

JANUARY 2022



FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER



Farm

COVID-19 UPDATE

With COVID-19 cases on the rise we would like to remind our clients to please inform us if you or anyone in your household is exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms if you have an upcoming visit scheduled. It is important that we have this information so that our vets and TB testers can prepare with full PPE to help us keep our team of vets on the road and continue to provide our usual excellent standard of service to our valued clients. Thank you for your co-operation.

STORAGE OF MEDICINES

With lambing and calving in full swing, medicine is being used quicker than usual. Here is a helpful reminder of how to correctly store and use medicines.

As with all medicine, please follow the label on handling, storing and using correctly. Any variation from the label's guidelines can affect the efficacy of the product.

Medicine Storage and Transport

All medicines are required to be stored properly to prevent changes to the drugs they contain. The two main types of storage required are refrigerated and non refrigerated.

Non refrigerated

Store below 25°C and out of direct sunlight.

Keep in a locked storage cupboard.

Keep out of sight whilst travelling.

Refrigerated

Must be stored in a fridge at a temperature between 2°C and 8°C. If they are outside of this range they can become ineffective.

Transport in a cool bag and place in your working fridge promptly. Please return cool bags to us after use, we have a limited number in circulation and require them daily.

Recording of Medicine

All medicine used on farm needs to be recorded, this includes medicines not purchased from us. Records need to be made in either a booklet using permanent pen or on a computer programme. The date given, animal identification, dosage of drug, batch numbers, withhold days and date of end of withdrawal need to be recorded. These can be checked by trading standards and Farm Assurance schemes and failure to comply can lead to penalties. These records are also very useful for checking at yearly reviews on medicine usage and disease prevalence.

If you have any questions please phone the office and ask to speak to a vet.

LAMBING SUPPLIES

ARE YOU READY TO START LAMBING?



LAMBING SUPPLIES



EQUIPMENT

- Vet lube
- Iodine 10%
- Lambing Snare
- Lambing Ropes
- Sterile needles and syringes
- Stomach feeding tube and syringe
- Lamb feeding bottle
- Prolapse harness
- Thermometer
- Warming Box
- Castration Rings
- Arm length and latex gloves

DRUGS

- Metacam Injection
- Suitable antibiotics - please speak to a vet for advice
- 50% Glucose Injection
- Calcibel
- Ewe Go
- Freeze Dried Colostrum
- Rehydion liquid
- Scabivax
- Sensiblex (for use with ringwomb)

MISCELLANEOUS

- Sterilising solution for feeders/bottles
- Disinfectant Solution (for pens)
- Notebook (for births/treatments/deaths)
- A stiff drink for the shepherd/shepherdess!

HEREFORD: 01432 351471 • BROMYARD: 01885 488440 • LEDBURY: 01531 806129

Vets: Dominic Alexander • Will Allman • Mike Bellamy • Hazel Birch-Ellis • Ellie Collins • Andrew Cooke • Joel Galloway • Nick Gibbon • James Hipperson • Hannah Mitchell • Matthew Pugh • Caroline Rank • Harry Walby • Charlotte Watkins • Sarah Watson

TB Testers: Jacek (Jack) Andrychiewicz • Petre Balanescu • Jennifer Grosvenor-Smith • Lin Irving • Ovidiu Mircea-Oltean • Tudor Patcas
Diego Sainz Garcia • Mark Wrathall

Support staff: Jasmine Chapman • Megan Corrick • Sadie Davies • Michelle Harris • Lucy Hughes • Sybil Legge • Laura Langford • Alice Mainwaring
Ros O'Sullivan • Sharon Powell • Sophie Powell • Andrea Smith • Pam Strange • Vicky Tully • Katherine Whistance • Millie Whitlock • Evelyn Williams

Spectam Scourhalt

This year we regret to inform you that Spectam Scourhalt will be unavailable due to it being discontinued by the manufacturer. With this in mind we would like to stress the need for all farmers who are lambing indoors to pay close attention to hygiene and management practices in the lambing shed.

