



# CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

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## Make sure your garden is free of these dangers to keep your pets safe and happy

Thanks to their curious nature, dogs can sniff, lick and chew their way into a case of poisoning or injury in the blink of an eye. And cats aren't immune to mischief! Make sure your garden is free of these dangers to keep your pet safe and happy.

### Common garden dangers:

**Compost**—depending on what you are tossing in the compost bin, it could be hazardous for your pet.

Keep your compost free of human foods that are toxic to pets.

**Fertiliser**—blood and bone fertilisers are appealing to dogs; however they can cause illness

Use fertiliser that is free of toxins, and make sure pets are indoors when you're spraying.

**Slug, snail and rat bait**—baits can be tasty for pets but toxic if ingested.

Keep snail bait out of reach and in a pet proof container. You can use salt instead or buy pet-friendly baits.

**Garden tools**—many garden tools. Like rakes, are sharp and can easily cause puncture wounds which can lead to tetanus.

Make sure garden tools are locked away, or at least not hiding in tall grass.

### What to do if you suspect poisoning

- Make a note of symptoms.
- Identify the poison.
- Check for opened containers, spilled liquids or known poisonous plants and collect a sample of the possible toxins.
- Call your vet immediately for advice.

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## Lambs still on-farm

Information supplied by [beeflambnz.com/news-views/autumn-animal-health-checklist-sheep](http://beeflambnz.com/news-views/autumn-animal-health-checklist-sheep)

### Worms:

With change to cooler wetter conditions the sheep worm population changes from Barber's Pole worm (BPW) dominant to *Trichostrongylus* dominant.

*Trichostrongylus* is known as the 'Black Scour' worm; it can cause severe scouring and even deaths towards the end of a normal drench interval when challenge is high.

Drenches that give persistent protection against BPW don't have any persistency against Trichs. Don't try to extend drench intervals to lambs yet unless they are on very clean pasture or a specialist forage.

Resistance issue alert – we are now seeing cases across the North Island of multi-drug resistant Trichs; including those which are quite happily surviving a triple combination drench. In some areas this has only come to light when lambs have started dying two weeks after a triple drench. CHECK your lamb drench by having a faecal egg count performed on 10 individual fresh faecal samples from lambs 10 days after you have drenched them. Do not do a bulk/composite sample for this.

Knock-out drench – a proven strategy for reducing the build-up of resistant worms on your farm by removing adult egg laying worms that have been quietly surviving your routine combination drench. Needs to at least be one of the novel actives (Zolvix Plus or Startect) – talk to your vet.

Unexpected lamb deaths – don't guess, get post-mortems done.



### Replacement ewe lambs

#### If you are going to mate these:

Be absolutely ruthless with your cut-off weight – you'll get better scanning results and a better animal to go into the flock as a two-tooth. Have a solid plan to keep feeding these to growing at 130-150g/day total LWG between mating and lambing.

For every 1kg gained between scanning and set stocking they are 10% less likely to be wet dry (Source: Kate Griffiths' PhD thesis – Wastage in commercial ewe flocks).

It's not too late to decide not to mate these.

### Ewes:

On hill country breeding farms these are the big driver of your profitability. But right now, they are probably taking the biggest hit – get some help with a feed budget if you need it and prioritise keeping some condition on these and getting feed growing for late pregnancy and lambing.

Ewes that start winter in BCS two or less are almost twice as likely to be dead or missing at weaning – as soon as the second cycle is over you could go into your MA ewes and identify these. What can you do to lift them even half a BCS between now and the end of May?

Retention of extra lambs due to inability to move off farm will create higher worm challenge to ewes in the spring. Good feed planning is a big part of the solution here as well-fed ewes can tolerate parasite challenge. But thin ewes under feed pressure may require extra help. Liver Fluke is commonly more of an issue after dry autumns – April and May are a good time to check livers of cull/dog tucker ewes to assess fluke challenge.

## Ear Infections

We have seen a lot of ear infections recently. There are a number of factors which can cause infection. Dogs with ongoing ear issues usually have underlying skin problems and dogs that suffer from allergies are predisposed to ear infections. Scratching, rubbing at the ear and head shaking are all common signs. You may also notice redness and swelling or an abnormal odour. Most ear infections in adults are caused by yeast and bacteria. Ear mites and foreign bodies (like grass seeds) are also a common cause, especially in puppies.

