

Our Team



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Living And Working In Your Community

May 2022

Welcome to the May Newsletter, I hope you are all well. We're all waiting for a drop of rain now after a dry April – good for lambing but not for grass growth, with or without fertiliser!

We've had a busy April, with calving starting to overtake lambing. As ever, testing is busy, and the Bank Holidays have not helped. We are now being asked to fill in risk assessment forms for all our TB tests – we always do a mental checklist whenever we visit any farm for any job, but now we have to fill in a form and this does concentrate the mind, as well as take some time. It may be coincidental but some of us have had a few difficult tests recently – taking an unreasonably long time, sometimes a bit hair raising and with a few injuries. When we sign off our TB test paperwork on the government gateway, we will soon have to confirm that the risk assessment was satisfactory. So the bottom line is that we will be toughening up on health and safety and if we are not satisfied with the facilities provided, we will have to issue an 'Abandonment of Test Notice' – not something that any of us want to do. Our vets will receive the full backing of the partners if this is what they feel has to be done.

In further good news (!), the way FAWL reviews are done is changing – we now need to fill it all in on line, and our medicine sales are linked to FAWL – meaning that your medicine records need to be fully up to date as we must attribute which species each of your drugs purchases are used in. The process will inevitably take longer, this means that the price of doing FAWL reviews is increasing from 1st May.

Hopefully I will have something more cheerful to talk about next month!

Mary

The "Did you know?" of medicines

I have had numerous conversations with farmers recently about how best to use certain medicines with many of these conversations ending in "you should put that in the newsletter!" So here goes.

Some of the most important points we discuss with farmers is to give the correct dose by the correct route, in many cases this means a 20ml syringe is not big enough! This information is printed on the labels of all medicines prescribed by the practice but a quick summary for commonly used drugs is given in table 1 on the back page.

Pen & Strep

The Strep part is absorbed and gets to work very quickly meaning this is a good medicine to use where speed of action is important BUT Pen & Strep only lasts 24 hours. This means it must be given daily for 3-5 days, a 'one-off' jab is not appropriate and will lead to resistance developing plus the animal may not recover as desired. For something like a tough lambing anti-inflammatory (Metacam) is likely to be more beneficial to the ewe but if you are worried that infection may have been introduced, a long-acting product like Betamox LA is a much better choice. So in summary a very useful product but not for the job and turn it out option.



Continued, PTO



Sian Fuller



Dom Day



Jimmy Jackson



Sian Lloyd



Helen Dando



Tracey Huntley

Synulox bolus

Many farmers ask for calf scour boluses but how many of you actually use them correctly?

If a calf is scouring but is otherwise well then it just needs some extra fluids to make sure it doesn't become dehydrated. Leave it on milk as the nutrients are needed by the gut for the healing process (see previous editions for treatment of the scouring calf). However if the calf develops a temperature, stops sucking or becomes lethargic then antibiotics are indicated.

Synulox boluses must be given twice daily by mouth, half a tablet per 40kg for 3 days or at least 12 hours after symptoms have cleared. This means a 50kg calf needs 1 tablet twice a day for 3 days. In many cases where antibiotic is needed an injection may be simpler than this twice daily dosing.



Alamycin LA

A medicine many of you are familiar with. An effective treatment for lame sheep if footrot is the cause BUT no use for treating CODD (the infection that starts at the coronary band-where the hair meets the hoof). Similarly the bugs that cause joint ill or a uterine infection have high levels of resistance to oxytetracycline (the drug in Alamycin LA) so other treatments are far more beneficial (and cost effective).

Loxicom/metacam

Probably some of the most underused medicines on our shelves, these are anti-inflammatory drugs, similar to paracetamol or ibuprofen in humans, rather than antibiotics. They work to reduce pain and swelling but they also reduce a fever and will help combat some of the issues we see when an animal becomes toxic, such as with a bad mastitis or metritis (uterine infection). If an animal is fighting a viral infection rather than a bacterial infection, it is these drugs that will make a difference not antibiotics which do nothing to treat a virus. Many a conversation with a farmer will start with "I've got a cow with mastitis and she's had Pen & Strep but she's slow to get up and looks a bit miserable, off her food you know?" these are the animals that really do need the anti-inflammatory!

Medicine	Dose & route	How often	Good for	Average dose	
				Cow	Ewe
Betamox LA	1ml/10kg i/m	Once (can repeat after 48 hours)	First line treatment for most conditions	65ml	7ml
Alamycin LA	1ml/10kg i/m	Once	Footrot, eye infections	65ml	7ml
Pen & Strep	1ml/25kg i/m	Daily for 3-5 days	Most conditions	26ml	3ml
Loxicom	Cattle 1ml/40kg s/c	Once	Pain relief, reducing swelling or fever	16ml	3.5ml
	Sheep 1ml/20kg s/c	Once (Off license use)	Pain relief, reducing swelling or fever		
Zeleris	1ml/10kg s/c	Once	Calf pneumonia	N/A	N/A
Combiclav	1ml/20kg i/m	Daily for 3-5 days	2 nd line treatment	33ml	N/A

Table 1: Common medicines summary

If you would to discuss medicine use with us or would even like us to organise a meeting on the subject please let us know, lets face it the last one was standing room only!

Office opening hours	Emergency out of hours service
Monday – Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm	Weeknights 5.30pm - 8.30am Saturday & Sunday all day