

CLINIC NEWS

FALL 2008 OCTOBER 15, 2008

TCVC NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE LAUNCH

After a long hiatus, the TCVC newsletter is back. Additionally, we have recently launched our clinic website at www.tcvc.net.

NEWSLETTER

We plan to publish an informative newsletter quarterly, highlighting seasonal recommendations, and things to watch for in your animals. As hot topics in animal agriculture arise, we will respond by publishing extra issues of our newsletter to discuss our take on these issues, focusing on how they affect you, our clients, in the local area.

Our goal is to provide a targeted and informative newsletter. We deal routinely with 6 species, not

including dogs and cats, on a day-to-day basis. Since some of these species can be grouped together, we intend to publish 4 different newsletters each quarter. These issues will include Cattle, Sheep and Goats, Llamas and Alpacas, and Equine. We will include a small section in each about dog and cat care.

This newsletter will be sent to your homes according to what type of animals you have. If you would like to help us out, please visit our website (www.tcvc.net) and select what animal species you would like to receive information about from the menu on the main page.

WEBSITE

With the help of long-time client, L'illette Vasquez, we recently launched a clinic website. You can find the website at www.tcvc.net.

As with our quarterly newsletter, we plan on making this site a resource of information for our clients. However, we plan on making the information more in depth and real-time than what is published in the newsletter.

Look to the site to provide up-to-date information about events that matter in animal agriculture in the Front Range, fun photos and descriptions of what Drs. Thompson and Hotaling have been up to, and our recommendations for preventative care.

THINGS TO DO ON TCVC.NET

- *Enter topics that you would like discussed in the next issue of our newsletters in the comments box at bottom of main page.*
- *Sign up to have our newsletter delivered via e-mail.*
- *Explore the site, and offer suggestions on how to improve functionality in comments box at bottom of main page.*

INTRODUCING DR TYLER HOTALING

As some of you know, a new veterinarian was recently added to our staff. Dr. Tyler Hotaling, joins us from CSU, where he finished a one-year clinical internship in Food and Fiber Animal Medicine and Surgery at the end of June.

Dr. Hotaling is a native Vermonter. He grew up on a small homestead farm where his family raised a variety of animals for meat and fiber.

He received his undergraduate degree in Animal Science from Cornell Univer-

isty. He attended Veterinary School at the University of Pennsylvania and graduated in May 2007.

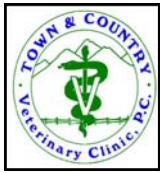
Although Dr. Hotaling's specialty is food and fiber animals, he truly enjoys ...

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CAMEL VETS?



Seth Thompson, Dr Thompson's son, with dromedary camel Dutch. Dutch was recently in for castration.



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WE'RE ON THE WEB:

WWW.TCVC.NET

NOW WELCOMING NEW CLIENTS

With the addition of Dr. Tyler Hotaling to our staff, we are looking to expand our service to new clients.

As many of you know, for years TCVC has been a one doctor practice. Because of this, we've had to turn away many potential clients, because Dr. Thompson could not keep up with the demand, while continuing to provide the high quality of service we expect from ourselves.

Starting immediately, we are happy to take on herds

from new clients, or expand the services that we offer to you, our current clients.

In addition to welcoming new clients, we have expanded our service area (see map on website), and intend to publish routine newsletters and articles, update our website frequently, and offer animal health workshops on a regular basis here at the clinic.

Please pass the word on to your neighbors.

FECAL SAMPLES FOR TCVC PARASITE STUDY

FIRST 200 SAMPLES RECEIVED ANALYZED FREE OF CHARGE

Dr. Thompson recently returned from the national meeting of the American Association of Bovine Practitioners. One of the workshops that he attended was focused on gastrointestinal parasites, and specifically the development of resistance to deworming drugs.

Resistance to deworming drugs is not a new phenomenon. Through the years the development of resistant populations of worms has been the major stimulus for the development of new classes of deworming drugs.

Today, the most commonly used classes of deworming drugs are the Albendazole family, including fenbendazole and albendazole, and the Avermectin family, which include ivermectin, moxidectin, and doramectin. Each of these drugs come in variety of preparations, including oral drenches, injectable, and topical preparations.

