

Paul & Stacey Waite/Clough — winners of Frontline Plus (MerialAncare) competition. *Paul is pictured receiving the coffee machine from* vet nurse Jill.

New Drench Pricing Policy for 2013

We have an aggressive new pricing policy for all our cattle & sheep drenches. If you have been buying your drenches from us regularly then you are in for a pleasant surprise the next time you come in to pick up your favourite anthelmintic. If you have drifted away from us on the assumption that we were too expensive and you would get a sharper deal from OTC outlets, think again. Come in and talk to our Trading Manager,

John Larkin, or give him a call. He's got some fabulous deals available and is champing at the bit to help you out.

Pressure to Cull Reduced with Metacam[®]20

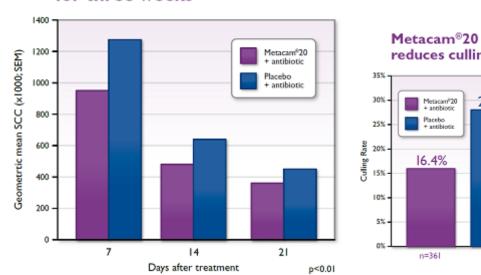
In recent years there has been an increased move to treating mastitis cases with an anti-inflammatory as well as an appropriate antibiotic. Logic suggested that adding an anti-inflammatory relieved pain and swelling & in so doing increased the chance of a successful treatment. Anecdotal evidence from clients who have added an anti-inflammatory (any anti-inflammatory) to their treatment regime suggested it did indeed seem to help. Now the people who make Metacam 20 have discovered an added bonus to using their anti-inflammatory alongside a mastitis treatment: reduced culling rates. I'll let them tell the story:

Adding the potent anti-inflammatory Metacam[®]20 with an antibiotic for the treatment of mild mastitis had a significant impact on culling rates, according to a recent NZ study. In the study, the outcomes of treating with a course of antibiotic alone vs. a combination of antibiotic and single injection of Metacam[®]20 were compared. The culling rate for the cows receiving tandem therapy was almost half that of the group receiving antibiotic alone (28.2 vs 16.4%, an 11.8% difference).

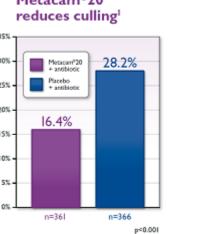
There was also a speedier return to quality milk, as Metacam[®]20 prompted a significantly faster decrease in Somatic Cell Count of affected quarters.

The large trial included herds from Southland, Canterbury, Waikato and Taranaki, with a massive 767 cows enrolled, ensuring reliable findings.

Come talk to one of our veterinary team to discuss your mastitis treatment protocol.



Metacam[®]20 reduced SCC for three weeks¹





APRIL 2013

Drought broken? That probably depends where you are when you read this. Either way the effects of this drought will be felt for a long time to come and a number of the articles in this newsletter allude to this; specifically what you need to think about as we go into a long winter.

Facial eczema has been impossible to predict this autumn and every time I've tried it has been a spectacular failure. As I write this the conditions are warm and wet in Eltham, which are perfect for spore growth and if we happen to get bright sunny weather in the next couple of weeks then eczema could show itself well into May. My old boss, Dave Higham, always said that the worst outbreaks he saw in Eltham occurred in May so be aware and watch the trends all across the province. On the Okato coast this week there have been deaths due to FE and counts over 700,000!

David Lloyd and family are on their way in a little over a month, returning to Nicola Childs Frank Suter scan for the winter. His wife Lynwen enjoyed herself so much last year that she is coming again with their little girl (who will now be a toddler) Nanci so it will be great to see them again & I'm sure you will make them all **Farewell to our** welcome as you always do. This is the last year of David's 3 year "Regional Manager" approval in principle from Immigration to continue to work here and we will have to go through the whole process again next year to get It's been a few years... how many? At least 23 by my reckoning & possibly more that our him back (assuming he wants to). Given some of the controversy self-appointed "regional manager" Richard last time, I may need to call on your assistance next year to persuade Bartley has been running a depot for us out Immigration that his services are definitely still required. of his Hollard Engineering headquarters in I'm really looking forward to golf day this year; partly because I Kaponga. Richard has been part of our watched the Masters over the weekend & loved it & because I'm extended family for a long time but like all planning on actually joining a golf club next year when both boys children he has finally decided it's time for have left home but also because we have a local identity as our guest him to leave home & see the big world out speaker this year. If you have ever listened to a rugby there. In other words he's sold his business commentary from Yarrows Stadium or a cricket commentary from & he's moving to New Plymouth. Pukekura Park then you will have heard the "Voice of Taranaki" We will be very sorry to see him go but Phil Quinney. Phil is about as Taranaki as you can get, is a great guy obviously wish him all the best in his new and I'm sure will provide wonderful entertainment this year life in the big smoke with his partner as he spins countless yarns from his many years calling sport & Christine. interviewing sports people in our great province. He's probably too stingy to have a farewell I look forward to seeing you there on 6th June. for his clients at the workshop & possibly

