

Stop the Swill

Many shops, cafés and food retailers provide waste food to pigs. It's done with the best intentions – pigs are great recyclers of food waste.

Some kinds of products – such as packaged bread – can be recycled as pig feed.

However, feeding pigs food scraps that may contain meat is a real risk of spreading diseases like African Swine Fever (ASF).



ILLEGAL TO FEED UNTREATED MEAT SCRAPS

In New Zealand, it is illegal to feed pigs meat – or any products that have come into contact with meat – unless it has been cooked at 100 degrees (boiled, essentially) for one hour.

Some viruses – like ASF – are very hardy. They can survive in meat that has not been properly cooked and then infect the pigs that eat the scraps.

UNLESS YOU CAN BE CERTAIN THE FOOD SCRAPS CAN BE PROPERLY TREATED, DON'T SUPPLY THEM FOR PIGS.

WHAT IS AFRICAN SWINE FEVER?

- African Swine Fever (ASF) is a highly contagious viral disease which is often fatal to pigs
- While the virus presents no risk to humans, it has a major impact on the health and welfare of domestic and wild pigs
- It's been called 'the most serious animal health disease the world has seen'
- There are serious outbreaks of the disease currently spreading through Europe and Asia
- If the disease were to arrive in New Zealand, it would be devastating to New Zealand's pig herd – which has one of the highest health statuses in the world – and the livelihoods of farmers.

HELP US SPREAD THE MESSAGE

New Zealand's commercial pig farmers are very serious about protecting their animals and the local industry from the risk of disease. They know what kinds of foods can be fed to their pigs and are careful with how it is managed and treated.

But not everyone that keeps pigs is aware of the risks. If you get requests for food scraps for pigs, please refer them to NZ Pork for more information. They can call us on: 03 357 1407, or email: info@pork.co.nz.

0800 697 675
info@pork.co.nz

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.nzpork.co.nz/asf



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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Has your dog suddenly started limping on one of its back legs? There are many different reasons for limping in dogs. One of the most common causes of lameness is a ruptured cruciate ligament.

What Is a Cruciate Ligament Injury?

There are two cruciate ligaments in a dog's knee joint. The ligaments connect the femur (thigh bone) to the tibia (shin bone). This stabilises the knee joint. The ligament can rupture completely (complete cruciate tear) or partially (partial cruciate tear.) A ruptured cruciate is a painful and immobilising injury. While not life-threatening, it must be addressed.

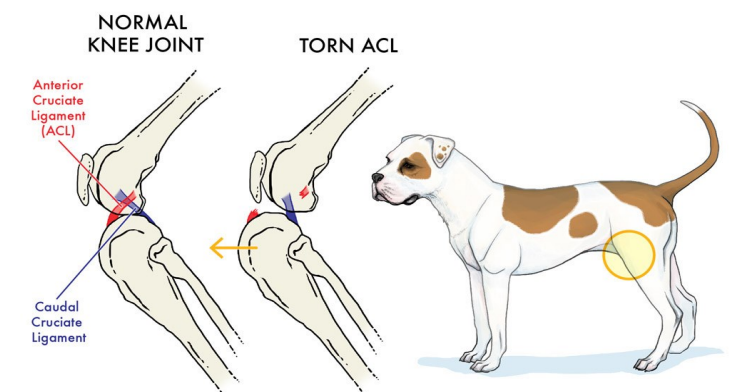


Signs of a Cruciate Ligament Injury in Dogs

When the cruciate ligament tears, the tibia moves freely from under the femur, causing pain and lameness. Sudden lameness in a rear leg is often the first sign of injury. The lameness can worsen with activity and improve with rest. If an injury remains unaddressed, arthritic changes occur quickly. This leads to chronic lameness and discomfort. If your dog suddenly shows signs of pain or limping, take it to your vet as soon as possible.

Causes of a Cruciate Ligament Injury

The two main causes of cruciate ligament rupture in dogs are degeneration of the ligament and trauma. A tear can result from an athletic injury in a healthy dog. This could even mean landing "wrong" when running or jumping. Overweight or obese dogs are more prone to this type of injury, as they carry more weight and are prone to ligament degeneration. Additionally, some dog breeds/types are predisposed to cruciate ligament injuries including rottweilers, Labrador retrievers, Newfoundlands, and Staffordshire terriers.



Treatment and Prevention

Medical management, consisting of physical therapy and weight control) is variably successful in getting your dog to return to normal activities. Smaller dogs (< 15kg) fair better than heavier dogs. These dogs will develop osteoarthritis in the affected knee joint. Medical therapy involves several weeks of cage rest, with brief, calm leash walks for bathroom breaks only, sit-to-stand exercises, and underwater treadmill therapy and/or swimming. Affected dogs also chronically receive veterinary approved oral anti-inflammatory drugs and supplements to support joint health. Although rest and medication may help, surgery is usually recommended to repair the ruptured cruciate ligament. In general, prognosis after surgery is good, with an 85%-90% chance of return to normal activity level. There are several different surgical approaches, each with its pros and cons.

