

# Summer Newsletter

19TH JULY 2024

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## Bluetongue Vaccine update

A vaccination for BTV-3 has now been approved in the Netherlands. Hopefully it will soon be available in the UK as we move into warmer weather and the higher risk period.

Animals purchased from high risk (Suffolk, Norfolk, Essex, Kent and East Sussex) areas are eligible for free post movement testing with APHA.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bluetongue-get-free-testing-for-your-animals>

**Grazing management strategies for avoidance;** Use sheltered areas early in the Summer with protection from wind carrying midges.



## HAEMONCHUS (BARBERS POLE WORM) WARNING

We have been seeing a large number of cases of this parasite causing illness and fatality, mainly in Adult ewes, over the last few weeks.

Haemonchus is a type of roundworm that lives in the Abomasum (4th stomach) and affects sheep in particular. Unlike most worms Sheep do not develop any immunity to it so all ages can be susceptible not just lambs.

It survives best in warm and wet conditions, hence current weather conditions are causing a massive increase in disease.

It feeds on the blood of its host, so rather than causing scour it leads to the animal becoming very anaemic. They can also get fluid swellings around the face and jaw.

You can check for this by looking at the membranes around the eye (see above). If untreated it is often fatal. We can also diagnose this on faeces samples brought into the practice. Most wormers are effective but those containing 'Closantel' are the most specific (e.g. Solantel).



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# LIVESTOCK WORRYING

In May Sarah attended a Dorset livestock worrying event for vets and farmers. The series of workshops included discussions with representatives of the NFU, National Sheep Association and the Dorset Police Rural Crime team. Focusing on actions producers can take to help secure a prosecution, and a reminder of the importance to contact the police so that all cases are logged - helping to increase public awareness and police presence in local areas.

There was also a session for attendees to learn how to take DNA samples (wool and saliva from around wounds) to be submitted and help with investigations. We now have some kits for this located at the practice that can be collected (FOC) and used by clients.

Other key points raised were the importance of video/photographic footage and involving your vet at an early stage as an independent party who can witness/treat injured livestock and store potential DNA evidence samples.

We also have signs at the practice to be displayed on gates around footpaths.



Short term supply issue for EAE (Chlamydia abortion) vaccination this Summer. Please order as soon as possible so that we can organise an alternative



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

DEFRA has announced that the current TBAS funded visit contract will be extended a further 12 months. Contact the practice if you would like a free TB advisory visit for your farm. This is open to all livestock keepers, not just cattle. And there is no minimum size of farm to be eligible.

**ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE REVIEW FOLLOW UP;**  
**For farmers that have taken part in the AHWR, the next phase of funding is now open. This includes further testing based upon the initial review dependent on the Species (Dairy, Beef, Sheep or Pigs).**

**[HTTPS://WWW.GOV.UK/GUIDANCE/FARMERS-AND-VETS-WHAT-HAPPENS-ON-AN-ENDEMIC-DISEASE-FOLLOW-UP](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farmers-and-vets-what-happens-on-an-endemic-disease-follow-up)**



**Earlier in the year we hosted Marshwood Vale and Crewkerne Young Farmers for an evening at the practice. We also supported Marshwood with the purchase of some coats which arrived this week ready for the next downpour!**