Finally, even though it's only April this will be the last newsletter before the 1st June changeover so to any clients who will be leaving us then thank you for your support & business with us and best of luck wherever you head next. It's been a pleasure.





Clinic & Farm Supplies Railway Street, Eltham Ph. (06) 764 8196 www.elthamvetservice.co.nz **Trading Depot** Hollard Engineering, Victoria Street, Kaponga Ph. (06) 764 6686 J Larkin 0274 482 585

Veterinarians

Alistair McDougall BVSc - CEO Giles Gilling BVSc BSc MRCVS Andrew Weir BVSc, PGDip (Epi) Jim Robins BVSc,BSc,DipPharm Polly Otterson BVSc,MSc, Teresa Carr BVSc Adrian Clark BVSc Linley Gilling BVSc Lindsav Lash BVSc James Bruce BVSc Leon Christensen BVSc **Office** John Larkin BBS Joan Hughes Jill Watson Sue Morresey

even plans to simply sneak away when he clears his desk (that might take more than a day) & shuts the door on April 30th so you had better get your goodbyes in while you still have the chance.

The depot will remain running from Hollard Engineering under its new owners Sandra & Michael Clark so don't worry; you can still pick up most of what you need from there but after 30th April you won't find a talkative Welshman greeting you at the door.

All the best big fella and many thanks from all of us at Eltham Vets

DRYING OFF MANAGEMENT

The way in which cows are managed during drying off, and how the process itself is done, can have a significant impact on the outcome. Dry Cow Therapy is a significant investment in your herd so we have put together a few pointers below to help you get the most out of it. For further information, there is an Administration Guide available from the clinic or from www.teatseal.co.nz. This website also has a video demonstrating how to correctly administer dry cow therapy and Teatseal tubes and a short online training course with a certificate which is suitable for anyone who will be administering dry cow therapy or Teatseal.

PREPARATION

Recommendations on a DCT programme suitable for your herd will be made during your Milk Quality consult. Also, check out the new SmartSAMM tools on www.smartsamm.co.nz to see what your best options are. Once you have decided on your programme it is wise to get all product on farm, ready to be used when required. You will also need to make sure to have plenty of gloves, paper towels, teat wipes, teat spray and spray paint ready.

Groups of cows should be selected for dry off based on milk volumes, SCC, body condition score and calving date. Guidelines around this can be found in the SmartSAMM plan, or can be discussed with one of the vet team. DRYING OFF

It is important to make sure you have plenty of help on hand and plenty of time to do the job properly. If you are drying off after a morning milking and it is cold, the intramammary products can sometimes be harder to administer. If you find this is happening, the bucket of tubes can be placed in a larger bucket of hot water to gently warm the syringes up without getting them wet. **Do not put the syringes directly into the water** because water can carry bacteria which may cause infection if transferred into the udder on the syringe.



The udder should be clean and dry. Disinfect the teat end using **at least one teat wipe per teat**; making sure the wipe comes away clean when you are finished. When removing the cap from the Dry Cow syringe, be sure not to



touch the end of the nozzle (and don't use your mouth!). **Partially** insert the nozzle into the teat end and infuse the product (full insertion can damage the delicate inner lining of the teat and it has been shown to reduce effectiveness). If using an antibiotic, be sure to massage it from the teat up into the udder. If using Teatseal in combination or alone it must NOT be massaged into the udder, but must stay in the teat canal. It is best to disinfect and treat one teat at a time, starting with the front left teat and working clockwise round the udder.

Treat all four quarters and follow with freshly mixed teat spray of the correct concentration. Immediately after treatment, mark each cow and record the id number and treatment given.

