

# Smallholder Club

We have a smallholder membership scheme designed to offer the benefits of a farm contract, but scaled down to suit the smaller farmer. The following is an outline of what is involved in the scheme:



## Membership payment is just £20 monthly, and gives you:

- A visit to renew Herd/Flock health plan and discuss worming and vaccinations. There will also be 1 other visit for any other reason within normal hours
- 3 Worm egg counts to check pasture build up over the summer
- Reduced visit fees
- Reduced wormer prices
- Vaccines against clostridial disease for up to 25 animals. This can be used for a yearly booster or 1st dose of a primary course

All the above are per client, per year.

There will also be invitation only meetings for our members, these will be run quarterly and will include things such as:-

- 'Ask the Vet' evening, email in any questions that are concerning you and have a group discussion about these on the night
- Chirping Chickens and other poultry
- Caring for the geriatric animal
- Camelids
- Pig care
- Goats

For more information about what we have to offer Smallholders please see our website [www.scarsdalevets.com/farm](http://www.scarsdalevets.com/farm). The smallholder pages are under 'services'.

**If you require more information about joining the Smallholder Club, please contact the Markeaton practice on 01332 294929.**

# ScarsdaleVets

Farm

## Caption Competition

For the chance to win a pair of tickets to this years Great Yorkshire Show in July, send in your caption, along with your full name, address, email address and telephone number to [farmandequine@scarsdalevets.com](mailto:farmandequine@scarsdalevets.com).

Competition closes on Monday 15th June 2015.



WELCOME TO  
**farm**  
**news**

2015  
CARING • TRUSTED • PROFESSIONAL



JUNE 2015

## Health & Safety on Farm

Liz Cresswell  
BVM BVS MRCVS



With two vets off with broken fingers, it hasn't been a good few months in terms of injuries for us at Scarsdale!

Farming is statistically one of the most dangerous jobs there is, and there are particular risks associated with vet calls as animals are often stressed and/or in pain, which can cause even the calmest of animals to behave unpredictably. It's worthwhile having a plan for the vet's visit, getting the setup right beforehand, and making sure that there are enough people for a job - trying to load cattle into a pen, push them up a race and work both ends of a crush usually takes at least two people, often more. Skimping on labour usually turns out to be a false economy, both from a time and a safety perspective - it's far preferable to hire an extra pair of hands for a few hours than to lose yours!

There are many things that can be done to reduce the risks associated with working with animals. Both farmers and vets have a responsibility to make sure that a situation is as safe as reasonably possible. Farm equipment - including pens, fences, gates, crushes and escape routes - needs to be well-maintained and in good working order. Vets carry equipment such as halters to help with some jobs, and we can sedate particularly fractious animals if necessary.

Crushes are a particular source of injuries for vets, farm staff and cattle alike, not least during TB tests where large numbers of animals are being moved through, and vets' hands have to get perilously close to bars and moving animals. Good head restraint and safe access to the neck is vital. Having a set-up with good cow flow makes the experience less stressful all round, and it is important to make sure that pens are fixed so that animals cannot move them, or try to crawl under or jump over. Familiarising animals by walking them calmly through the crush from an early age will make handling much easier later on in life. Procedures such as castration and

disbudding are far safer in calves than in adult cattle, both for the animals and humans involved!

If you are unsure about a situation before we call at your farm, then letting us know on the phone beforehand is helpful. The British Veterinary Association has recently published an advice leaflet for farmers entitled 'Is your farm a safe place to work?' which can be found on their website at <http://www.bva.co.uk/You-and-your-vet/>. And for all our farmers who take the trouble to make safety a priority, thank you - it's much appreciated!



Ouch! Liz's broken finger, crushed between a cow's horn and the front of the crush while injecting local anaesthetic for dehorning, despite using sedation and a halter!

Contact us:

FARM & EQUINE CENTRE  
Markeaton Lane, Markeaton,  
Derby DE22 4NH  
Tel: (01332) 294929

MAIN HOSPITAL  
Pride Veterinary Centre,  
Riverside Road, Derby  
DE24 8HX  
Tel: (01332) 678333

PARK FARM  
Park Farm Centre, Allestree,  
Derby DE22 2QQ  
Tel: (01332) 554422

DUFFIELD  
15 Town Street, Duffield  
Derby DE56 4EH  
Tel: (01332) 841700

MICKLEOVER  
3 Vicarage Road,  
Mickleover, Derby  
DE3 0EA  
Tel: (01332) 518585

HILTON  
6 Witham Close  
Egginton Road, Hilton  
Derby DE65 5JR  
Tel: (01283) 732999

OAKWOOD  
Unit 9, Oakwood District  
Centre, Oakwood  
Derby DE21 2HT  
Tel: (01332) 666500

SHELTON LOCK  
247 Chellaston Road,  
Shelton Lock  
Derby DE24 9EG  
Tel: (01332) 700321

THE SPRINGWOOD  
VETERINARY CENTRE  
90 Spring Terrace Road  
Stapenhill, Burton-on-Trent  
DE15 9DX  
Tel: (01283) 568162

STRETTON  
36 The Green, Stretton,  
Burton-on-Trent  
DE13 0EQ  
Tel: (01283) 565333

[post@scarsdalevets.com](mailto:post@scarsdalevets.com)

Please note that telephone calls are recorded for quality and monitoring purposes.

70 YEARS ScarsdaleVets  
Celebrating 70 Years of Exceptional Care

[www.scarsdalevets.com](http://www.scarsdalevets.com)

Pride  
Veterinary  
Centre  
Hospital. Practice. Resort.

