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Health Management Plan

Veterinary Advisor

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Identification and Tracking

Mink will be identified by cards hung over each individual cage. When a mink is moved the card will be moved with it and hung over the new cage.

Recording Mortalities

Mortalities and mink euthanized for health reasons will be tallied at the end of the day and marked on a calendar specific for this purpose.

Vaccinations

All kits will be vaccinated for botulism, enteritis, and pseudomonas. They will be vaccinated at the earliest possible time. For botulism, enteritis, and pseudomonas when all kits reach six weeks of age and ten weeks of age for distemper.

Treatment Protocol

Mink will be checked daily for signs of illness or injury. When these conditions are found, they will receive treatment as below. Sick or injured mink will be moved to an area designated as a hospital area. They will be given a red card on which the medication and dates treated will be recorded. This card will remain with them if they return to the main herd. If showing no signs of improvement after a full treatment the mink shall be euthanized, or at any time that is felt the mink has little or no chance of recovery or is unduly suffering. If the female is nursing kits at the time of illness, the kits will be fostered out to other moms.

Treatment for individual animals:

-for injuries (bite wounds, abscess, and skin lesions)
  -a subcutaneous injection of Baytril will be given daily for 3-5 days
  -for pregnant females and kits before August 1st will receive an intramuscular injection of Procaine Penicillin G daily for 3-4 days

-for nursing anemia, which can occur later in the lactation period. Administer 8-10 ml of lactated ringers daily until female recovers. Also treat with injectable antibiotics

-pneumonia will be treated with Baytril for 3-5 days

-dystocia will be given manual assistance if possible or an intramuscular injection of a single dose of Oxytocin at a rate of 0.25 to 0.50 cc

-mastitis and metritis will be treated with Baytril 3-5 days

-acidosis will be treated with Procaine Penicillin G and reduced feed if the mink is obese

If a resistance is built up against these medications a veterinarian would be consulted for different medication.

Herd medication treatment protocols:

-before medicating, the herd will have laboratory diagnose disease and culture for sensitivity. Then get veterinarian to prescribe medication

New Stock Protocols

-All new stock will be brought only from a farm that is Aleutian Disease free
-Individual mink being shipped will be tested for Aleutian Disease
-When the new stock arrives on the farm, they will be placed in quarantine at least thirty meters from any of the original animals. They will remain in quarantine for at least fourteen days, and their health will be monitored daily. If any mink shows signs of illness, a veterinarian will be called into determine the cause of illness and treatment necessary

Pest Control

-Mice and rats will be controlled with poisonous bait blocks that will be place in a manner that no other animals will have access to them
-Flies will be controlled with sticky fly tapes in sheds and buildings during the fly season
-during the main fly season (April-October), manure will be removed every two weeks and every eight weeks when few or no flies are present
-All old feed is removed from cages daily. Old feed from cages and from cleaning the feed house will be composted, as to keep flies from hatching eggs in the product

Euthanasia Protocols

For skinning times:

-check that the pressure regulator is set at 8-10 PSI and the tank valve is open
-open second valve for 5 seconds
-load 15 males or 25 females
-open second valve again for 3 seconds
-load another 15 males or 25 females
-open second valve again for 3 seconds
-load another 15 males or 25 females
-open second valve again for 5 seconds
-drive to drumming room to unload. If less than a 4 minute drive, wait until you have reached the 4 minute waiting period
-pull out rack with mink and check for signs of life before reloading with the second rack and returning for another load

For individual mink:

-check that the pressure regulator is set at 8-10 PSI and the tank valve is open
-place mink in CO chamber and open valve for 5 seconds and wait 5 minutes before removing the mink. Check mink for any signs of life

Procedures for Feed Handling and Preparation

Preparation and Distribution:

Ingredients:

- All ingredients should be monitored continually throughout the entire production process for unusual texture, strong smells or abnormal discolouration, and if found, action should be taken or supervisor informed immediately.
- Spoiled feed should be properly disposed of and all tools, equipment and containers used should be washed and disinfected to ensure there is no contamination with the new feed.

