

Sheep abortion vaccines reminder

As we approach the peak of sheep mating season we thought it would be good to give you all a reminder about timing for sheep abortion vaccines. Enzootic abortion vaccines must be done at latest 4 weeks prior to mating and toxo vaccines must be done at latest 3 weeks prior to mating. It is well worthwhile looking at your diaries to make sure you have enough time to do them.

Time is ticking – Changes to EU regulations



EU Animal Health Regulations require farms producing animals or products of animal origin for export to the EU to have regular veterinary visits. A temporary measure allowed farmers to self-declare, but from 13 December 2023 UK producers sending animals to market or to slaughter must be able to demonstrate that a veterinary visit has taken

place in the past 12 months. At least some portion of most carcasses is exported which means most farm businesses will need to ensure compliance.

The requirement can be certified if the farm is a member of recognised assurance scheme (currently Red Tractor, Welsh Beef and Lamb Producers, and Quality Meat Scotland) or when a visit has taken place as part of the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway for England. Why not make the most of the current funding available for the Animal Health & Welfare Pathway visits to satisfy these requirements and allow yourself a couple of hours with a vet of your choice essentially for free! The declarations are strictly only valid for 12 months so will have to be re-done at specific intervals.

Lungworm warning



We have been seeing increasing cases of lungworm recently both in adult cattle and some youngstock. We are currently at the peak of the lungworm season so keep a close eye on any animals that are coughing lots after grazing for the summer.

Clinical signs:

- Coughing – often cattle stretch their necks low and stick their tongues out
- Laboured and increased breathing
- Nasal discharge
- Salivation
- Loss of condition
- Loss of appetite
- Reduced milk yield

Prevention against lungworm is ideal and if you are seeing clinical cases this year it is worth discussing with us the different prevention strategies for next year prior to turnout. However if you are seeing current issues a combination of worming products and anti-inflammatories can be used. It is important to speak to us about treatment options as death can occur if a high burden is killed off all at once with worming. We are more than happy to discuss a tailored approach for your farm.

BACS Payments

If you pay your bill via BACS please note that our bank details have changed and will need updating in your system before making a payment. The new details are

Name: Independent Vetcare Ltd

Sort Code: 40-01-94

Account No: 01534807

We also offer on-line payments and direct debit to help make life easier for you.

Online payments can be made via the link on the front page of our website and all you need are your invoice number and card details to make the payment.

Direct debit is another option that makes life very easy for you. Once set up we collect the amount of your invoice each month. Payments are normally collected on 21st of each month but this can be changed if a different date works better for you. All we need to do to set this up is ask you to complete one simple form.

If you would like to request a direct debit form or get any more information then please contact Julia on 01477 571000 or Julia@wmvets.co.uk

Cheshire Ploughing Match



On Wednesday 28th September we have once again spent the day at the Cheshire Ploughing Match. We had a fabulous day catching up with many clients and some new faces as well! The weather was much kinder than forecast and the BBQ and marquee survived the day. The bacon, sausage and egg

butties went down a storm as did the burgers at lunch time. Teas and coffees were order of the day due to the slightly chillier weather but there were still a few beers enjoyed as well. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Liver Fluke

What is it?

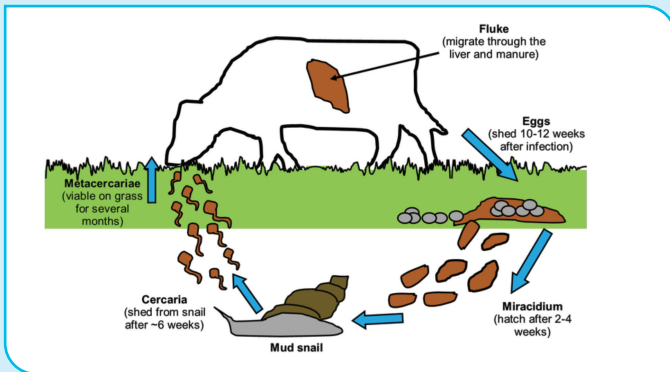
Liver fluke is a generalised name for the Fasciola species which are a type of parasitic flatworm called Trematodes, with Fasciola hepatica being most commonly seen in the UK.