AFTER TREATMENT

Once the mob has been treated and clearly identified, they should be walked quietly back to a clean paddock, preferably away from the milking shed and the milking mob. The cows should have access to water and a maintenance ration. Avoid activity that may encourage excessive soiling or movement of the udder during the dry period. The dried off mob should be checked daily for the first week or so for any swollen udders that may need investigating. It is best to keep the treated mob away from the dairy shed for the first week to avoid milk let down, which can slow down the process of udder dry off and affect the teat plug formation.

If you or your staff need any further information or training on dry off management please contact one of our vet team.

Keep an eye out for Liver Fluke in your Stock

The drought conditions throughout the country have resulted in both sheep and cattle grazing in areas they otherwise wouldn't. In many situations animals have been foraging in or near swampy areas in search of feed. Whilst it is important to utilise any pasture growth available, caution needs to be sounded when cattle or sheep are grazing in swampy areas, or closer to natural water sources than they normally would. The reason for this is due to liver fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*) a parasite infecting ruminants.

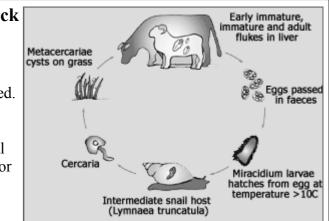
The life cycle of liver fluke requires an intermediate host, a freshwater snail of the *Lymnaea* species to complete its life cycle. This snail is commonly found around swampy areas, close to natural water courses and increasingly, on irrigated pasture. Stock grazing close to these areas are more likely to become infected with liver fluke. The major concern with liver fluke is due to the loss of production as a result of liver damage. This loss often goes un-noticed initially but shows up as decreased weight gain, lowered milk production and reduced feed conversion. The negative impact of liver fluke can persist for long periods if not treated so in a season where stock need to be able to utilise all inputs, providing an effective fluke treatment to those stock at risk is important.

There are a number of treatment options available to best suit your farming system. For dairy cattle, IVOMEC[®] Plus containing both ivermectin and clorsulon is ideal because of its control of adult liver fluke and short 14 day milk withholding period. GENESIS[®] Ultra Pour On has the convenience of being a pour-on and controls both immature and mature stages of liver fluke. GENESIS Ultra pour-on with triclabendazole is ideally suited for treating beef cattle. Sheep are also well catered for with GENESIS[®] Ultra Oral Hi-Min, containing abamectin and closantel for control of liver fluke as well as persistent efficacy against Barber's Pole worm. Feel free to talk to our trading manager John Larkin for the best advice & great drench deals; he's got the boss's approval to sharpen his pencil for you this autumn.

New Study Reinforces Cattle Drench Recommendations

There has been a lot of discussion lately on which treatment method is best for cattle. Results of recent research¹ on New Zealand cattle showed single active moxidectin treatment still had very good efficacy against *Ostertagia*, regardless of application type. At this time of year with calves getting more difficult to handle, the ability to use a pour on or injectable product makes treatment safer, easier and faster, and given correct application, without compromising efficacy. The moxidectin FECRT results specifically for *Ostertagia* in the AgResearch trial showed 99.8% efficacy for oral treatment; 99.7% for injection, and 99.9% for pour-on application. The fact that macrocyclic lactone pour-on is still working so well against Ostertagia after many years of use is reassuring of its place and worth on farms in NZ.

As is usual for young cattle in New Zealand the FECs were dominated by *Cooperia*. The study was useful in that it reinforced some key recommendations, such as why we don't advise using a single active ML drench to treat *Cooperia*. Only 5 out of the 14 farms in the trial achieved greater than 95% efficacy with oral moxidectin treatment, and none via injection or pour-on. When trying to treat *Cooperia* this paper indicates that the current recommendation of using a levamisole containing drench is valid. The distinction between the two main parasites is critical – *Cooperia* live mainly in the lumen of the animal's small intestine, while *Ostertagia* larvae cause damage living in the abomasal wall. These are two quite different types of worm, living in two different areas of the body, with vastly different drench sensitivity. While lungworm and *Ostertagia* remain the two most important roundworms of NZ cattle *Cooperia* is important in young stock and so a combination product is recommended. Sustainable and profitable drenching involves choosing the best drench type, timing and treatment regime. Come and talk to us to get the best options for your farm. 1. Leathwick, D.M., Miller, C.M., Efficacy of oral, injectable and pour-on formulations of moxidectin against gastrointestinal nematodes in cattle in New Zealand, Veterinary Parasitology (2012).