Handling of Dry Product:

- Before using, always read the label to ensure it is the correct product and the correct concentration. Utilize the product in accordance with ration requirements. All feed additives should be measured accurately.

Grinding:

- Product should be slowly dumped into the grinder and continually monitored for unusual colour, strong smell, foreign objects or materials. Particular attention should be paid to texture and colour differentiations when dealing with frozen product.

Distribution:

- Feed consumption on pens and correct feeding amounts should be closely monitored.

Washing and Sanitization:

- Feed mixing area is cleaned after each daily use.
- Feed mixing area is sanitized weekly.

- Feed mixing equipment (grinder, mixer, etc.) is thoroughly washed after each daily use.
- Feed mixing equipment is sanitized weekly.

- Feed carts used to deliver feed are washed after each daily use.
- Feed carts used to deliver feed are sanitized weekly.

Procedure:

- sanitization is accomplished by first washing designated area or equipment with hot water and then spraying with sanitizer. The sanitizer is left on for minimum of 15 minutes and then rinsed off with hot water.

Protocols for Extreme Temperatures

Extreme Cold Protocol (ECP):

- ECP implemented at approximately -10°C.
- Weather forecast is monitored to prepare for extreme cold situations.
- Preparations:
    - Inspect watering system and set to prevent freezing.
    - Feed energy levels increased to ensure animals can handle the extreme cold.
    - Provide animal with dry nest boxes and appropriate bedding.
    - Staff trained in ECP and animal husbandry in ECP.
    - Lids put on nest boxes.

Extreme Heat Protocol (EHP):

- EHP implemented at approximately 35°C.
- Weather forecast is monitored to prepare for extreme heat situations.
- Preparations:
    - Ensure every animal has access to shade.
    - Inspect water system to ensure good working order.
    - Additional cooling system available and functional: water cups (drip system).
    - Staff trained in EHP and animal husbandry in EHP.
    - Do not feed until evening, when the temperature cools.
    - Spray sheds roofs with water.
    - Spray mink down with water.
- During EHP, all efforts are made to avoiding added stress to the herd (Eg. handling, vaccinating, relocating of animals, etc.).

Protocols for Feed Handling and Storage

Receiving/Unloading of Feed:

- Verify products with shipping documents to ensure that the proper amount has been delivered and that it is the correct product.
- During offloading, product is continually monitored for quality and freshness.
  - If any unusual colour, texture or smell is detected it is reported to the farm manager immediately.
- During offloading, product is monitored for any foreign objects or materials that could compromise the feed or damage the equipment.

Product	Receiving Protocols
Fresh	Any containers that are to be used for receiving fresh product are properly cleaned.
Frozen	Always check products to verify if properly frozen. Report any issues to the farm manager immediately.
Dry	Inspect bags to ensure none of the bags have been damaged.

Mink Feed Storage:

- Feed is stored in according freezers to ensure that the feed is used in the proper order.
  - Product is stored in order such that the oldest product is used first.
- Food storage containers are washed with hot water daily.
- Food storage containers are sanitized weekly. After being cleaned with hot water the container is sprayed with sanitizer, the sanitizer is left on for minimum of 15 minutes and then rinsed off with hot water.

Product	Storage Protocols
Total Mixed Ration (TMR)	TMR should be stored in such a manner to ensure the freshness of feed is preserved. TMR should be stored in a cool dry place before expiration date.
Frozen	All frozen product should be stored at -18°C or below.
Dry	Dry product should always be sorted in a cool dry place and elevated off of the floor. Dry additives should be stored in a cool dry place and used before expiration date.

Back-Up Plan for Water

Back-up plan for primary water source:

- Use generator, back-up water pump and back-up well to supply water to the mink through primary water delivery system.

Back-up plan for primary water delivery system:

- If water lines freeze: use water pump, well and hose to fill water cups in each cage.
- Use back-up well with attached pump to supply water.

Mortality Handling and Disposal

In the event of a mortality: the body will be immediately removed from pen, manager will be notified, the body will be disposed of accordingly and the death will be recorded.

