

SC New Ovacyte Worm **Egg Counting Machine**

The practice has invested in a stateof-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 that the previous method of manually counting and is available for one-off worm egg counts or as part of our



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

WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER



Vets?

Practice Standards Scheme

At the start of March the practice received the fantastic news that we have achieved the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme accreditation for Farm Animal General Practice and Equine General Practice. The Practice Standards Scheme is a recognition of how our team works together for constant improvement and the result of a full clinical and regulatory compliance audit, which showcased work we are proud of. Jay (Office Manager) and Tim (Vet) lead the project and worked tirelessly to write-up, evidence and organise the application!

Positive Hoofprint Awards

At the start of April we were pleased to announce that the practice has achieved the Positive Hoofprint Awards for both Farm and Equine practice, awarded for sustainability in veterinary practice and high standards of patient care. We are the first farm and equine veterinary practice in the country to achieve these awards! They recognise our ongoing commitment to our patients, people and the planet. From planning our visits to limit miles travelled, to reducing unnecessary use of medications which harm the



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.



environment, to carefully categorising our clinical waste and recycling. The whole team have worked extremely hard towards achieving this. Working towards these awards have also involved community projects (like the grant detailed below) and educational projects with the Pony Club, Young Farmers and aspiring vets on placement.

Community Grant

The practice nominated YANA (You Are Not Alone), the rural mental health charity in the East of England, for an IVC Local Community Grant, and are pleased to say this has been successful. We will therefore be donating £1000 to YANA,



a charity whose work we all finish passionate about. We know that the mental health of the farming community is an important issue to many of our clients, as well as the team at Wensum Valley Vets, so look forward to hearing from YANA about how this money will be put to good use.

TB testing, Anthrax and Brucellosis

The practice is now conducting cattle TB for The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) as required. You must be registered with us, and notify APHA that we are your vets for routine care and that you would like to use us for your TB testing. This can be done when you receive your testing letter from APHA, or in advance of this to ensure that you are booked in with us. Norfolk is classified as a Low Risk Area (LRA) so most herds must be tested every 4 years. However some farms, such as open farms or those selling raw

milk products, are required to conduct testing once per year, so please ensure you check your requirements on the APHA website.

Smallholders' Club and Upcoming Talks

Wensum Valley Vets

Since its launch at the start of 2024 our Smallholders' Club has held two well attended meetings, with a third planned for May, in the topic of Medicines Handling and giving medications and injections. The previous topics have included worming, smallholding management and lambing/kidding and breeding interventions. We are so lucky to have our fantastic meeting space at the clinic to host these events in. Please call 01328 864444 or email info@wensumvalleyvets.co.uk to book your place.

01328 864444



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