Fencepost 3rd Party Access

Thanks to a good number of you who indicated in this year's dry cow consult that you were prepared to grant us 3rd party access to your milk production & quality and SCC records on your fencepost accounts. That's much appreciated. The only problem is that while many of you have said you would and we e-mailed you instructions on how to do it, not many, if any (sounds like a song that...) actually have gone ahead & granted us 3rd party access.

It's easy. Just go into your account, click on My Profile then down the left click on Manage Access then "invite individuals to have access"

A screen will pop up and as we are an existing Fencepost user all you have to do is type our user name in, which is **Elthamvets**. Then click the Find User button to validate access & complete the process. You will be given options on what you want us to see. All we need are Milk Production & Quality and SCC records.

If you're not sure whether you have granted us access or not you can find that out also in the manage access section -some of you may need to refresh access that has expired. Also if vou shifted at the end of last season you will have to re-grant us access for your new farm.

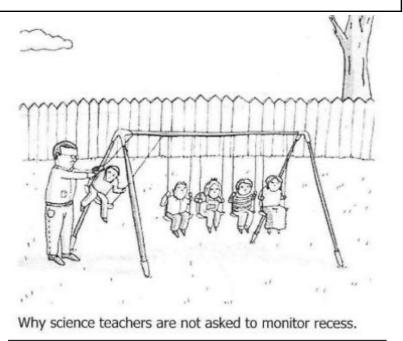
Once the process is complete we will receive an e-mail from Fonterra telling us & then you're in the system. It takes about 2 minutes. Go on

Lepto 3-Way

VACCINATIONS DUE NOW!!

All lepto vaccinations — herd, incalf heifers and last years calves should now be uptodate with calves having received two shots four weeks apart.

Give the office a call if any of your animals have been missed or as soon has your heifers return from grazing.



LIC's 6 week In-calf Challenge

We have signed up to support LIC's new programme aimed at helping dairy farmers get more cows in-calf quicker. The free programme, called the 6 Week Challenge, encourages farmers to register at www.6weeks.co.nz to receive a range of great tools and information that will help them lift their herds' reproductive performance and increase their 6 week in-calf rate. We've registered on the 6 Week Challenge website, so you can nominate us as your advisor when you register. Then we'll be notified so we can provide on going support and advice to help you get results. The programme, which supports the DairyNZ InCalf initiative, was developed after research identified this area to be one of a farmer's top concerns. It applies a year-round focus on reproduction management and highlights the importance of the 6 week in-calf rate as a measure of success.

For more information about the 6 Week Challenge and to register, visit www.6weeks.co.nz

"Morning Sex"

She was standing in the kitchen, preparing our usual soft-boiled eggs and toast for breakfast, wearing only the 'T' shirt that she normally slept in. As he walked in, almost awake, she turned to him and said softly. *You've got to make love to me this very* moment!" *His eyes lit up and he thought, I am*

either still dreaming or this is going to be my lucky day!"

Not wanting to lose the moment, he embraced her and then gave it his all; right there on the kitchen table. Afterwards she said, Thanks," and returned to the stove, her T-shirt still around her neck.

Happy, but a little puzzled, he asked, What was that all about?" She explained, The egg timer's broken."

PREGNANCY TESTING RESULTS

The results of pregnancy testing are in. With most herds in our area already scanned the average empty rate for this season is looking great at 8.8%. This is a huge drop from the norm. The average empty rate of herds that we scan generally sits at 10-11% every year. So why the improvement? We used less Cidrs in spring, and in general herds milked very well with many herds at record production up until it got dry. Can this be explained by just having a "good season"? While spring was better than the snowy spring the previous year it wasn't particularly nice and grass growth was no better than normal. So what was different? We had a great autumn last season and this meant cows were fed well and ended up in good condition at calving. Having cows in good condition at calving (Body Condition Score (BCS) 5 for cows and 5.5 for heifers and second calvers) has many positive ongoing effects. Cows that calve at BCS 5 produce 12kgMS more than if they calve at BCS4. Body condition score also has a huge impact on reproductive performance. Cows that calve at BCS5 on average cycle 8 days sooner after calving than a cow that calves at a 4 and the cow that calves at a 5 will have a better conception rate. Thinner cows tend to have more uterine infections and may have higher levels of mastitis. Thin cows at calving are more likely to have bull calves the following season. So cows that calve at BCS5 cycle sooner, have more cycles before mating, have higher conception rates, have less animal health problems and are more likely to have a heifer calf the following season than cows that calve at BCS4 So how do you ensure your herd is calving at BCS5? Obviously feeding management and strategic drying off are vitally important but to ensure you are reaching target, BCS needs to be measured. Thinking the cows look pretty good, probably close to a 5 is a lot different to knowing. Measuring involves putting aside 45 minutes to an hour and individually scoring and recording at least 70 cows. This can be done in the shed or in the paddock. Good times to score the herd are; early autumn to help with drying off decisions, before calving to see if cows have reached target, and before mating to assess how much weight cows have lost. Dairy NZ have a good booklet out that helps with condition scoring but it may be a good idea to get someone independent to assess the cows like a farm advisor or a vet. There are a number of vets at the clinic who have been accredited to assess BCS. Ring anytime for an appointment.