Depending on the time of year the body will either be put into the compost (spring and summer) or stored in the freezer (winter and fall). The bodies are removed from the freezer in both the spring and fall. Upon removal, they are thawed and skinned. The skin is then refrozen and the carcass is disposed of in the compost.

In the event that there is a significant number of mortalities, the shed/sheds will be quarantined, non-essential personnel will be restricted from the area, the veterinarian will be notified and samples will be sent to a lab. The bodies will be removed from pens and taken to an offsite compost facility.

Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)

The following IPM plan is relevant for all key areas on the farm including: sheds, storage areas and food preparation areas.

Pest Types:

- Mice
- Rats
- Flies/Maggots
- Larder beetles
- Birds

Preventative Actions:

- Keep waste feed in containers.
- Remove manure regularly.
- Keep premise clean and uncluttered.
- Block access points.
- Remove standing water.
- Mow grass around perimeter of sheds.
- Treat wood posts.
- Compost organic matter.

Monitor:

- Mice and rats are monitored using traps.
- Flies are monitored using sticky tape.

Control:

- Rodents: poisonous bait blocks and traps.
- Flies/Maggots: sticky tape, regular manure removal and compost organic matter.
- Larder beetle: treat wood posts.
- Birds: shoot.

Evaluate: Monitoring logs and records are kept of actions taken and effectiveness of strategy is evaluated regularly based on pest population.

Farm Plan for Manure Handling, Removal and Disposal

Farm size:

- Herd size:
  - Maximim: ~3500
  - Minimum: ~5000
- Number of sheds: 28

Location:

- Acreage: ~7 acres of farm on ~35 acre lot
- Pertinent soil type: sandy loam

Manure removal system:

- Type of manure: solid.
- Method: shovelling of dry manure, which is hauled to a designated manure storage area, outside of mink housing area.
- Equipment used: tractor, ATV quad, belt, shovels, skid steer.
- Frequency of removal:
  - During warm months (April - October): manure is removed every two weeks.
  - During cooler months (November - March): manure is removed every eight weeks.
  - Removed from specific shed if a shed has an illness outbreak.

Storage and Disposal:

- Stockpiling and composting
  - Stored in a coverall building with a cement slab base.
- Land application
  - Spread onto fields using a manure spreader.

Standard Operating Procedures and Protocols for s.79

Records kept:

For many years we have kept breeding/reproduction records for our ranch including the following:

Number of female mink bred;

Number of Unbred females;

Number of kits as a count of all living kits at 10 days of age;

Number of barren females;

Number of females who lost kits or had them taken away

We also keep a record of all adult mink losses in a log book. We keep track of kit/juvenile losses daily recorded on a calendar. These losses are then added to the log book as a monthly total.

On our farm, we have never had a need to test for disease as we are Aluetian Disease free. We have not had an outbreak of any disease in the almost 30 years that I have been involved in the farm. As we produce most of the ingredients of our feed in our s.79 we have never had any need to have our feed tested for anything. When mink are sick/injured they are given a green medical card which notes treatment etc. This green medical card remains with said mink until the end of it's life.

Bio-Security Measures:

Our farm is isolated and far removed from other farms. We bring no new animals to our herd and have not for more than 10 years. Entry to our main mink area is restricted by perimeter fencing and doors. No one is allowed in our main mink area without the approval of[s.79] There are no exceptions to this rule, we also stay biosecure by visiting other ranches only when absolutely necessary. When we visit other farms we take general precautions ie: separate shoes and clothing than what we wear at our farm. The only people from our farm that would visit another mink farm would be [s.79] and have a vested interest in keeping our farm disease free.

Our mink ranch area is surrounded by a five plus foot high perimeter fence that keeps animals out and keeps our mink in.

Being a mink farm [s.79] wild/feral cats tend to appear around our farm. We monitor said cats and any sickly /diseased ones are culled out. We have one dog that we allow into the ranch.

