

Dear Farmer,

Welcome to our November edition of the farm newsletter.

In October we welcomed back Becky Harvey to our Bovey Tracey surgery. Becky Harvey left us in November 2016 to have her baby Mazie. Becky has come back to a new role as receptionist, working alongside Erica and our nurses to provide a first point of contact at our Bovey Tracey Surgery. Becky has taken over from Jo Elliott who sadly left us in September to focus on her illustration work.

Back in the summer we were rigorously assessed by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as part of their Practice Standards Scheme which is a voluntary initiative to accredit veterinary practices in the UK. The scheme focuses on all aspects of veterinary care we offer including team management and health and safety. We are pleased to say our assessment went very well and our renewed certificates are now proudly on display at each of our branches.

The warm wet weather we've had over the last few weeks has meant we have seen a spike in cases of pneumonia in youngstock, especially if housed. It's very important to maintain good ventilation and keep sheds as dry as possible when stock is housed. It is a good idea to clip cattle's backs as they go into housing to help maintain normal body temperatures. Products are now available from our vets that enable the treatment of cattle with both an antibiotic and a NSAID in a single shot. Please discuss the most suitable treatment options for your farm with one of our vets.

A select few have already started lambing, so don't forget we will be running the Lambing Club again in 2018. Members will benefit from no fees on lambings in the daytime and half price at night, amongst other benefits. We are also holding another lambing course in January, further details are provided in this newsletter

As always please plan ahead when booking in any type of TB test. We are currently looking into improving our TB testing diary as we sadly have more farms than ever under 60 day testing regimes. We hope to have some news for you all soon. With this in mind can we remind farmers to do what they can to protect their herds from TB.

As always if there are any topics you would like to see in the newsletter please let us know.

ACORN POISONING

Acorns can present a serious problem on pastures with oaks after autumn storms. Tannins in acorns cause serious, often fatal, kidney damage. Sudden deaths may occur but the following symptoms that may be seen include, but are not limited to:

- Constipation progressing to tarry diarrhoea
- Anorexia (not eating)
- Pain in the abdomen (colic)
- Blood in the urine
- Dehydration
- Edema or fluid accumulation in the legs

There is no treatment for acorn poisoning, so prevention and supportive care are the best options when it comes to treatment. Ideally remove stock from pasture with oaks especially after autumn storms or heavy acorn falls. Fence off areas around oak trees so stock cannot reach the fallen acorns.



Don't forget.....

- Appropriately timed winter fluke treatment for cattle and sheep
 - Give late lambs vitamin supplements - particularly Cobalt. Discuss testing with a vet & take advantage of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project offers if applicable.
- Drop lamb faeces sample into vet for WEC, pre and post worming

LAMBING COURSE

We are looking to hold our next lambing course on:

Thursday 4th January 2018 at 11:30am

Venue: Moretonhampstead Surgery

The course will be held by Ashley Rubens BVetMed CertSP MRCVS, for smallholders and new farmers who want to expand or refresh their knowledge for the coming lambing season.

The course will be around two hours long and will cost £25 including a full set of notes. Reduced to £20 for those who have previously purchased course notes.

To book phone Lottie on 01626 833023 or email moorgatevets@btconnect.com

Booking is essential as places are limited

SHEEP FLUKE

Liver fluke infestation (fasciolosis) has always been a problem during the late autumn and winter. Sheep with acute fluke infestation may simply be found dead without prior signs of illness therefore it is important to have all sudden deaths investigated by post mortem. Less severe clinical signs include reduced grazing, rapid weight loss, weakness, abdominal pain, anaemia and slow to gather.

Liver fluke can be difficult to diagnose and treat due to the lifecycle. Liver fluke causes three types of disease, acute, sub-acute and chronic. Essentially, late spring / early summer infestation of snails results in the autumn fluke challenge to sheep with immediate acute disease, sub-acute disease over the following weeks, or chronic disease apparent three months later depending upon the level of challenge.

Wherever possible, reduce the risk of fluke infection by keeping sheep away from potentially contaminated, poorly-drained areas of the farm.

Treatment: Improved nutrition is essential. Triclabendazole is highly effective at killing all stages of flukes responsible for acute fasciolosis. Drenched sheep should be moved to clean pasture. Re-treatment of sheep every three weeks or so during a high-risk period on contaminated pasture is unsustainable and resistance to triclabendazole is now commonly suspected. A more sustainable control programme should be developed with one of our vets.

Closantel, nitroxynil and oxcyclosanide are not effective against very young liver fluke and should be used in the treatment of subacute and chronic fasciolosis. Once again, treated sheep must be moved to clean pastures.

WORMING OFFER

Neosporosis and Sarcocystosis are diseases in livestock that are caused by unicellular parasites. Worth knowing that dogs play an important role in the transmission of the above diseases to ruminant animals!

Keep your farm dogs wormed and stop them from eating aborted fetuses, placentas, and carcasses.

We are currently offering 25% off cat and dog worming treatment when purchasing a year supply of worming medication. Based on one treatment every 3 months.

Practice Facilities

Appointment System
Parking
24 Hour Emergency Service
Modern Surgical Facilities
Nurse Clinics
In-House Laboratory
Digital X Ray Machine
Pet Care Plans

BOVEY TRACEY SURGERY

Mill House, Station Road,
Bovey Tracey, Newton
Abbot, TQ13 9AL
TELEPHONE ; 01626
833023

MORETONHAMPSTEAD SURGERY

31 Court Street,
Moretonhampstead,
Newton Abbot, TQ13 8LG
TELEPHONE ; 01647
440441

CHRISTOW SURGERY

Old Mines Road, Christow,
Exeter, EX6 7NS
For appointments/repeat
prescriptions etc.
TELEPHONE; 01626 833023

FOR OUT OF HOUR EMERGENCIES PLEASE

TELEPHONE : 01647
440441



www.moorgatevets.co.uk