SpringwoodVets  
The University of Nottingham  
School of Veterinary  
Medicine and Science  
RCVS  
ACREDITED  
PRACTICE  
xlVets



## Research Snippet: Do high SCCs reduce fertility?

**Carolyn Baguley MA VetMB CertAV) (Cattle) MRCVS**



We know that disease can reduce fertility, and that healthy animals are more likely to conceive, but by how much? A research study was published recently, investigating the effect of elevated somatic cell count (SCC) on pregnancy rates in a large dairy herd in Devon.

It was found that cows with elevated SCCs within the four weeks leading up to artificial insemination (AI) have 10% lower pregnancy rates. Interestingly, though, the pregnancy rates seemed to revert to normal if AI was repeated, which makes sense if we assume that the higher SCCs act to delay ovulation.

So what does this mean in practice? The authors suggest that fertility in cows with elevated SCCs could be improved by a second AI eight to twelve hours after the first.

If you are struggling with SCCs, don't forget that we offer the DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan, which addresses mastitis and SCC issues through a thorough and holistic investigation, tailored to your farm!

## Meet the Team: Tina Litherland

Tina has worked part time on reception at Scarsdale for eight years, and particularly enjoys the banter that she has with all the different farmers that come into the practice!

Tina has two children, Max who is six years old and Morgan who is eleven. When Tina is not at work, she loves spending time with her two boys and taking Bailey, George and Holly, her three dogs, around Darley Park - usually with her one year old nephew George too.



## Chantal Bryant BVM&S BSc MRCVS Flies and how to keep them off



Summer is coming and, with it, hopefully some sun, which will be accompanied by the return of the flies! People often think fly strike just affects sheep, but this is a problem that can occur in any species. I have treated struck sheep, cattle, dogs, rabbits, cats and a goose. Over the summer months, any wound or dirty skin is a possible breeding ground.

Extra care needs to be taken with freshly calved cows as they are at increased risk. Monitor them for any wounds, and try and clean off any blood or discharge. A bruised, smelly vulva is a perfect incubation site for maggots. If in doubt, it is worth treating the animals with an appropriate product as protection.

While we recommend avoiding any unnecessary procedures during the summer, such as dehorning or castration, sometimes doing surgery is unavoidable. In these cases we will usually apply fly control at the time of surgery to reduce the risk of infestation. It is also worth paying extra attention to any wounds at this time of year.

Sheep are more frequently affected by fly strike, with the main offender the common green-bottle (*Lucilia sericata*). An adult female can deposit 200 eggs in one go, which will hatch within 12-24 hours. The larvae feed for 3 days before dropping off to pupate into adults. The presence of larvae attracts other females, meaning more eggs will be deposited.

It can be very frustrating to have an apparently clean and healthy sheep flock one day, that by the following evening is

covered in maggots. It is vital to check the sheep at least once a day as huge amounts of damage can be done in 2 days. The most common area for infection is around the back end, although you may find maggots around the neck, shoulders and back. Severe footrot lesions are also a prime site. Affected sheep may have high temperatures, high respiratory rates, weight loss, inappetance and, in severe cases, toxæmia and death.

Long tails increase the risk of infection, so it is advisable to dock tails. Faecal soiling increases susceptibility to infection as the odour attracts flies and it will provide a warm, humid environment for the larvae to develop. Worm control, and nutritional balance to limit scouring, is important.

Shearing reduces the risk of fly strike by 95% as it reduces the humidity in the fleece. Dagging (removing soiled fleece) and crutching (shearing of wool from around the rump) will help lambs that can't be shorn yet.

There are many different products that can be used to limit the level of infestation. The newer products are designed as preventatives, as they kill the young larvae. They are therefore no good for an established infection.



### Examples of cattle products for TREATMENT and PREVENTION of fly strike

	Duration	Meat Withhold	Milk Withhold
Spotinor	4-8 weeks	17 days	Zero
Butox Swish	8-10 weeks	20 days	Zero
Fly and Lice spot on	4-8 weeks	17 days	Zero
Dectomax	6 weeks	35 days	60 days

### Examples of sheep products for PREVENTION of fly strike

	Duration	Meat Withhold
CLiK	16 weeks	40 days
CLiKZiN	8 weeks	7 days
Vetrazin	8-10 weeks	28 days

Other products can be used for treatment and prevention, these will also help with lice and ticks.

### Examples of sheep products for TREATMENT and PREVENTION of fly strike

	Duration	Meat Withhold
Spotinor	4-8 weeks	17 days
Dysect	8-10 weeks	28 days
Crovect	6-8 weeks	8 days

The control regime with the most success in reducing fly strike losses and death is an early ewe treatment (pre-shearing) with a short-acting product, followed by a treatment after shearing with a long-acting product. The lambs should have a long-acting product at the start of the season, which will protect them for the majority of the summer. If the seasons become milder, warm wet winters will increase the presence of flies and so prolong the risk of fly strike.

Sometimes, even despite our best efforts, we end up with a struck animal. The best way to approach these is to clip away any fleece or hair in the region, clean the area and remove the larger maggots, and then use topical treatment to kill any smaller maggots. If animals are severely affected, systemic antibiotics and anti-inflammatories will also be needed.

**Fly strike has considerable cost and welfare implications, and needs to be carefully controlled from early in the season. This is definitely a case where prevention is better than cure, so implementing control measures is highly recommended. It is also worth remembering that a death due to fly strike could result in prosecution under animal welfare legislation.**

**Please do contact us at the surgery for more detailed advice on prevention, and the cost of products.**