Nutrition and Feeding Practices:

We feed a high protein meat based diet to our mink. We feed a similar diet all year as we have access to fresh high quality ingredients from our slaughter house daily ie: horse meat, liver, veal, tripe and lung. We also feed fish picked up from local fish plants. We feed some chicken and turkey products which we get from [s.79] as it is needed. In the past we used a nutritionist at a local feed mill to formulate a vitamin premix which we feed at 1% to ensure that the mink are getting what they need. We feed BMD (zinc bacitracin) as an antibiotic and feed preservative by prescription from[s.79] We feed powdered penicillin for approximately 6 weeks while mothers are nursing as a preventative measure against mastitis.

We vaccinate all of our kit/juvenile mink for the standard mink diseases ie: distemper, enteritis, botulism and psuedomonis pneumonia. We always use Canada mink breeders and manufacturers directions for vaccine use.

Implants:

We give melatonin implants to our old females who we will not keep for future breeding. These mink are only implanted after thy have recovered from raising their kits and being weaned from them

Implants of Kits/Juveniles:

We implant all kits that will not be selected for breeders. These would include kits from litters of 5 or less. Kits from litters that fight, as well as litters of standard (white patches) kits. We pelt these mink at 107 days after they are implanted. We keep track of these mink as they need to be fed quite a bit more than non implanted mink due to our high quality of feed we have no need to feed them a separate diet.

Health Monitoring:

Mink are monitored daily for signs of distress, disease or any other unusual occurrence. Every morning someone spreads out all remaining feed and make sure ass is well on the ranch. This is generally done by s.79 If done by others they are instructed to bring any irregularities to the attention of s.79 to be dealt with. Mink are assessed daily in the morning and at feeding for body condition and any signs of stress or disease.

As we feed a high quality feed year round, mink conditioning is accomplished by control of how much the mink are fed not by feeding products of lesser quality.

Sick Animals

All animals identified as being sick will be treated with penicillin for 3 days. If not showing signs of marked improvement it will be euthanized with C.O.

Paralyzed mink may be treated with vitamin B injectable for 1 week. If it improves and gains mobility it will continue to receive weekly doses of Vitamin B until it is pelted. If no improvement is shown it will be euthanized with C.O.

Injured mink will be assessed immediately after being found. If it is too severely injured it will be euthanized immediately with C.O. If not it will be treated with penicillin on the wound as well as injected with penicillin and metacam for pain relief. On our farm we tend to euthanize severely injured or sick mink rather than try to rehabilitate them. Records of said treatment shall stay with that mink until it is pelted.

Females discovered with nursing anemia are culled and their kits are fostered out. Females with mastitis will have their kits removed and be treated with penicillin and administered appropriate pain medication.

All mink to be euthanized shall be put in the kill box and an appropriate amount of C.O. used to ensure the swift death of the mink. This is the same for all mink we put down whether when euthanizing or during harvesting. When euthanizing single mink the kill box shall be charged for 8 seconds with C.O. flowing at a rate @ 1 psi. During pelting the box shall be charged for 8 seconds with C.O. flowing at a rate @ 1 psi and this is repeated every 10-12 mink. A small 3 or 4 second burst of gas is administered after the last mink is put in.

Breeding and Lighting:

Every year we begin breeding our young females March 7th. Young females are bred back to back on first mating then bred again back to back nine days from the first mating. Our mature females are bred back to back beginning March 12th. We use artificial light to help our females to implant their fertilized eggs sooner. We accomplish this by lighting the sheds for 4 extra hours in the evening from March 16th until April 10th.

Waste Management:

Our manure is collected and stored in a cover all building and is used by a local farmer as fertilizer for his crops in the spring and fall.

We have service from s.79 at our farm. All old feed, spoiled feed and spoiled feed ingredients as well as all mortalities and carcasses are picked up by them and are dealt with by them.

Sanitation:

All equipment used in producing feed and or feeding the mink is cleaned using hot water daily until all visible matter is removed. All containers that hold feed ingredients are cleaned with hot water before being reused.