Colostrum - Adequate colostrum is key for all lambs to get the best start in life. Ensure the three Q's are met, Quality, Quantity, Quickly. Ensure all lambs get up and feed within an hour of being born and if you have any doubt supplement the lamb with good quality colostrum, there are multiple different colostrum products available on the market but attention must be paid to relative quality of each – you really do get what you pay for! All multiples should be topped up as a matter of routine!

Navals - The dipping of navals with 10% iodine solution soon after birth is essential to help prevent infection of the naval. We would also strongly recommend dipping them a second time after the ewe has cleaned the lamb off and probably licked the iodine off it!

Pens - Clean pens are essential. Ensure pens are mucked out thoroughly down to the floor between ewes and disinfected with a suitable product such as lime powder and left to dry before adding fresh straw to the pen when putting in a new ewe and her lambs. Bed up daily!

If you are experiencing any issues during lambing please do get in touch with us and we will be more than happy to offer advice to tailor your management practices to suit you.

POTENTIAL STAFF SHORTAGES

As with most businesses Belmont Farm & Equine is feeling the effects of the ever increasing number of cases of COVID-19.

We have been very lucky to have had relatively few cases amongst our staff but we have had some vets, TB testers and support staff required to isolate recently.

We also have an obligation to provide vets as part of the Avian Influenza investigations and this is often at short notice.

As a result of this we would like to forewarn our clients that there may be occasions where we need to postpone or rearrange a visit. We ask you please to be flexible on timings where possible. We will continue to strive to provide our usual excellent standard of care to our clients and will avoid disruption to our services wherever possible.

With this in mind ***please remember to book your TB test with plenty of time within your test window.***

We will continue to prioritise urgent and emergency care.

We thank you for your continued understanding and support in these exceptional circumstances.

Calf Pneumonia

What to look out for

Pneumonia in calves, aka bovine respiratory disease (BRD), is a multi-factorial condition. Ventilation, stress, disease pressure and nutrition all play a major role. The key in getting on top of an outbreak of pneumonia is early identification of cases, prompt treatment and working with your vets to recognise the contributing factors and correcting them.

A thermometer is a great tool for combating BRD. The earliest indicator of pneumonia is an increased temperature over 39.5°C (103.1°F) – often occurring 12-72 hours before other clinical signs. By picking out febrile calves earlier sometimes the use of an appropriate anti-inflammatory alone can result in a clinical cure without antibiotics. A rough guide is to treat at first spike of temperature over 39.5, repeat temperature check in approximately 12 hours, checking for other clinical signs, and treating with antibiotics at second instance if no improvement. Next time you're phoning in an order, why don't you add a thermometer to the shopping list?

Other clinical signs include coughing, increased breathing rate, decreased feed intake, lethargy and nasal discharge. By using a consistent pneumonia scoring system, early identification becomes easier and more effective. Ask your vet to help produce a scoring system and treatment protocols that work for your herd.

Upcoming Meetings

Due to the increasing number of cases of COVID-19 we have made the decision to postpone our upcoming client meetings until further notice. Any clients who had booked onto the meetings will have been contacted directly.

If you are interested in joining any meetings please contact the office and we will add your details to a waiting list.

Please keep an eye on our Facebook for updates.



BELMONT FARM & EQUINE VETS

Emergencies and Out of Hours

In the unfortunate event that your animal requires veterinary attention out-of-hours please dial the usual office number where you will be given the telephone number of the on-duty vet.

It may be useful to keep a pen and paper handy to take this number down.

On the rare occasion that the duty vet is out of reception your call will be forwarded to a helpful member of our answering service who will ensure someone attends the emergency as soon as possible.

The answering team at Kernow can be contacted directly on 01432 381 440, if for any reason you are unable to reach the duty vet.

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