Some ear infections are not preventable but care and grooming can help in the hot and humid months.

Keep the opening of the ear canal free of matted hair by clipping the fur around the outside of the ear and gently removing any mats. Do not forcibly pluck the ear as this causes inflammation which can lead to infection.

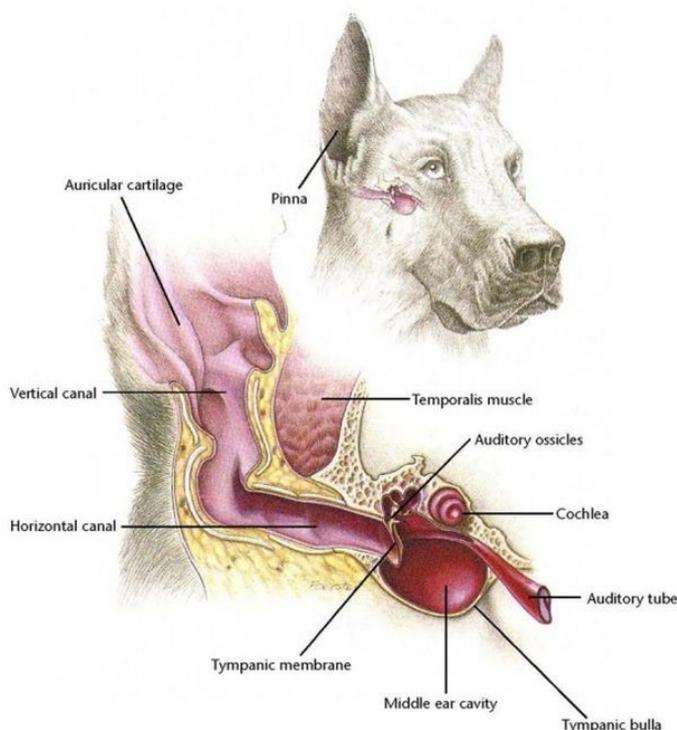


Clean waxy ears every 2-4 weeks. Use an ear cleaner that dissolves wax and dries up the ear (Epi Otic.) These drops are designed to loosen the debris inside the ear so it can be dislodged when the dog shakes its head. Fill the ear with cleaner and gently massage for one minute. Wipe any debris from the outside of the ear with cotton wool.

If the ear is red, swollen, or sore to touch, contact one of our vets for an examination before proceeding any further. Chronic ear problems can be difficult

to manage and dogs with persistently bad ears often need to be examined and have their ears flushed while anaesthetised.

Occasionally surgery is needed to fix ongoing ear issues and a referral to a specialist veterinary dermatologist may help underlying allergies.



# Enzootic pneumonia in Sheep

Pneumonia in sheep is a complex disease involving different bacteria and viruses and can cause acute and chronic infections. Sheep of all ages can be affected but mainly affects lambs and hoggets. The signs we see in acute cases are animals may just be found dead but most commonly seen as coughing in the mob particularly when driven. We may also see nasal discharge, lagging behind and breathing difficulty. Some animals become chronically affected and will be slow to grow.

## What makes you animals more susceptible to pneumonia?

Pneumonia is often related to stress during mustering and yarding, especially in dry and dusty conditions; heat stress and transport

## Economic effects

- Direct losses of stock
- Prolonged sporadic losses
- Reduced weight gain, up to 50% lower than unaffected lambs, and reduced wool production
- Rejection and downgrading of carcasses in stock sent for slaughter due to pleurisy

## How do I know if my flock is affected?

The clinical signs as listed above that are shown by affected animals; also post mortem findings in sheep found dead or unthrifty animals, and slaughter reports give you an indication of the status of your flock.

## Treatment

Treatment of individual sheep is generally not curative. The most important way of reducing losses is the prevention of pneumonia.

## Prevention of pneumonia

- Avoid stress as much as possible
- Avoid yarding and close confinement under hot and dusty conditions
- Muster early in the morning
- Try to minimize droving distances
- Use sprinkler systems in the yards to dampen down the dust
- Use of portable yards to shorten times of droving
- Control dogs when not at work so they don't disturb sheep unnecessarily
- Maintaining good stock health during risk periods (drenching and good food)



Illthrift lambs are a sign of enzootic pneumonia

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