

December 2022



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

POSTAGE:

Due to a number of medication requests not being received after leaving the practice, we will now be posting items over £50 by Royal Mail Signed For, which will incur a slightly higher postage charge. Alternatively, please feel free to call into the practice to collect medication requests during our opening hours.

INVOICE PAYMENT:

When settling invoices by BACS please could we ask the reference of 2254 is used along with the surname on the account registered with us. That way it prevents a delay in the payment reaching us. Just as a reminder the account details are:

Account Name:

Independent Vetcare Ltd,

Account Number:

12724219

Sort Code:

40-42-18



With lambing season fast approaching, now is the time to start preparing.

In this month's newsletter we will discuss essentials to have to hand for lambing and when intervention should occur in non-straight forward deliveries.

ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT LIST:

- **Halter**/method of restraint
- **Disposable gloves** – both short and long
- **Disinfectant**
- **Lubricant**
- **Lambing ropes/ snare**
- **Navel dip** (usually iodine based)
- **Feeding bottles, Stomach tube and syringe**
- **Colostrum**- nothing beats ewe colostrum however a good replacer is useful in the event none is available.
- **Lamb Boost/ electrolyte/ glucose drench**
- **Thermometer** – useful to detect fever early on for prompt treatment
- **Drugs** – please consult your vet for advice
- **Marker** – it is useful to be able to mark those requiring attention etc.
- **Pen and record book** – for medicines/births and deaths recording.
- **Elastrator pliers and rings**



Christmas Opening Hours:

In order that you can get hold of us over the Christmas period our office will be open as follows – outside of these hours we will of course be offering our normal emergency service on 07850 230803

Friday 23rd December –
8.15am-5.30pm

Saturday 24th December-
8.30am-11am

Sunday 25th December-
Emergency Only

Monday 26th December-
Emergency Only

Tuesday 27th December-
Emergency Only

Wednesday 28th December
8.15am-5.30pm

Thursday 29th December
8.15am-5.30pm

Friday 30th December
8.15am-5.30pm

Saturday 31st December
8.30am-11am

Sunday 1st January 2023 –
Emergency Only

Monday 2nd January 2023 –
Emergency Only

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – as
normal.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM
THE WHOLE TEAM AT
WENSUM VALLEY VETS!**

A Normal Lambing:

The process of delivering a lamb can be split into 3 stages:

1. **Stage 1:** Cervix dilation – (3-4hrs). Uterine contractions begin. You may see a white mucus discharge (often missed) – this is the remains of the cervical seal. The ewe may appear uneasy, getting up and down, twitching her tail and vocalising.
2. **Stage 2:** Expulsion of the lambs – (<1hr). Uterine contractions become more frequent and stronger leading to passing of the waterbags. Soon after this you should see the front feet then the nose of the lamb. A first time lamber or multiple litters may take slightly longer.
3. **Stage 3:** Expulsion of the afterbirth – (within 24hrs- usually within 3hrs post lambing)

When to Intervene:

- Unproductive Straining +/- or prolonged discomfort (>1hr)
- >30 mins since past lamb delivered in multiparous ewes (confirmed via scanning)
- Waterbag has been present for a long period of time
- Waterbag was present and now is not
- Presentation doesn't look right i.e. tail showing (breach)

Only attempt to have a feel if you are confident doing so and take all necessary precautions. If you have made no progress within 15 mins, either try something else or call your vet.

Hygiene is of the utmost importance, therefore ensuring you have both clean hands and gloves for each assisted lambing will help prevent spread or introduction of infection to both ewe and lamb.

Ensure adequate lubrication to aid passing your hand and later the lamb through the birth canal.

All afterbirth, used bedding and equipment should be properly disinfected or disposed of to avoid infection.