturdy enough not to tip over and located in a prominent, easily accessible area.

Whatever its construction, the scratching post or board should not be changed as long as your cat is still using it. The more scratched and awful looking, the more your cat will love and use it—instead of your furniture!

Playtime helps keep your cat healthy and happy

Make sure your kitten or cat has lots of opportunities for interesting, challenging play that will satisfy their natural instincts and provide them with much-needed activity. Find toys that bounce or flutter—there are many available—that they can pretend to “chase,” “hunt” and “capture.” You should try to have at least one daily, 15-minute interactive play session with your cat, especially if he or she is often left alone.