Environmental Management:

All mink are housed in cages which are protected from direct sun and rain. As the sheds are designed for maximum air flow and natural light, wind will blow thru the shed but cages are protected with blinds that stop wind from blowing directly on cages. Being open air sheds temperatures are greatly affected by the season. In extreme heat ie: 93 degrees farenhiet we run our dripper system for all of our breeder cages, all other mink are sprayed down by a hose to keep them cool. In extreme cold ie: wither temps below 0 celcius, covers are installed on nest boxes and mink are bedded with shavings to help them stay warm.

Fly Control:

Our farm has made great use of sticky tape strips to catch adult flies. We have this set up in all of our sheds. For outbreaks of fly larvae we use dibrom insecticide.

Bird Control:

Our farm has no serious bird issues. There are a fair amount of crows around but we find that with the crows around there is a huge decrease in the amount of starlings and other small birds. This is beneficial as small birds tend to steal the feed off of the minks cages. Crows being scavengers pick small bits of feed off of the ground but don't take from the cages themselves.

Rodent Control:

We use Rat tack poison blocks whenever evidence of rodents are discovered.

Enrichments Used:

All cages on our farm are enriched with plastic or metal chain dangling from the tops of cages. We are also installing platforms in our jump up pelter cages for space and a more dynamic cage for the mink.

BC Mink Farmers'

Herd Health Management Plan

For:
s.79

Updated:
August 2020

Veterinary advisor:
s.79

Identification and Tracking:

- All adult males and females have a record card that accompanies the animal through it's entire lifespan.
- Card information indicates age of the animal, type (demi, pastel, etc), breeding pattern, whelp pattern and medical record
- Kit record cards are capable of tracking the young animals but with less information.

Vaccination Protocols

- Goal: ensure that all mink on farm have protection from preventable viral infection
- All mink on farm should be vaccinated where there is a reasonable chance of viral infection. Normally they would have been vaccinated in the previous year as kits
- Kits produced on the farm should be inoculated as early as possible, ideally between July 1-15th each year. Manufacturers' recommendations should be followed as closely as possible
- If vaccine is available, all mink should be vaccinated against botulism, virus enteritis and pseudomonas
- The other vaccine available commercially for mink is distemper. It has been determined that there is not a reasonable risk of distemper outbreak on this ranch that would outweigh the risk of inoculation itself. However, it is Dogwood's current policy to vaccinate for distemper in late winter
- New stock brought onto the farm should have verification of vaccination prior to entry. AT NO POINT should undocumented animals be allowed entry on the farm
- All staff that participate in the vaccination process should be trained in the handling and vaccinating of mink

New Stock Protocols

- Due to Covid-19 concerns, NO NEW STOCK will be imported until further notice
- Previously, any new purchased stock would be segregated in an area of the farm that separates them from the main herd for a period of three weeks. During this time the new animals will be monitored for clinical signs of illness
- Stock is purchased from known, healthy herds only
- Off farm transportation of new stock shall follow best recommended practices to avoid injury or suffering to the animals

Pest Control

- Early applications of recommended fly control shall be implemented beginning in mid-May and continuing until late fall
- Rodenticides shall be placed in selected areas (not accessible to mink) throughout the year, but especially in early spring

Euthanasia Protocols

- All personnel involved in the euthanization process are trained to euthanize the animals in a humane and timely manner. They are also trained in the safe handling and transport of the CO gas cylinders as well as the safe usage of the compressed gas.
- Specialized euthanization chamber shall be portable to allow for cage side loading
- Chamber can be used for individual euthanasia for animals deemed too ill or injured to be treated, or for groups of animals during harvesting.
- Before loading with animals, the chamber must be charged with CO gas to a 30% concentration. This is verified with the use of a portable CO detector initially (approx. 10 seconds open valve).
- Chamber may be recharged for a few seconds when loading cycle is complete. A load can be as large as 90 animals assuming a 50% split of male/female
- Once loading cycle is complete, the chamber must remain sealed for 8 minutes to ensure all animals have expired.
- Once the dead animals have been removed from the chamber, they will be observed for a minimum of 5 minutes to insure there are no signs of life (absence of movement)
- Detailed Euthanasia protocols are available.

