

# Cannington Veterinary Services Professional Corporation

*Our vision is to deliver superior animal health management solutions for our patients while providing value to our clients, a rewarding working experience for our practice team and support for our community*

*Our team is committed to delivering the highest quality of veterinary medicine and exceptional customer service with integrity, compassion and accountability. We strive to keep up to date with advances in veterinary medicine that will enable us to stay leaders in the deliverance of high quality veterinary services to our clients and their animals.*



## What is new at the clinic?

The summer has breezed by for everyone at CVS and fall is now upon us. We had a steady summer and now look forward to the changes that this new season brings for us all. For some, this may mean busy weekends exhibiting at fall fairs; introducing a ram to your flock of ewes; or taking in the slow change of the colour of the leaves while out on a ride.

You may have already met our new Co-op student from Brock Highschool, Rebecca Doble, who will be spending her afternoons with CVS until January.

Don't forget you can always check us out on the web at [www.canningtonvet.ca](http://www.canningtonvet.ca) or provide us with your email if you wish to receive an electronic format of our quarterly newsletters!

### Small Ruminants

Nutritional Management is the one of the most important management items producers should be concerned about. Ewes that are fed well balanced diets are more fertile, milk better and wean more lambs that grow faster. Not only do well fed ewes wean more pounds of lamb per year, but they are healthier and more resistant to infections and disease than ewes that are under Nutritional Stress.

Free choice salt-vitamin-mineral premix should be made available at all times, unless a premix has been incorporated into the grain ration or TMR (total mixed ration). In the very least, ewes and does should be fed free choice mineral during late gestation and lactation. Either a loose mineral or mineral block may be offered. For ewes - supplementing selenium via the feed or mineral is preferred to giving selenium injections.

*"It goes without saying that nutrition exerts a very large influence on flock reproduction, milk production, and lamb and kid growth." OMAFRA*



## Inside

**Small Ruminant** *Nutrition Matters!*

**Equine** *Straight From the Horse's Mouth...*

**Bovine** *Lepto – have you reviewed your herd's program?*

*New! Bovikalc Bolus*

## Straight From the Horse's Mouth

This is the time of year that you may be gearing up to prepare your stable for winter. Part of that process may include reviewing the feed you have available for the winter months. Nutrition is a key management factor, and in order to ensure that your horses are benefiting from all of the nutrients you are providing them with starts with the very basics – have you examined their oral health lately? Providing the right nutrition is important, but ensuring that they are able to mechanically process those grains and hay is just as essential!

### Signs of Dental Problems

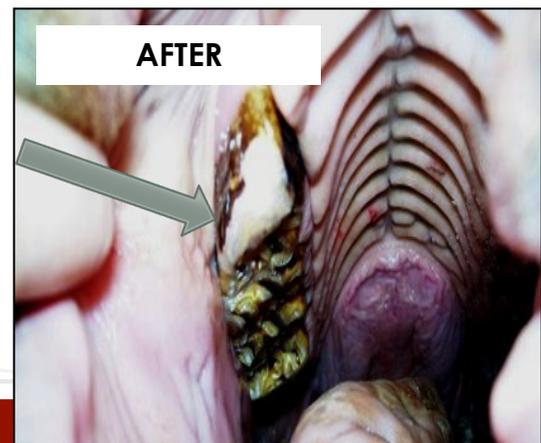
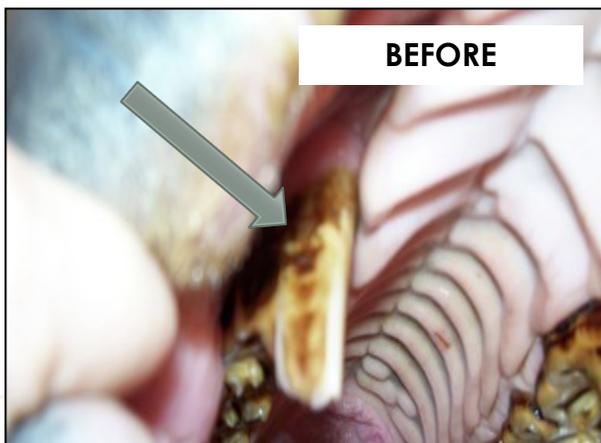
- Weight loss
- Quiding (where horse spits out rolled balls of feed )
- Pulling head to one side/head shaking
- Reluctance to eat
- Trouble adapting to bit
- Bad breath
- Swelling in certain parts of the head (e.g. under jaw, side of face)
- Possible impactions and colic



Part of a routine checkup by the veterinarians at Cannington Veterinary Services is a brief dental examination to determine the health of your horse's mouth. One of the more common problems encountered are the rostral hooks on the first large cheek teeth at the top of the mouth. Many times there will be caudal hooks on the last large cheek teeth at the bottom of the mouth as well.

