



puppy
chatter!



TCI Vets First Newsletter!

We are excited to have our first newsletter available to our valued clients!

It sure has been a busy few months here at TCI Vets. On the 8th March we employed Jody Robinson-Wildey as part-time administrative assistant. Jody has already proven herself an extremely valuable addition to the business and I am sure many of you will be grateful for the rapid turnaround of paperwork since she has been on the team!

Jody was a very successful NZCF registered cat breeder for 23 years until March 2019 and now breeds Wiltshire sheep. She worked for Dogs NZ to enter and collate health test results, back in mid 2019 so has familiarity with the organization, people, and health testing.

Jody's background means she understands breeders and is skilled at communicating with clients. She has an Animal Care Diploma and a sound knowledge of the veterinary industry. Her strengths are organization, communication and time management which makes her a perfect fit for our business. It is an exciting time and we will be looking at expanding services now that I have had some time freed up!

Jody will be the point of contact for all new enquiries and bookings for health testing, X-rays, semen collection, consults and import/export enquiries. Please email repro@tcivets.co.nz

Don't worry! We still have the amazing Chrissy at Totally Vets who you will often see for those progesterone bloods, health tests and so on. I am so very grateful to both ladies for all the help they give me. I truly couldn't do it without them.

Dr Becky.

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#TCIPUPPIES! - A TESTIMONIAL

DAVID MARSHALL AND MAT GREEN
YACANTO GREAT DANES

Breeding dogs is easy! they say, not so if you've actually bred a litter. With the guidance from Becky our litter of 11 Great Danes was the least stressful it could have possibly been.

Right from the start, Becky of TCI vets was simply the best, our AI appointment using frozen semen was timed perfectly with blood tests from our local vet to ensure the best possible chance of conception.

Being involved in the process was pretty exciting and seeing Becky at work was impressive. The day 23 scan confirmed we had a litter, with the warning we should prepare for a large litter!

Becky checked in regularly with us as "D" day loomed. Mum, (Marlie) was huge, and with consultation with Becky it was a decided an elective C-section was the best option for Marlie. Six days before the due date Marlie was looking pretty uncomfortable and exhibited what we thought was early labour. Another panicked call to Becky to check her over ensured all the babies were fine. We probably overreacted but Becky was so reassuring, we relaxed once more, keeping everything crossed awaiting the due date.

The day before the due date we were concerned that Marlie was "not right" so another panicked phone call to Becky and an urgent appointment was organized. Becky left nothing to chance, while we were heading to Feilding Becky had the surgical team on stand by. Once examined and puppies were still happy it was recommended we deliver today !!!

The result was 11 beautiful puppies and a very much happier mum.

The experience of having a litter combined with the amazing assistance, advise and help from Becky made it so less stressful and a most rewarding 9 weeks, resulting in healthy happy puppies.

We can't thank Becky (and the team at Totally Vets) enough for everything.

Without hesitation we recommend and encourage anyone serious about breeding dogs, to contact Becky, you won't be disappointed.

MARLIE AND HER PUPPIES



*It was an absolute pleasure to be involved David, Mat and Marlie.
Thanks for trusting us with these valuable genetics! Dr Becky.*

TCI Vets - Our Services

DR. BECKY MURPHY RUNS TCI VETS, A DEDICATED CANINE REPRODUCTION & HEALTH TESTING PRACTICE, FROM THE TOTALLY VETS FEILDING CLINIC, 25 MANCHESTER STREET, FEILDING AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING SERVICES:

- Breeding planning including progesterone blood sampling and advising when to breed
- Artificial insemination
 - Fresh semen
 - MAVIC catheter (intra-vaginal)
 - TCI Endoscope (intra-uterine)
 - Chilled or Frozen Semen
 - TCI Endoscope (intra-uterine)
- Semen collection
 - Assessment
 - Freezing into straws for storage in liquid nitrogen
- Semen Transport
 - Export to Australia and most other countries in the world.
 - Import from Australia and most other countries in the world
 - Currently preparing shipments to/from Denmark, USA, Germany and the Netherlands
- MPI Export Certification to Australia (cat/dog & semen)
- Health Testing
 - Penn HIP
 - NZVA Elbows
 - ANKC Hip/Elbows
 - DNA testing
 - Dogs NZ Certifications

Email Jody!
 REPRO@TCIVETS.CO.NZ
 TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENTS



FADING PUPPY SYNDROME/NEONATAL DEATH

WRITTEN BY DR. BECKY MURPHY

Without doubt, the most frustrating and heart-breaking side of breeding dogs is neonatal deaths. There has been so much expense, thought and consideration poured into health testing, sire selection, artificial insemination and the list goes on, that to lose even one puppy is devastating.

