



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

New Ovacyte Worm Egg Counting Machine



The practice has invested in a state-of-the-art worm egg counting machine which can identify all relevant species of worm present in sheep and cattle in the UK. This will allow us to target our treatment to groups most at risk of disease and diagnose the cause of problems such as diarrhoea, poor weight gain, weight loss and listlessness. This automated process is significantly more precise than the previous method of manually counting and is available for one-off worm egg counts or as part of **our Smallholders Club**.



Worm egg counting is recommended and now common practice for most keepers of livestock instead of 'blanket worming' or worming

Giving Medications Safely in Small Ruminants

Restraint

Good animal restraint is essential for:

- Human safety
- Animal safety
- Reducing risk of needle breakage



This could involve a second person to restrain the animal, a crush, chase or head yolk. Ideally the handling system will be familiar to the animals to reduce stress.

Oral Medications

1. Restrain the sheep/goat's head in a horizontal position (a slight tilt can improve access, but do not pull their head too far back or to one side)
2. Slide the nozzle of the drench gun or syringe into the corner of the mouth in the gap between the incisor/front teeth in front and the molars
3. Gently position the nozzle/syringe so it rests above the back of the tongue. (Be careful not to ram it in because it is painful, and you can easily damage the back of the throat)
4. Ensure the nozzle isn't pointing directly down the back of the throat or too deep into the throat, as it can prevent the sheep/goat from swallowing



periodically. It often results in financial benefits, as money is saved by not using wormers, as well as the long term benefits of not causing wormer resistance problems.

Fluke Testing:

The Ovacyte 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 reduction

Test (FERT) if positive results are detected, and then to test again 2 months following turn out to look for reinfection from the pasture.



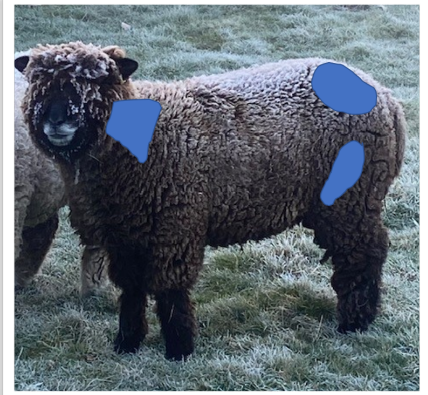
5. Slowly release medication (shooting it in too fast can lead to aspiration)

Injection Best Practice and Top Tips

- Modern syringes and needles are designed to be used only once
- Only inject into a clean area on the animal
- Never attempt to straighten a bent or damaged needle because it is much more likely to break
- The data sheet and our instructions will state the maximum volume that can be injected at one site – split large volumes into smaller amounts and inject in different locations to reduce pain and increase absorption speed

Intramuscular Injections

1. Make sure the area is clean and dry, this could be the neck, rump or quadriceps muscles
2. Gently insert the needle
3. Draw back to check there is no blood, if there is blood remove the needle and start again at another site
4. Slowly inject the contents of the syringe over 10 seconds - do not inject too quickly as this may cause the animal pain.
5. After the injection, gently massage the injection site.



Subcutaneous Injections

1. Make sure the area is clean and dry

2. Grasp a fold of skin over the ribs and behind the shoulder
3. Slide the needle through the skin, parallel to the animal's trunk
4. Insert the needle several inches from your hand to avoid accidental self-injection
5. Pull back the plunger after entry, to ensure the needle is not located within a blood vessel (if there is blood remove the needle and start again at another site)
6. After the injection, briefly massage the site to disperse the medication

