

As I write this Devon County Show has just come to an end, and although I didn't make it this year many of you may have seen Mr Arnold doing a stint on the livestock gate on Saturday morning as Duty Vet, and in the beer tent in the afternoon with his family! Congratulations to all of our clients who took stock to the show, we appreciate the massive effort it takes to prepare animals to such high standards, and the years of investment breeding such high quality stock, roll on Royal Cornwall!

We've certainly had a busy spring, with a higher than usual number of calvings requiring assistance, possibly the relatively mild winter contributed to cows being in better condition than expected in the early spring? We have also had plenty of lambings at the surgery to keep us busy, with lots of you taking advantage of our "Lambing Club", and I hope this has been useful to those who opted to join. We will be looking at adding additional benefits to this scheme. We've also been seeing the usual suspects of pneumonia and calf scours, possibly made worse by the changeable weather at just about the time some were considering turnout, and are just starting to see infected eyes and mastitis cases which tell us the flies are out. Recently we've been investigating possible BVD and Leptospirosis problems in local herds too.

The new TB arrangements have just come into force, working through the new delivery partners, hopefully from farmers point of view little should change – we hope to continue to deliver the same testing standard, but Ulli and Debbie have already had to go on a days extra computer training for the new systems so please bear with us!



In other news we are please to announce Ulli has recently been elected (crowned?) Mayor of Bovey Tracey, so don't be too surprised if you see him in his chain of office!

### Coccidiosis in lambs

Most of you have finished lambing for this season but as we all know potential diseases and problems don't stop there; we often see scouring lambs and sometimes, after faeces testing, we diagnose coccidiosis. Coccidiosis can have severe consequences; this microscopic parasite attacks the gut lining of the lamb so that it loses fluids and struggles to absorb food. Lambs can be obviously ill and scouring or have a subclinical infection which affects development and growth rates.

When a single coccidial oocyst is ingested by a lamb, it will multiply internally and around 16 million will be excreted back into the environment. This massively amplifies the disease challenge for future batches of lambs. Once clinical signs show (scours, dirty back ends, and lambs that generally appear tucked up with a dull, poor appearance), the damage to the gut has already been done. Treating the affected and all in-contact lambs with a coccidiocide at this point is essential, but it is always better to prevent clinical signs from the start.

We often get asked in which situation should Baycox or Vecoxan be used, Baycox is licensed for the prevention of clinical signs of coccidiosis and reduction of coccidia shedding in lambs on farms with a confirmed history of coccidiosis. To

obtain maximum benefit, animals should be treated before the expected onset of clinical signs. Therefore if you have a known problem on the farm you need to be treating a week before outbreaks usually occur.

Using Baycox gives some flexibility around treatment timing for prevention because it persists in the lamb's system and kills at all stages. Recently published research has shown that using one dose of Baycox to treat lambs was an effective means of preventing and controlling the disease, killing coccidiosis at all intracellular stages. An important consideration is that research shows lambs treated with Baycox have a higher daily liveweight gain compared to lambs treated with other medication. When using Baycox, there is a meat withdrawal of 42 days which must be adhered to.

Vecoxan is licensed for the treatment and prevention of coccidial infections in lambs. For preventative use it is given to all lambs at four to six weeks of age and interrupts the coccidial lifecycle for a period of two to three weeks. A second dose can be given three weeks later if required; the product has nil meat withdrawal period.

Coccidiosis outbreaks can differ from farm to farm and, as such, effective control will vary accordingly; Decoquinate (Deccox sheep premix), diclazuril (Vecoxan) and toltrazuril (Baycox) can be used for the treatment and prevention of coccidiosis in lambs; it is important to get an accurate diagnosis, which will then help in planning an effective control strategy.

Please phone the practice to discuss your farm's requirements.



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### CHRISTOW SURGERY

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