General Practices

- Due to Covid-19, all staff working with OR near mink MUST wear a mask and protective gloves. Washing hands thoroughly before and after working with the animals is absolutely necessary.
- Personnel directly involved with mink on daily basis shall be instructed on the signs when a mink is not in a normal state of health. Signs can include: depression, diarrhea, coughing, panting, lameness, weight loss, bite wounds and chews.

- Specific treatment protocol is in place for common ailments (common treatment protocols listed follow). A veterinarian will be consulted for unusual cases.
- Mink that are deemed abnormal shall be marked and evaluated for treatment if necessary.
- Designated section leaders shall be consulted if a herd problem is suspected. These leaders have been chosen by senior management and are individuals who have the appropriate training and experience to identify herd health issues. They have daily reviews with the ranch manager. In turn, the ranch manager has daily reviews with the CEO
- Written medical record will accompany the animal. To avoid unnecessary stress on the individual animal, treatment shall be administered cageside if possible. A "first aid" card will be clipped to the cage. During the growing and furring periods, when there are multiple animals in one pen, a "hospital" area will be required
- Post mortem examinations shall be performed on a routine basis by either experienced farm personnel or the farm veterinarian. Post mortem lab reports, as well as mortality records, are kept on file in the office.

Common Treatment Protocols

Acidosis
Clinical signs: strong urine odor, nesting box is wet, upon inspection mink (usually female) has a wet belly.
Treatment: remove nesting box. Mark cage to have feed volume reduced. If more than one animal is in the pen, remove the mates.

Bloody Tail
Clinical signs: mink has bleeding tail, may have been attacked by neighbour or self-imposed
Treatment: make sure mink has a nestbox. If the animal is lethargic, put enough straw in box so animal can retain heat. In severe cases, mink should be brought indoors to avoid hypothermia.

Bone in Mouth
Clinical signs: mink leaves feed, mouth is slightly ajar, possibly oozing saliva.
Treatment: catch mink around head with one hand and pry open mouth to remove bone. Needle nose pliers required. If infection is detected (odor?), treat with 1/10th cc Baytril for 2-3 days.

Cannibalism
Clinical signs: kits are fighting, one or more has open wound.
Treatment: apply Polysporin to open wound every other day. Isolate affected kit to a pen with ample bedding to avoid hypothermia. Addition of rag in box will help. This could be a herd issue; pen environment and diet should be closely monitored.

Cold Kit Hypothermia
Clinical signs: kits moaning or crying, can be heard from many yards away
Treatment: find source of crying and warm up kits. If a heatbox is not available, a plastic bottle filled with hot water and rag over top works well. Make sure that cause of hypothermia is corrected as it is highly likely to reoccur.

Mastisis
Clinical signs: nursing female off feed, kits may look thin, upon inspection mother has swollen mammary glands
Treatment: foster litter (wipe kits with sterile wipes before farming out). Inject mother with Baytril @ 1/10th cc for 2-3 days. Females that do not respond to treatment after 3 dosages should be euthanized.

Nursing sickness
Clinical signs: nursing female very lethargic, appears wobbly, animal may be quite thin. Kits are approaching weaning age
Treatment: wean mother. Orally inject 5-10cc Pedialites. Repeat Pedialite treatment 2-3 times daily until female starts to eat solid food on her own.

Paralysis
Clinical signs: mink dragging hind legs slightly, difficulty in running.
Treatment: 1cc Penicillin injections for 5-6 days as long as improvement is detected. If animal deteriorates, then it should be euthanized.

Pneumonia
Clinical signs: off feed, coughing, lethargic, discharge from nose
Treatment: Baytril @ 1/10th cc for 2-3 days. If animal does not respond to treatment after 3 dosages, animal should be euthanized

Ring on Tongue
Clinical signs: mink has swollen tongue, ring on tongue (from food source)
Treatment: remove ring. Place mink in pen that has water cup and fill with cold water. Icepack in winter, if possible. Feed mink Pedialites until returning to solid food. Treat with Baytril and Medicam to avoid infection.