There are many causes of fading puppy syndrome but they generally fall into three categories – environmental, infectious and genetic. Expected overall neonatal mortality can vary from 12% to 36%.

Environmental causes

The most significant environmental influence on neonatal mortality is hypothermia. In their first week of life, a puppies body temperatures varies with environmental temperature – they cannot regulate their body temperatures until after day 6 where the ability to shiver develops. Normal body temperature in puppies less than one week old is between 35 – 36.7C, by the fourth week normal temperatures are the same as adults.

A puppy with hypothermia does not suckle well, is unable to digest food, and develops a slow heart and gut and eventually circulatory collapse which rapidly causes death.

Hyperthermia is less common and normally as a result of hot climates or heat sources which are too hot. The bitch and her condition can affect the survival of neonates. It has been shown that as a bitch ages, the neonatal death rate increases in her offspring. Obesity has been shown to contribute to neonatal loss in bitches so keeping her at optimal weight is very important. Bitches who deliver by caesarean section are at increased risk of poor mothering and neonatal losses which is likely due to the effect of the anesthetic drugs on the pups, postoperative pain in the bitch and lack of hormonal stimulation. Many breeders I speak with report lines of bitches who are better or worse mothers so there may also be some hereditary aspect.

Infectious causes

Bacterial infection can result from contaminated environments or the bitch if she has a postpartum metritis. Group B streptococcus has been identified as a cause of neonatal death although it is not clear how significant this is in New Zealand. It is more common to see viral infections as a cause of infectious neonatal losses namely canine herpesvirus, hepatitis and parvovirus. Herpesvirus can cause mild respiratory complaint in adult dogs but causes abortion and early neonatal death if contracted by the bitch during the last three weeks of gestation. Neonatal illness and death can result if the puppy is exposed in the birth canal or during the first three weeks of life.

The puppies will show crying and abdominal pain. Respiratory signs are sometimes seen, and sudden death is common. Diagnosis can be made by post-mortem examination and observation of distinctive changes in the kidneys, liver and intestines. MPI Animal Health Laboratory can perform live virus isolation from those organs. There is no vaccine available in New Zealand to protect from this virus. Preventative measures that breeders can take are to always practice diligent hygiene and to ensure the puppies are always kept in an appropriately warm environment. Sadly, the prognosis is poor for neonates who contract this virus and death is the most common outcome.



FADING PUPPY SYNDROME/NEONATAL LOSS cont.

Intestinal parasites can complicate fading puppy syndrome but are not often the primary cause. Roundworms and hookworms are transmitted across the placenta and most puppies are born with these parasites. This is why its so important to follow an appropriate worming regime with your bitch and her puppies. Coccidia infection causes watery diarrhoea which is sometimes bloody and can be life-threatening to neonates. Coccidia are very common and not necessarily due to poor husbandry, they are spread by the faecal-oral route so it is important to pick up faeces as soon as you see them. Coccidia oocysts are resistant to commonly used disinfectants so can be very challenging to overcome.

Genetic

Coefficients of inbreeding can provide valuable insight into neonatal losses. Fatal genes have more likelihood of doubling up the more closely related the sire and dam. In one study, litters with a low COI (0 to 0.25) had a 10-day mortality rate of 26.5%. Highly inbred litters, with a COI of 0.734 to 0.785, had a 10-day mortality rate of 73%. Breeding of siblings or continued line breeding results in increased mortality rates when the COI is greater than 0.375.¹³ There are many COI calculators available online, and Dogs NZ will investigate providing a tool for members to automatically generation COI for proposed matings.

There are many causes of fading puppies and neonatal loss. By maintaining good, hygienic kennel facilities and whelping areas, following vaccination and parasitic control programmes, and studying pedigrees to ensure the COI is not too high, will help to minimize losses.

Please always seek the advice of your veterinarian if you have concerns with the health of your bitch and/or puppies.

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- Macintire DK. Pediatric intensive care. *Vet Clin North Am Small Anim Pract* 1999;29:971-988.
- Meyers-Wallen VN, Haskins ME, Giger U, et al. Genetic factors influencing neonatal mortality, in *Proceedings. Soc Therio Annu Meet* 1988;261-273.



COMPETITION TIME!!

We are looking for high-resolution photos of #tcipuppies for our calendar and use in publications, such as this newsletter!

These photos can be of newborn puppies, or as grown-ups in the ring, or doing their work.

We will share these on our Facebook page and the photo with the most "likes" wins a \$250 TCI Vets voucher and 6 months of flea and worm treatment!!

Email photos to repro@tcivets.co.nz with a short description by the end of June 2021 to be in to win.

**WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED OUR VERY FIRST NEWSLETTER!
PLEASE EMAIL JODY, REPRO@TCIVETS.CO.NZ IF YOU HAVE ANY
SUGGESTIONS FOR TOPICS OR STORIES FOR FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**