



Coombefield Veterinary Hospital Sheep Newsletter April 2016



Sheep Caesareans

This year we have carried out a large amount of caesarean sections in sheep with very successful results. The vast majority have been brought into the practice where we can carry out the operation out of the way of muck and straw with clean facilities (and a cup of tea too if required!).

Our success rates have always been very positive. When carried out before the ewe has been lambing for too long, when there are no complications such as dead or deformed lambs, and with appropriate aftercare both mother and lambs usually go on to make a good recovery. In order to maximise the chances of a good outcome it is important to make the decision on whether the sheep may need a caesarean early. Trying to lamb the ewe for a long time leads to (most likely) dead lambs and an exhausted ewe. This is not a recipe for a successful operation.

A ewe caesarean carried out at Summerleaze costs £59.85 (excl. VAT) plus drugs. We hope that if you get one, two or even more live lambs then this makes it an economically viable option.

Avoiding Wormer Resistance



When considering worming strategies a new type of wormer containing two separate types of anthelmintic promises to be very useful in slowing down the development of resistance on your farm. We have experience of 'combination' products (eg Combinex or Closamectin) already, but the new wormer '**Startect**' is a different product. Instead of using two products to tackle different problems (eg roundworms and fluke) the two anthelmintics both act on roundworms. The idea is that if the worms are not killed by one active ingredient they are killed by the other, leading to very low levels of worms still alive after one treatment and a reduced likelihood of resistant worms surviving.

In fact, studies have shown that, when used in accordance with SCOPS principles, there should be no development of resistance to this wormer for at least 40 years even when used on farms with known resistant strains of worms. Startect is called a '**dual active**' product, to distinguish it from the older style 'combination' products mentioned above which are highly likely to cause resistance, especially if a combination product is used when only one of the active ingredients is actually needed (eg Combinex for a fluke only problem).



In an attempt to help people identify any resistance on their farm, if you have done a worm egg count before treatment and you purchased the wormer from us, we are now offering a free post treatment worm egg count. Please speak to a vet or SQP about the timing of the post treatment test, as this will depend on the wormer used.

New Test Available for Scab

There is now a new test available for Scab. It is a blood test which measures antibody levels and it can be used to detect the presence of the mite before the onset of clinical symptoms. It should be very useful as a check to make sure bought in animals are not carrying the mite. The current recommendation is to sample the animals four weeks after purchase.

The price is £8.20 per animal for less than ten samples, or £7.00 per animal for more than ten... unfortunately not a very cheap test!

Dealing with CODD

Recent research has confirmed the presence of treponemes in all cases of contagious ovine digital dermatitis (CODD) studied. These are the same organisms involved in digital dermatitis in cattle. The bacteria associated with foot-rot were also identified in many of the cases.

Within farms, the prevalence of CODD has been found to increase in the late summer/early autumn and after housing. In one large scale study environmental risk factors included larger flocks, lowland pasture, lush pasture and poached pasture. Co-infection of a foot with foot-rot was strongly associated with CODD indicating that better control of foot-rot leads to lower numbers of clinical cases of CODD.



It is thought that approximately 50% of sheep producers in the UK have CODD present on their farms. Once the organisms are on the farm they are extremely difficult to get rid of (as anyone who has digiderm in their cattle will know). They have been found to be transferred easily on metal objects such as foot trimmers, scanning crates and shearing equipment, making the disinfection of these objects extremely important (even more so with objects used on other farms, if you do not have the problem on your own). An outbreak on a previously unaffected flock can be devastating, leading to infection of 40% or more of the flock.

Drug Price Reductions

The current economic climate in agriculture is showing no signs of improving. As a practice dedicated to supporting farming, we feel that these pressures should not be borne by farm businesses alone. So from Friday April 8th you will notice price reductions and product name changes. The drugs we have reduced in price are the following:-

Rotavec Corona, Metacam, Ketofen, Orbeseal, Ubro Red, Tetra Delta, Ubrolexin, Cobactan LC, Synulox LC, Orbenin Extra, Duphatrim IS, Resflor, Naxcel, Cevaxel, Marbocyl, Amoxycare, Amoxycare LA, Synulox, Alamycin and Engemycin.

There will be some product name changes and these will filter in over the next two months, including:-

Amoxycare	=	Betamox
Amoxycare LA	=	Betamox LA
Cevaxel RTU	=	Excenel 100ml/250ml
Ketofen 10%	=	Kelaprofen

The 10% cash discount will still apply for POM-V medicines with a value over £150.00 but this must be paid for at the time of collection.

Prescribing Medicines

All medicines dispensed are prescribed by one of the farm team. Whenever possible we would request you telephone to order medicines prior to collection as this enables the reception team to have asked a vet and dispensed your medicines prior to your arrival. If emailing is easier we are happy to receive your order this way.



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FARM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit, please call 01297 630515

Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone

Email: farm@axvets.co.uk