Screwneck
Clinical signs: mink has twisted neck, head off to one side when standing or running.
Treatment: check for ear infections. Put a few drops of ear solution (baby oil and vinegar) in affected ear

Sticky kits
Clinical signs: one or more kits in nursing litter look sticky, dirty, diarrhea. Litter 10-25 days old.
Treatment: Do NOT foster these kits. If kits are handled, use sterile wipes on kits and your hands. Sprinkle whole litter with combo powder containing Neomycin, Galymycin, Tetracycline. Replace nestbox cover

Upset stomach
Clinical signs: mink is off feed, droppings are loose, animal is inactive
Treatment: 1/10th cc Baytril and Mecicam

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Identification and Tracking

Mink will be identified by cards hung over each individual cage, and marked with its pen number. If a mink is moved, the card will move with the mink to its new location

Mortalities will be tallied at the end of each day and marked in a calendar specific for this purpose.

Vaccination and Treatment Protocols

All mink to be kept as breeding stock shall be vaccinated for the following; Botulism, Distemper, Enteritis, and Pseudomonas. Records will be kept for all mink vaccinated in a record book.

If an animal is clearly paralyzed and is assessed that it will not recover, it shall be euthanized by CO gas immediately.

If an animal has a sore or open wound, it shall be moved to a designated “care area” and be administered a penicillin based antibiotic to fight infection, and administered Meloxicam for pain management.

If an animal has diarrhea or discolored stools, it shall be given mixed feed or liver with gallimycin.

All dosages to be determined by animal weight and strength of antibiotic.

Mink showing signs of illness shall be moved into cages at the front of their current shed; an area left empty with the specific purpose of housing mink that need to be treated. Mink will be marked with a tag with the description of its current illness. The tag shall also be marked every time the mink is treated.

Any mink showing signs of foot rot, ear rot, or eye deterioration shall be administered the appropriate dose of penicillin or Baytril for three to four days. If showing no signs of improvement after a full treatment; the mink shall be euthanized. Dosages are advised by Veterinarian depending on strength of suspension of antibiotic.

Any mink showing signs of Acidosis shall have its feed reduced appropriately and be administered a full antibiotic treatment as per previous paragraph.

Nursing Anemia – Female will be; off feed, thin, drowsy/ dozy. Treatment is to administer 8-10ml of Electrolytes per day, if kits are doing well, until female is looking better. If kits are not doing well after one day of treatment, they shall be fostered to another female.

Mastitis – Shows up when kits are 3-4 weeks old. Female will be off feed, kits will look thin, small, showing ribs. Female will have swollen mammary glands. Farm kits out, administer antibiotic protocols to female, mark female as “pelt” if and when she recovers.

New Stock Protocols

If and when new stock is required on the farm; the new mink shall be housed in a separate quarantine area, where they will be monitored closely for a minimum of two weeks before being introduced into permanent housing.

Parasite Control

To prevent fleas, cages will be disinfected yearly.

Euthanasia Protocols

At harvesting – Carbon monoxide tank shall be turned on for 3 seconds to fill the box; 30 mink will be placed in the box, the tank will be turned on again for 8 seconds; 30 more mink will be placed in the box, the tank will be turned on a final time for 8 seconds. The mink will be left in the box for 5 minutes to ensure death before being removed and inspected for no signs of life before pelting. If ineffective; reload mink into chamber and turn gas on for 8 seconds and wait 5 minutes.

Single mink euthanasia – The mink to be euthanized shall be placed in the "single kill" tube, the lid will be closed, the carbon monoxide tank will be turned on for 2 seconds; the mink will be left in the tube for 8 minutes to ensure death. Mink will be removed from tube and inspected for no signs of life.

Volume of chamber – 450,289 (cm^3)

450,289
X 0.04
X .001
18L

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Identification and Tracking

Mink that are breeders will be identified with an I.D. card hung over each of the individual cages. It will be marked with its shed/cage number. If a mink is moved, the I.D. card will move with the mink to its new location. Kits will be identified by paper tags with the Mothers I.D. and stapled above the cage.

Mortalities will be tallied at the end of each day and marked in a calendar feed book specific for this purpose.