For years, dewormers in the Avermectin family provided reliable treatment and prevention for worm infestation. However, recent research suggests the emergence of avermectin resistant populations of worms, especially when topical prepara-

tions are used.

How does drug resistance develop? As with any other creature in the animal kingdom, there are minute genetic differences between individuals within a population of parasitic worms. These differences are due to component of genetic randomness within reproduction. This randomness leads to genetic mutations within individual worm populations. Not all mutations lead to favorable traits, but by chance some of these mutations will make individual worms resistant to our treatment. When treating an animal for worms, you are effectively treating a population of worms. Keeping in mind that some individual worms may have mutations that make them resistant to our dewormer, it should be understood that not all worms will be killed when dewormed. The worms that are susceptible to our treatment will be killed and past out in the manure. The resistant worms that remain in the gut, will reproduce and the result will be a population of worms that is more likely to be resistant to the drug we used to deworm this animal

with. This is a self-perpetuating cycle that leads to a population of resistant worms.

How do you prevent resistance? The answer is simple, but the explanation get's complicated. The answer is only deworm when necessary, or when you have confirmed a worm problem on your farm. The only way you will know that you have a worm problem is by performing routine fecal floats, which identify parasite eggs that the adult worms produce. In herd situations, we sometimes take it a step further, recommending only to deworm individual animals that have positive fecal floats and are currently showing clinical signs, including poor weight gain, anemia, unthriftiness, and poor body condition.

The principle behind why this works, is that the predominant driving force for the development of resistant strains of worms, is when they are exposed to deworming drugs. In other words, anytime a population of worms is exposed to a deworming drug, there is the possibility that

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ANIMAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS PLANNED FOR FALL 2008



Currently we are in the planning phase for a series of animal care workshops that will be hosted by the clinic. The goal of these clinics is to provide instruction and a learning opportunity for our clients, with the intention of improving animal husbandry at your farm or ranch.

We are in the process of brainstorming workshop topics. Already this fall we've hosted a camelid neonatology workshop concurrently with

CSU and the Alpaca Breeders of the Rockies.

In November we are planning on having a fecal floatation workshop to teach attendees how to perform and analyze fecal floats on the farm. Details to follow, so stay tuned to newsletters and website.

Other topics that are currently being discussed are a PAP-ing, or pulmonary artery pressure workshop for our beef producers, small rumi-

nant pre-breeding and early gestation workshop, and a medical procedures lab for all animal owners, where we discuss different routes of administering medication, and practice the proper technique and locations for giving injections.

We are looking for suggestions for other workshop topics. We cannot emphasize this enough. Please contact us with these ideas. You can call or email drtyler@tcvc.net with your suggestions.



Dr. Tyler Hotaling

INTRODUCING DR. TYLER HOTALING

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working on horses, dogs, and cats, and the joy of working in a mixed animal practice.

Dr. Hotaling lives in Johnstown with his fiancé Tina,

who is also a vet. Dr. Hotaling is a fervent Red Sox fan, and can be found alpine rock, snow, and ice climbing, when he's not tending to patients.

Please stop by the clinic to introduce yourself, and don't be surprised when it is he, and not Dr. Thompson who answers your late night emergency calls.

FECAL SAMPLES FOR TCVC PARASITE STUDY

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resistant individual worms will be present, survive our treatment, and go on to produce resistant offspring.

This does not mean that you should never deworm your animals. Practically, this does not make sense. It does mean that deworming animals should not be taken lightly and that you should consult a veterinarian to design a custom deworming schedule.

OUR PROPOSAL

We are offering to perform our fecal exams free of charge for the first 200 samples submitted. The number of samples per farm will be limited to 10, and we will accept samples from all species. We ask that you then deworm your animals with a drug of your choosing, and then resubmit a fecal sample from the same animals 2-weeks following deworming. Of course we will communicate the results of our fecal exam to you immediately. We will then

compile the results and publish them in our next newsletter.

The purpose of this study is to, 1) determine the prevalence and type of worms within our client herds, and to 2) examine the effectiveness of each deworming drug in decreasing the worm burden. The latter will be used as an indication of worm resistance in our area.

Visit our website to download our fecal submission form, and don't hesitate to contact us with questions.

"HOW DO YOU PREVENT [WORM] RESISTANCE? THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE, BUT THE EXPLANATION IS COMPLICATED."