Guinea Pigs

A common companion of our children, these little rodents from the Andes in South America have very special needs that need to be met.

Here is a bit of information about these animals for anyone who is considering getting one – or has one – you may even be surprised about some of these interesting facts

Guinea pigs are:

- ◆ Live wild in social groups of 5-10 animals
- ◆ Usually calm and docile but can get frightened easily and then start running away and hiding
- ◆ They like routine habits for food, water and environment
- ◆ They redigest their faeces which is called coprophagia and this means they will eat their own faeces
- ◆ All teeth grow continuously and thus the diet must contain sufficient fibre to wear down the teeth
- ◆ Housing should be 0.9sqm per adult guinea pig – they need a mate or live in small groups. The housing should provide shelter such as a house, PVC pipe or other things where the guinea pig can hide and find security when being startled.
- ◆ They need shade and cannot be exposed to temperatures above 27degrees as it may cause heatstroke
- ◆ They need unlimited amount of Hay and a balanced diet preferable store bought complete pellets. Do not give fruits, seeds , high carb diets or starchy vegetables as it can affect their gut
- ◆ They need Vitamin C supplementation
- ◆ Raised for food /religious ceremonies and are still a food source in South America



Breeding: Sows are fertile at 2—3months of age and cycle all year round. They need to be bred for their first time before the age of roughly 7—9 months to prevent permanent closure of the pelvis. Boars can bred at 3—4months thus siblings need to be separated early on.

The most common reasons we see guinea pigs are itchiness – often caused by mites, and eating issues due to long incisor teeth.

But if you are concerned about your furry friend and unsure if something is abnormal – just give us a ring and talk to one of our Vets . We hope that this information has prepared you a little bit if you are planning to bring a guinea pig into your home ;)

Important information about Toxoplasmosis

Toxoplasmosis in susceptible breeding ewes causes abortions, stillbirths and neonatal deaths. Research indicates that ewes infected with Toxoplasma in early gestation experience fetal death and resorption. This is often mistaken for ewe infertility and results in the unnecessary culling of otherwise fertile animals. Ewes infected in mid-gestation or later are likely to abort, or give birth to stillborn or weak lambs that fail to thrive.

Toxoplasmosis costs you in three ways:

- The loss of lambs by abortion; either by low-level unseen losses, or large-scale abortion storms.
- The birth of weak lambs, which fail to thrive, or die.
- The culling of fertile ewes, which because of undetected early abortion are presumed barren.

Toxoplasmosis occurs throughout New Zealand. In fact, research shows it has been present on 100% of New Zealand sheep farms. Every sheep flock can be affected by ongoing insidious fetal losses and abortion storms. Ewe hoggets and two toothed are at most risk, but any ewe that contracts Toxoplasmosis for the first time while she is pregnant is likely to lose her lamb/s.

Risk Factors for Toxoplasmosis

Vaccinating with **Toxovax®** has been shown to help prevent losses caused by abortion storms and the lowered reproductive performance of affected ewes.

Vaccinations need to be timed around the date you plan to introduce the ram. Your vet can help plan an appropriate vaccination schedule for your farm to take control of your flocks performance.

- Occurs everywhere in New Zealand
- Ewe hoggets and two toothed are most at risk
- The life cycle of Toxoplasmosis involves wild birds and rodents who have cysts in their muscle and are then eaten by cats. Cats then pass out the infective stage of the life cycle directly onto pasture or hay via faeces. Sheep grazing on this contaminated pasture or hay can pick up the disease, and if this occurs for the first time during pregnancy, abortions can occur.
- Any susceptible ewe that contracts Toxoplasmosis during pregnancy is at risk
 1. At early gestation - embryonic loss or reabsorption
 2. Mid gestation - fetal death, mummification and abortion
 3. Late gestation - birth of weak, non-viable lambs

Often the farmer sees a reduced scanning percentage and a lot of late or dry ewes. Abortions are not always seen.

Toxovax®

Toxovax is a single dose vaccine that provides breeding ewes with lifetime protection against the effects of Toxoplasmosis. Vaccination with Toxovax increases lambing percentage by an average of 3% and decreases the incidence of dry ewes by an average of 14%.

Toxovax is a live vaccine, has a short shelf life and is made to order. Please order your Toxovax from your vet clinic at least four weeks before you need to use it, which should be at least 8 weeks before mating, to ensure supply.

Dosage: 2mL

Administered by intramuscular injection to non-pregnant ewes in the anterior (front) half of the neck. One injection only, at least 4 weeks before mating.

Pack size: 100 or 200 dose packs.

AVAILABLE ONLY UNDER VETERINARY AUTHORISATION

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