Consider BCS this Autumn

With the effects of the drought clearly seen across the country, finding adequate feed this year has been a priority. A large number of herds have been on once a day milking for some time now with some drying off already. It is an important time to consider the body condition score (BCS) of the herd and in particular the heifers heading into winter.

It will come as no surprise to many farmers that BCS at calving is a vital influencer of milk production and reproductive performance in dairy cattle. In fact a cow that calves at BCS 4 will produce less and cycle later than a cow that calves at BCS 5. The lost days in milk from cycling later result in a further loss of 15-20 kgs of milk production the following season.

The optimal BCS at calving should be 5 with all heifers and 1st calvers above 5 if possible. Due to the increased demands of the foetus and udder development during the late dry period it is difficult to put weight on cows at this time. Cows put on body weight up to 20% more efficiently during lactation compared with the dry period. These two facts make it a preferable option to increase BCS now and dry cows off as close to the optimal calving BCS as possible.

Farmers need to realise what BCS their cows are in now, what production they can sustain and what inputs (in grazed pasture and feed supplements) are required to obtain optimal BCS at dry off. Condition scoring the herd is an important job that should be done accurately as a task by itself, not just during milking or following the cows into the shed before milking. A selection of cows should be scored to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ a BCS in order to achieve this accuracy.

Pasture budgets and an accurate assessment of what supplements are available is the other side of the equation to be considered when trying to achieve the desired BCS at dry off. It is important to remember that as pasture covers return, so too will parasite worm challenge and at a time when cows need to be able to utilise all inputs. Trial work in New Zealand and overseas has shown that there is an economic response in milk production and increased weight gains to treatment of lactating cows and heifers with EPRINEX®, eprinomectin pour on treatment for dairy cows. The nil milk withholding of EPRINEX means that it can be used during lactation to take advantage of the increased efficiency of weight gain during lactation & help reduce further losses in condition before dry off. This autumn farmers can give their cows every chance of making important BCS targets by using EPRINEX during lactation. Whether it is a selective treatment of lighter condition cows, or whole herd treatment to take full advantage of the extra milk production, you will know that you are on target to prepare your herd for next season. This season is already turning out to be a very challenging one. Don't let it unduly influence next season's production.

Talk to your Merial Territory Manager or Vet about using EPRINEX in late lactation this year.

Bulk Tank BVD Testing Update

We now have updated prices for next season. The price for the full bulk tank testing package (2 virus and antibody tests 2 weeks apart and another antibody test in the autumn) will be \$357 + GST, and the price for the antibody only testing (just a single antibody test – only appropriate for low antibody and low risk herds) will be \$29.75 + GST. Also there seems to have been a bit of confusion about the difference between booking direct through LIC and booking through us so we'll put it another way.

The cost of the testing is the same either way.

The difference is: If you book through LIC you will receive a result and we get a copy of that result if we're listed as your vet. To ensure that you get the full value from BVD testing and control, we then interpret your test results and send you a full report with veterinary interpretation and advice tailored to protect your herd. The cost of this report is \$45. Now, if you book the tests through the clinic, we will waive this fee. If you booked your test direct with LIC and you don't want us to send you an additional \$45 report with an interpretation and advice, please let us know. If you book direct and opt out of our interpretation and advice, you'll still get the antibody ELISA S/P ratio, antibody category, PCR status, a graph showing recent history, a description of what the tests can mean, and often a comment that you should contact us for advice about what to do with the information.

If you haven't already booked your bulk tank testing, call and book it in.

THE SCOTTISH COW

The only cow in a small town in Ireland stopped giving milk. Then the town folk found

they could buy a cow in Scotland quite cheaply. *So, they brought the cow* over from Scotland.



It was absolutely wonderful, it produced lots of milk every day and everyone was happy.

