

WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Fluke Testing:



Our Ovacyte worm egg counting machine can also identify fluke eggs!

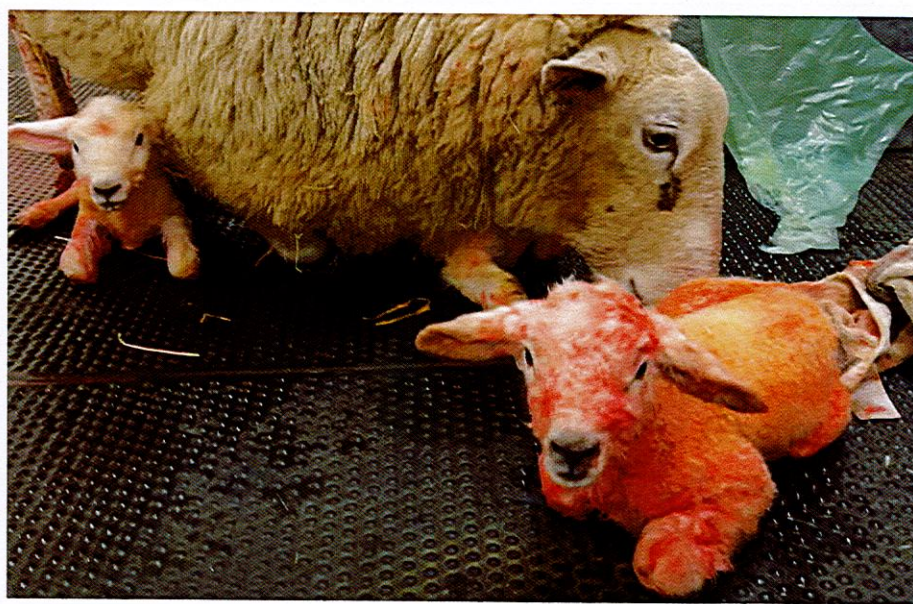
SCOPS/COWS recommend Faecal testing in Winter, Spring and late Summer, during the chronic disease risk period every 4-8 weeks.

However a more achievable approach would be to conduct Faecal Testing at housing, followed by a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) if positive results are detected, and then to test again 2 months following turn out to look for reinfection from the pasture.

Feel free to drop in you sheep, goat, cattle or alpacas' faecal samples for fluke testing!



Wensum Valley Vets

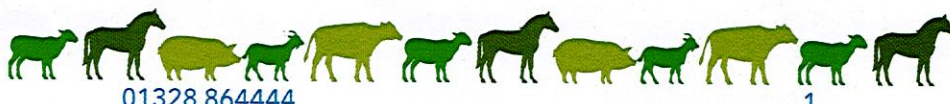


Hypothermic lambs - more than just warming them up...

Hypothermia (low body temperature) is a common cause of lamb losses and treating it effectively can be challenging. Warming a lamb without an energy source can lead to low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia), seizures or death. A lamb's temperature should be 39-40°C. At lower temperatures lambs will often be tucked up and lethargic or can be recumbent and unresponsive.

The condition is common because lambs are born with such a small amount of brown fat, which is a very efficient source of energy, but usually used up in the first five hours of life.

The stomach of a very cold lamb will not be functioning well enough to absorb sufficient energy from colostrum, therefore it is important that lambs below 37°C are given glucose/dextrose by injection before warming. Milk or colostrum must not be given to these very cold lambs, as it can be regurgitated leading to pneumonia or choking on inhaled milk.



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If 37-39°C

- Give 50ml/kg colostrum by stomach tube (approx 250ml) - see below
- Dry and warm lamb
- Repeat at least three times per day, changing from colostrum to milk at 24 hours old, until able to feed from a bottle

If under 37°C

- Contact your vet who may administer intraperitoneal glucose (or do so it yourself if you have previous experience)
- Dry and warm lamb
- Then stomach tube colostrum as above



How to stomach tube a lamb

1. Measure the tube on the outside of the lamb so you can see how far to insert it. Lay the tube along the lamb from the tip of its nose, along the neck and side, so the tip lies at the last rib. Mark the tube at the nose and this will show the length to insert
2. Sit with the lamb on your lap, use your finger to open the lamb's mouth
3. Insert the tube into the lamb's mouth, at the side of the mouth and behind the incisor teeth
4. Keep a finger in the lamb's mouth as you gently insert the tube to prevent chewing
5. Pass until the mark on the tube. If the tube is in the wind pipe the lamb will struggle or cough and the tube will not insert as far as the mark



****Do not use this method on lambs that are not strong enough to hold their own heads up****

How to give an intraperitoneal injection

Key equipment needed

- Sterile glucose for injection
- 30-50ml syringe
- Gloves
- 19G 1" needle

How to:

1. Use 20% solution - 10ml per kg (approx 50ml per lamb) draw this up into a fresh syringe
2. Warm the syringe in a jug of warm water
3. Gently hold the lamb by its front legs so that it hangs upright
4. Wearing gloves, clean the injection site with iodine scrub
5. Then take 19G 1" needle (light yellow hub) and inject straight into abdomen 2cm to side and 2cm below the navel