Vaccination and Treatment Protocols

All Kits that are born shall be vaccinated for the following:

- Botulism,
- Distemper
- Enteritis
- Pseudomonas.

Records will be kept for all mink vaccinated in a record book.

Mink showing signs of illness shall be moved into cages at the North end of their current shed: an area left empty with the specific purpose of housing mink that need to be treated. Mink will be marked with a tag with the description of its current illness. The tag shall also be marked every time the mink is treated.

Any mink showing signs of foot rot, ear rot or eye deterioration shall be administered the appropriate dose of penicillin or Baytriol for three to four days. If showing no signs of improvement after a full treatment, the mink shall be euthanized. Dosages are advised by Veterinarian depending on strength of suspension of antibiotic.

Any mink showing signs of Acidosis shall have its feed reduced appropriately and be administered a full antibiotic treatment as per previous paragraph.

Nursing Anaemia - Female will be off feed, thin, drowsy/dozy. Treatment is to administer 8-10ml of electrolytes per day. If the kits are doing well, until female is looking better. If kits are not doing well after one day of treatment, they shall be fostered to another female.

Mastitis – Shows up when kits are 2-3 weeks old. Female will be off feed, kits will look thin and small showing ribs. Female will have swollen mammary glands. Farm kits out, administer antibiotic protocols to female, mark female as "pelt" if and when she recovers.

Euthanasia Protocols

At harvesting – Carbon monoxide tank shall be turned on for 10 seconds to fill the box. 20-22 mink will be placed in the box. The tank will be turned on again for 5 seconds. 20-22 more mink will be placed in the box. The tank will be turned on for 5 seconds. 20 22 mink will be placed in the box. The tank will be turned on for a final time of 10 seconds. The mink will be left in the box for 8 minutes to ensure death before being removed and inspected for no signs of life before the pelting process.

Single mink euthanasia - the mink to be euthanized shall be placed in the same box used for harvesting. The carbon monoxide tank will be turned on for 10 seconds. The mink will be left in the box for 8 minutes to ensure death. The mink will be removed from the box and inspected for no signs of life.

BC Mink Farmers Health Management Plan

s.79

Veterinary Advisor:

s.79

Identification and Tracking

Mink are identified by cards which are attached above their cages. When mink are moved, identification cards follow them to the new cage. The farm is divided into separate fenced areas. Specific animals are raised in their appropriate areas, where their records are kept to benefit the staff.

Vaccination and Treatment Protocols

Every new mink born on the ranch is vaccinated with a 3-way vaccination (Enteritis, Botulism, and Pseudomonas) as well as an additional Distemper vaccine. Doses are determined by following box instructions. Cases are marked accordingly to what date they were vaccinated, as well as the numbered box of vaccine they used. Detailed information such as proof of payment and box records are submitted to office for safe keeping.

New Stock Protocols

s.79 has a strict policy of quarantining any mink arriving from another farm. Mink are isolated from the rest of the herd, and watched closely for a period of a month. After such time and no reasonable threat is perceived, the new mink are introduced to general population.

Euthanasia Protocols

s.79 has developed a detailed "Carbon Monoxide Exposure Control Plan and Euthanasia Training" which is followed by select employees and managers. In summary of our euthanasia protocols, select mink are euthanized by CO gas in a cart that holds 50-60mink, then

after 30 minutes, and mink are pronounced dead by a qualified manager, mink are unloaded into a cleaning drum.

General Practices

s.79 provides daily fresh food and water to all mink. Feed is mixed on site with fresh and frozen products such as chicken, fish, cooked eggs, grain and liver. Vitamins and minerals are added when deemed necessary. Different phases in the mink growth cycle call for continual changes in the feed diet, which is recorded daily in our feed log. Regular lab testing of our water and feed ensure healthy mink. Staff are trained in lab testing of our water and feed ensure healthy mink. Staff are trained in general animal husbandry, to handle animals appropriately, and to be aware of any signs of distress throughout the herd.

s.79

Manager _____

Signed:_ _____

Date: Sept. 16/2020