They bought a bull to mate with the cow to get more cows, so they'd never have to worry about their milk supply again. They put the bull in the pasture with the cow but whenever the bull tried to mount the cow, the cow would move away. No matter what approach the bull tried, the cow would move away from the bull, and he was never able to do the deed. The people were very upset and decided to go to the Vet, who was very wise, tell him what was happening and ask his advice.

Whenever the bull tries to mount our cow, she moves away. If *he approaches from the back, she moves*

forward. When he approaches her from the front, she backs off.

If he attempts it from the one side, she walks away to the other side."

The Vet rubbed his chin thoughtfully and pondered this before asking,

Did you by chance, buy this cow in Scotland?"

The people were dumbfounded, since no one had ever mentioned that they had brought the cow over from Scotland.

You are truly a wise Vet, 'they said. How did you know we got the cow from Scotland?

The Vet replied with a distant look in his eye: *My wife is from Scotland*"

A little girl asked her Mum,

"How did the human race appear?" The Mum answered,

'God made Adam and Eve and they had children, and so was all mankind made ... " Two days later the girl asked her Dad the same question.



The Dad answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her mother and said,

"Mum, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Dad said they developed from monkeys?"

The mother answered,

"Well, Dear, it's very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your father told you about his ..."



HEIFER MASTITIS

Your heifers are the future of your herd and you have invested considerable money and time in them before they start milking. The quickest way to devalue this investment is calving mastitis, which often leaves heifers with light quarters and a high risk of being culled, and complicates their first few days in the shed. Heifer mastitis traditionally occurs within 7 days after calving when udders can be oedematous (swollen), and the teats open and dripping milk. These factors, along with others, mean the udder is much more susceptible to infection with environmental bacteria such as Strep. uberis. The cost of heifer mastitis was measured in a 2011 NZ study which found a case costs on average \$215! This was based on a \$7.50 payout, but some cases in this study were really expensive to treat – up to \$450. Have a look at the SmartSAMM gap calculator (www.smartsamm.co.nz) to see what gains you could make by reducing vour heifer mastitis levels.

There are a few ways you can reduce the amount of mastitis in your heifers. Management tools such as twice daily removal of calves and bringing the heifers in for milking from the springer mob have been shown to reduce clinical mastitis by 45%. You can also reduce heifer mastitis by approximately 70% by using Teatseal at around 4 weeks pre-calving. The Teatseal treatment of all heifers quickly pays for itself with this dramatic reduction in costly mastitis cases.

Dealing with the issue before calving by treating heifers with Teatseal also means a smoother run during calving when time is always at a premium. It also gives your heifers the best chance to remain uninfected as they enter the milking herd, so they produce to capacity and have a reduced risk of getting culled. Teatsealing heifers pre-calving is a surprisingly achievable job, especially when performed by our experienced team. Farms that have already tried Teatsealing heifers are repeating the treatment year after year in their first calvers.

Call the clinic to discuss heifer Teatsealing with your vet.

Your Parrot is Dead

At dawn the telephone rings.

Hello, Señor Bob? This is Ernesto, the caretaker at your country house." "Ah yes, Ernesto. What can I do for you? Is there a problem?" Um, I am just calling to advise you, Señor Bob, that your parrot, he is dead." *My* parrot? *Dead*? *The one that won the International competition*?" Si, Señor, that's the one." Damn! That's a pity! I spent a small fortune on that bird. What did he die from?" From eating the rotten meat, Señor Bob." Rotten meat? Who the hell fed him rotten meat?" Nobody, Señor. He ate the meat of the dead horse." Dead horse? What dead horse?" The thoroughbred, Señor Bob." *My prize thoroughbred is dead?"* Si, Señor Bob, he died from all that work pulling the water cart." "Are you insane? What water cart?" The one we used to put out the fire, Señor." Good Lord! What fire are you talking about, man?" The one at your house, Señor! A candle fell and the curtains caught on fire." What the hell? Are you saying that my mansion is destroyed because of a candle?!" Si. Señor Bob." But there's electricity at the house! What was the candle for?" For the funeral, Señor Bob." WHAT BLOODY FUNERAL??" Your wife's, Señor Bob. She showed up very late one night and I thought she was a thief, so I hit her with your new Ping G15 204g titanium head golf club with the TFC 149D graphite shaft." SILENCE. LONG SILENCE. VERY LONG SILENCE. Ernesto, if you broke that driver, you're in serious trouble."

