



CHB VETS LTD

5 Northumberland Street, Waipukurau

ph 06 858 6555

e: reception@chbvets.nz

Veterinary newsletter

July 2022

SHEEP MEASLES INFORMATION FOR DOG OWNERS



THE ROLE OF DOG OWNERS

As a dog owner you can play a key role in reducing the spread of sheep measles by:

1. Freezing or cooking all sheep or goat meat before feeding to dogs.

- Freeze all sheep or goat meat at -10°C or colder for 10 days before feeding to dogs
- Cook meat by heating to core temperature of 72°C or greater
- Do not feed untreated scraps of meat to dogs

2. Controlling dogs

- Dogs should be under control at all times when not under supervision
- Do not let your dogs go onto or enter sheep pasture without permission from the landowner

3. Treating dogs to remove infection

- Dogs should be dosed to remove any infection on a regular basis
- Monthly dosing provides best control option
- Any new dogs should be dosed 48 hours before going on or near sheep pasture

**Freeze all
sheep meat
at -10°C
for 10 days before
feeding to dogs**

0800 222 011
www.sheepmeasles.co.nz



sheepmeasles.co.nz

Call us on 0800 222 011



A guide for choosing a pet

Pet ownership can be an incredibly rewarding experience, enriching the lives of you and your family. Ultimately, you want a pet that is happy, healthy and suits your family and lifestyle. Take your time to think it through as there's much to consider.

Can you care for a pet its whole life? Can you afford a pet? Do you know how to care for a pet? Is your home environment suited to a pet? Will a pet fit into your lifestyle? Is the pet you're buying healthy?



Do you have the time?

Animals need company, exercise/playtime, socialisation and training, so ask yourself whether you have the time and patience for your dog. How much time can you invest in meeting their needs?

Can you care for them?

There are always the basics – food, water, warmth, and shelter. But beyond this there are other aspects of care that are equally important – love and emotional needs, nutrition, exercise, play, and training. Under the Animal Welfare Act, every owner has a duty of care to their pet. There will be food, training, medicines, and veterinary fees to pay. As pets age, their health needs are also likely to increase so it's recommended that you budget for their care taking a life-long approach (the average age most dogs live is about 12 years, but can be longer). Consider pet insurance – there are a number of providers to consider and various payment and coverage options.

Do you have the space?

Where is your pet going to live and do you have enough space? If you don't have much room you might be better off purchasing a smaller dog rather than the big one you had in mind. Is there a park nearby or other suitable walking areas to take your dog for their daily exercise?



Are there any allergies in your family?

Check that no-one in your family is going to be allergic to your dog.

What are your expectations of your pet?

Think about what you want from your pet. Do you want an animal that will curl up on your lap quietly or one that you can take for big walks and expel some energy with? What experiences has the animal had to date in terms of its living situation? Does the environment it's been in - for example, noisy and busy - match your home environment? Has the puppy been socialised, that is, been around other people and animals? If the dog has lived a very quiet home life you need to carefully introduce it to new experiences so that it isn't afraid.



Adopt if you can

With large numbers of healthy animals unable to find homes, consider adopting a rescue pet and help alleviate the "wastage" that irresponsible breeding and ownership creates.

Information from NZVA

Why can't I feed my cat on dog food?

Cats have special dietary requirements that dogs don't have. Most cat foods have these extras added to ensure cats receive what they need. Cats also have different requirements for the levels of vitamins in their diets. Some of these vitamins are found in animal tissues only, which means that cats are truly carnivorous and can't be kept on a vegetarian diet.



The most common vitamin deficiency that shows up in cats fed totally on dog food, is thiamine (or Vitamin B1) deficiency. Thiamine is needed for normal function of muscles and nerves because it converts glucose to energy. Thiamine is found in plants, veges, fruit, milk, fish and other meats. Like other vitamins, it is not stored in the body so a regular supply is needed in the diet.

Raw fish contains an enzyme that destroys thiamine, so cats fed large amounts of raw fish are also at risk of deficiency. If beef/liver foods are over cooked, thiamine will be destroyed. Some preservatives also destroy thiamine.

Signs of thiamine deficiency are seen as muscle weakness (can't stand or jump), seizures, wobbly when walking, dilated pupils, flipping over like roly-poly.

While thiamine deficiency is treatable if caught early, prevention is much easier and more effective.



Lamb survival tips

Hypothermia in newborn lambs (chilling)

All lambs are at risk of hypothermia but especially multiple lambs, very small lambs, lambs from ewes that are in poor condition, or from ewes that are very old or very young. To help prevent hypothermia you may have to provide extra shelter and feed for these ewes and lambs.

Times of high risk:

1. Birth to 5 hours—the newborn lamb is wet and loses heat very rapidly, especially in bad weather and where there is no or little shelter. Colostrum helps the lamb through this time by increasing heat production.
2. Ten hours to 3 days—starvation leads to a drop in heat production and the lamb becomes hypothermic, even in warm sunny weather.



You can easily tell if a lamb is hypothermic by taking its temperature. Early detection improves a lamb's chance of recovery. If temperature is 39—40°C then the lamb is normal; 37—39°C the lamb is at risk (dry its coat, provide shelter and feed it, recheck in 30 mins to ensure temperature is rising); 37°C or less the lamb is in danger and needs to be resuscitated.

Resuscitation:

1. Dry the lamb—this reduces heat loss
2. Provide energy to the lamb—this can be done by injecting warmed sterile 20% dextrose into the abdomen of the lamb at 10ml/kg
3. Warm the lamb—place in a warm area of 40—45°C (in front of fire, under a heat lamp)
4. Check temperature—once the lamb's temperature has reached 38°C remove it from the warm area. Most lambs will take 2—4 hours to warm up but check their temperature before taking away from heat.

Care from here:

1. Feed the lamb 100—200ml colostrum ideally or milk substitute, by stomach tube if necessary
2. Once the lamb can stand and suck vigorously you can return it to the ewe in a sheltered pen to monitor its feeding.



3. If the lamb can't return to its own or another mother you will need to start bottle feeding it. Use a proper lamb replacement milk powder to ensure the lamb's nutritional needs are met.