Below are some pictures of what these teeth look like. You can well imagine that some of the signs mentioned above will be present with this dental abnormality. These hooks are common when horses have an overbite (commonly known as "parrot mouth") as well as when horses are fed off the ground which can cause the jaw to move back and present a malocclusion leading to these hooks forming.

With the use of a powerfloat by a skilled veterinarian, most of these dental problems can be corrected with results as seen below.



# Is Your Herd Adequately Protected?

***“Is the gamble worth it? Such risks make vaccination your safest bet by ensuring your herd’s health and reproductive efficiency.”***

*-Kathy Larson and Leah Pearce, 2010*



Leptospirosis, commonly referred to as “lepto,” is caused by the spiral-shaped bacteria *Leptospira*, which has more than 400 subclassifications called “serovars.”

Serovars are typically associated with one or more maintenance hosts that serve as reservoirs of infection. In other words, maintenance hosts carry the bacteria and expose other susceptible animals. Maintenance hosts can be wildlife species or domestic animals, including livestock. For example, Lepto Hardjo-Bovis maintenance host is cattle. Leptospirosis is also a zoonotic disease. Zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that can be passed among animals (wild or domesticated) and humans.

## Signs

The clinical signs of lepto depend on the herd’s degree of resistance or immunity, the infecting serovar, and the age of the animal infected. In herds with adequate resistance, ideally developed through a good vaccination program or in some cases natural exposure, cattle may be infected with the organism but not show signs of disease.

*Leptospira hardjo-bovis* is the only host-adapted lepto serovar in cattle and can infect animals at any age, including young calves. Cattle are the maintenance host for hardjo-bovis, and infection with this serovar will often produce a carrier state in the kidneys associated with long-term urinary shedding. Infections with hardjo-bovis can persist in the reproductive tract. This can result in infertility from persistent reproductive tract infections and is perhaps the most economically damaging aspect of leptospirosis. Low antibody titers

are typically associated with hardjo-bovis infections, therefore making detection and diagnosis difficult.

## Transmission

Leptospirosis is transmitted either directly between animals or indirectly through the environment. The *Leptospira* organism is most commonly shed in the urine of an infected animal and can be shed through aborted fetuses as well, thus infecting animals directly or contaminating the environment. The source of infection can therefore be an infected animal or water/feed that has been contaminated with infected urine. Organisms gain entry to the body through the membranes of the eyes, nose, mouth, and even the skin, especially if it is injured or water softened. Infected animals also commonly shed the bacteria in placental fluids and milk

## Prevention

Attempting to prevent leptospirosis through regular herd vaccination is the best approach. At a minimum, annual vaccination of bulls, cows, and replacement heifers at 4-6 months of age and again at 1-2 months pre-breeding is recommended. We have a product that incorporates the Hardjo Bovis serovar in it’s formula, so be sure to ask us how to effectively get the most out of your vaccine for optimal coverage!

Please do not hesitate to contact us today to review your current vaccination protocol or to get your herd started!



*Ask us about the*



# Bovikalcalc Bolus

*Now available !*

This unique nutritional supplement comes in an oral bolus that provides rapid and extended support of blood calcium levels in freshening dairy cattle. This product is to be used in dairy cattle that are at risk of developing milk fever.

One bolus contains 42g of available calcium that is provided in 2 different formulations:

- calcium chloride (available to the animal immediately)
- calcium sulphate (provides sustained release of calcium)

Studies have demonstrated that Bovikalcalc can aid in reducing the risk of milk fever. Subclinical milk fever can affect milk production, fertility and other metabolic diseases. All cows at calving have a theoretical risk of milk fever, however, risk does increase with age and parity. Individual cattle or herds at a greater risk include: lactation 2+, high yielding cows, previous history of milk fever, body condition score >3.5

Bovikalcalc is an easy to administer, prophylactic treatment that may be of benefit on your farm. Do not hesitate to ask us about how it can be integrated as a part of your herd management protocol for the prevention or follow up treatment of milk fever for your cattle!