



All New Zealand Show



The fight of her life

“TO BE HONEST THREE DAYS LATER SHE WAS BACK TO NORMAL, IN TERMS OF BEING THAT BIG, CHEEKY CHARACTER AGAIN.” - STEPHEN

Watching their six-month-old Jersey calf fighting for her life was a soul-destroying lead-up to the New Zealand Dairy Event (NZDE) for Hamilton breeders Stephen and Annabelle Scherer.

The couple operate Charbelle Holsteins and Sherborne Jerseys, near Hamilton. They were in the middle of their preparation for the country's biggest show, when their mischievous show calf, Sherborne Casino Pippa, managed to get out of her paddock and gorge herself on 10kg of cracked wheat.

Grain overload releases carbohydrates into the rumen, which rapidly ferment instead of being digested normally. The bacteria then produce lactic acid, which causes acidosis, a slowing of the gut, dehydration, and more often than not... death.

Severe symptoms

Pippa presented with severe symptoms. She was depressed, dehydrated and bloated – falling over when she was led out of the pen.



SEVERE BLOATING AND DEHYDRATION ARE SYMPTOMS OF GRAIN OVERLOAD.
PHOTO: ANNABELLE SCHERER.

Stephen and Annabelle knew they were facing an uphill battle to save her. They rang their vet, Kylie van Ras, at the Morrinsville Veterinary Practice. She advised them to drench Pippa with baking soda, and to administer antibiotics, and anti-inflammatories. They also drenched her with electrolytes.

When she didn't respond as they had hoped, they called the vet again and asked Kylie to come to the farm to give Pippa IV [intravenous] fluids. They also decided to use a potent oral probiotic, BioRescue, which was introduced to New Zealand late last spring (2020).

The challenge with grain overload is getting the gut re-started, and when Kylie got to the farm she was worried.

"Grain overload changes the pH balance in the rumen, so it is full of gut content with bacteria that can't survive in that environment, so that's when everything starts to shut down," Kylie said. "She didn't have much rumen contraction happening at all, and she was pretty flat when I got there.

"It was definitely touch and go. But I also know how much Stephen and Annabelle love their cows, and how much work they were prepared to put in to save her. That helps a lot."

Annabelle said it was a harrowing night.

"I tell you what – after the fluids – when Pippa was just sitting there with her head on my lap, she looked so bad, I thought she was going to die right there.

"She was taking those big, deep breaths and then...nothing," Annabelle said. "I did pray for her, and I remember saying to her, 'If you need to go, you go'. It was down to that."

BioRescue is a high-strength, oral probiotic treatment paste.

The micro-encapsulated coating on the probiotics also allows them to be delivered to the rumen and come to life in the lower GI tract [which drives 70-80% of a mammal's immunity].

It is also combined with unprecedented numbers of good bacteria, the yeast keeps (or returns) the rumen pH to an ideal 6.7. Vitamin E brings energy to the party.

Stephen checked Pippa three times that night – bracing himself each time to find her dead – and, giving her more BioRescue when she wasn't. By morning – against the odds – she had turned the corner. Another round of IV fluids, and a continuing regime of BioRescue completed her treatment.

Stephen said, "To be honest three days later she was back to normal, in terms of being that big, cheeky character again."

"I thought she was going to die"



SHERBORNE CASINO PIPPA WAS GIVEN INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS.
PHOTO: ANNABELLE SCHERER.

"I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE PROBIOTICS INCLUDED THE BACTERIAS BIFIDOBACTERIUM AND BACILLUS SUBTILIS (AMONG OTHERS). BECAUSE THOSE TWO SPECIFICALLY HELP THE GUT REGENERATE ITS POPULATION."

- KYLIE, VET



GRAIN OVERLOAD CHANGES THE PH BALANCE IN THE RUMEN.
PHOTO: ANNABELLE SCHERER.

Probiotics helped

Kylie said the fluids were key, and the probiotics had to have helped.

“The fact Stephen and Annabelle were willing to do IV fluids was a bonus, and I do think the probiotics definitely must have helped because of the speed of her recovery,” Kylie said. “Although it’s hard to quantify, it was all positive, otherwise they would have had setbacks. You also can’t underestimate the treatment and care the family gave her.

“I was pleased to see that the probiotics included the bacterias Bifidobacterium and Bacillus subtilis (among others). Because those two specifically help the gut regenerate its population.”

BioRescue helped save Pippa

Stephen and Annabelle remained convinced BioRescue played a significant role in saving Pippa’s life.

Ten days later she was well enough to join their NZDE team on a seven-hour truck trip to Feilding, where she finished second in the Senior Calf class in the Youth Show, third Senior Heifer in the Jersey show, and fifth Senior Heifer Calf in a massive All Breeds class.

“It’s difficult to say, but personally I don’t think she would have lived if we hadn’t done the fluids and the probiotics,” Annabelle said. “And, it’s hard to believe she improved enough to travel, and to show 10 days after we almost lost her.

“I got quite emotional at the show, and Gabrielle [Stephen and Annabelle’s daughter who was showing Pippa] did too. None of us were expecting her to do so well, so soon.”



**“THEY DIDN’T
SKIP A BEAT,”**

TEN DAYS AFTER ALMOST LOSING THEIR JERSEY ENTRY FOR THE NEW ZEALAND DAIRY EVENT, THE FAMILY WAS CELEBRATING HER RIBBON HAUL.

“WE HAD AN OFF-COLOUR BULL CALF THE OTHER MORNING AND HE WOULDN’T STAND TO FEED. I GAVE HIM 5G OF BIORESCUE, AND HE WAS THE FIRST CALF ON THE FEEDER THAT AFTERNOON.” - ANNABELLE

Rest of the team on probiotics too

They were so impressed with BioRescue during Pippa’s illness, that they had decided to put their whole show team on the probiotics before the show. It is ideal for off-setting the stress of travel, and for recovery afterwards.

They didn’t have it in time for the Stratford Show – with similar distances to travel – so they were interested to track its impact on the same animals.

Annabelle said the entire team were dosed with BioRescue for three days before they left, and every day at the show.

“They didn’t skip a beat,” Annabelle said. “They definitely travelled better, and it’s not the first time they’ve travelled those distances. They got off the truck, had a big drink of water, ate their grain, and sat down.

“I’m sure our milker, and the in-calf heifer didn’t travel or settle as well without the probiotics at Stratford.”

They won Junior Champion of both the Holstein and the All Breeds show with Charbelle Tatoo Pix. And, their sole in-milk entry, Charbelle MWB Prancer, was second in the three-year-old Holstein class, Best Intermediate Udder, and Honourable Mention Intermediate Holstein Champion.

“We continued to dose them with the BioRescue for two days after they came home, and it seemed to just really ease that transition after travel. We had an awesome show. We wouldn’t be without BioRescue on the farm now.

“We had an off-colour bull calf the other morning and he wouldn’t stand to feed. I gave him 5g of BioRescue, and he was the first calf on the feeder that afternoon.”

Why it works

The lower gastrointestinal (GI) tract drives 70-80% of a mammal’s immunity, and that micro-encapsulated coating in BioRescue allows the probiotics to be delivered to the rumen where they come to life in the lower GI tract and outcompete pathogenic bacteria.

Combined with good bacteria, yeast and Vitamin E, this natural product provides a powerful fuel for a cow’s immune system.

Importantly, the yeast keeps, or returns, the rumen’s pH to/at an ideal 6.7 (which is often destabilised during stress and transit). Vitamin E adds a valuable energy hit.

The Cow Plan

**PROBIOTIC
REVOLUTION**