Who is affected?

Liver fluke can affect all ruminants to a varying degree. Subacute presentations (seen over days and weeks) are more common in cattle and acute presentations (sudden onset) more common in sheep, but acute presentations are still possible in cattle.

How is it transmitted/ lifecycle

The Fasciola species depend on an intermediate host, the mud snail, to complete their life cycle. The adult worm lives in the liver of the infected animal and eggs are passed out in faeces. The first larval stage (miracidium) hatches from the eggs and infects snails (if they do not find a host within 24-30 hours they will die). Whilst carried by the snail, the parasite undergoes a period of development and emerges as cercaria. If not eaten, cercaria can further develop into encysted metacercariae, which exist on vegetation to be eaten by ruminants. Once eaten, the fluke will then travel through the intestinal tissues to reach the liver.



Clinical signs to watch out for

Most signs can occur in both cattle and sheep but there are some differences which are outlined below

Acute fasciolosis (most commonly seen in sheep)

- Sudden death between August-October especially in sheep
- Signs of liver damage including haemorrhage

Sub-acute fasciolosis

- Rapid loss of body condition
- Poor fleece condition
- Depression
- Inappetence
- Inability to stand

Chronic fasciolosis

- Very poor body and fleece condition
- **Bottle jaw** (swollen underside of the jaw)
- Death may occur if lambing
- May see eggs in faeces and adult flukes in bile duct on post mortem

How can you work with your vet to diagnose liver fluke?

Diagnosis for fluke can be done based on the clinical signs discussed above as well as a range of in house or external laboratory testing undertaken with your vet, such as faecal worm egg counts or milk and blood serum antibody ELISA testing. The most definitive test and best method of monitoring herd level exposure is through post mortem analysis of sudden death cases and any fallen stock.

How can we reduce our risks of fluke?

- Avoid co-grazing cattle and sheep
- Avoid buying in animals (without effective quarantine or from unknown sources)
- Manage the length of the grazing season to reduce exposure as high numbers are present in Autumn
- Avoid wet, muddy areas
- Avoid wet, muddy areas or consider fencing these off where possible
- Increased numbers of fluke are present in warm and high rainfall summer weather

Treatment

A helpful way to ensure you are treating correctly and avoiding parasite resistance is by using the 5 R's:

- Right flukicide – different classes target different life-stages. Consult a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) when choosing which flukicide to use.

Active ingredient	Administration route	Stage of liver fluke killed
Triclabendazole	Oral Pour-on	2+ weeks 6-8 weeks
Closantel	SC injection or pour-on	7+ weeks
Nitroxylin	SC injection	8+ weeks
Clorsulon	SC injection	Adults only
Oxyclozanide	Oral	Adults only
Albendazole	Oral	Adults only

NB only nitroxylin, oxyclozanide and albendazole can be used in dairy cattle - please check data sheets carefully before.

- Right animal – treat at risk animals i.e. animals grazed on pastures known to have fluke.
- Right time – treat animals based on their pasture risk and the time of year (i.e. usually Autumn when numbers are high because of wet pasture)
- Right rate – read the packaging and dose all to the heaviest animal's weight in the flock/ herd.
- Right way – read the product label and ensure you are giving it to the animals in the right way i.e. injection vs pour on vs oral drench

Rumen Fluke

What is it?

Rumen fluke is the generalised name for Calicophoron daubneyi, which is a 0.5-1cm long, pink parasite found on the surface of the rumen and reticulum.

Clinical signs

Usually there is no clinical signs of rumen fluke as they are often an incidental finding on post mortem so treatment is often not required.

Disease in large numbers may cause:

- Profuse, fetid diarrhoea
- Ill thrift

Diagnosis of rumen fluke

- Faecal egg count (FEC)

Treatment

- Oxyclozanide ONLY

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