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## Practice News

May has been seasonally busy with the tail end of spring calving merging with breeding soundness examinations for both bulls and cows. The usual rise in respiratory cases and coccidiosis we normally see at the end of May has not yet materialised which is good news!

Most flocks have wrapped up lambing and the fair weather through most of April and May has led to better than average lamb mortality across the board. We have seen a number of fly strike issues already, which serves as a timely reminder that early prevention is much better than reacting when it's too late!

## Staff Changes

Many of you have now met Andrew Littlejohn, our new farm animal orientated vet. A local lad and farmers son from Glen Esk, Andrew has spent the last 3 years working in mixed practice and replaces Alistair Smith who has gone travelling in New Zealand for the next year or so.

## Tongue and Jaw Syndrome

We have now identified this on at least 9 farms in the practice with a variety of breeds and production systems affected. It can range from an individual calf to up to 25% of a group affected and to date no cause has been identified.

Affected calves can sometimes go unnoticed but commonly are presented because they appear dopey and unable to suckle properly. On closer examination the tongue lacks proper coordination and usually the jaw is slightly twisted so that the teeth do not meet the dental pad uniformly. Badly affected calves fail to progress and often end up with self-inflicted tongue lesions.



We are still trying to establish the prevalence of this problem and would be keen to hear of any new cases. If you think you may have had cases please contact the surgery to discuss in the first instance.

## Contact Us

### Kirriemuir

20 Forfar Road  
Kirriemuir  
DD8 5BY  
01575 572643

### Blairgowrie

Back Brae  
Blairgowrie  
PH10 6NW  
01250 871010

[vets@thrumsvet.co.uk](mailto:vets@thrumsvet.co.uk)

[www.thrumsvet.co.uk](http://www.thrumsvet.co.uk)

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## Cattle Parasites

The warm wet weather is highly conducive to a high worm challenge with large numbers of overwintered larvae a possibility given the relatively mild winter. Ivermectin resistance has been confirmed on a couple of farms and suspected on a few more. If you are having poorer results with your pour-on wormer than anticipated it would be prudent to check for resistance. This is relatively easy to do but please contact the surgery for a protocol in the first instance.

There are now a number of generic fly repellent products available which have made treatment with pyrethroid products far more economical. This summer we have a special offer on Spotinor and Taurador, a generic equivalent of Dectomax

## Sheep BlowFly Control Options

There is a wide array of chemicals available for preventing fly strike in sheep, but at times choosing the right product can be confusing. Below is a handy summary of some of the key products we stock, but please feel free to discuss what's best for your individual requirements as these can vary widely from farm to farm.

PRODUCT	Fly Cover	Tick Cover	Approx. cost/dose	Meat withdrawal	Other info
CLiK	16 wks	No	95p	40 days	Can do off shear. Not for treatment
CLiZin	8 wks	No	75p	7 days	Can do off shear. Not for treatment
Dysect	8-10 wks	8-12 wks	65p	28 days	1cm fleece minimum.
Ectofly	6-8 wks	6-8 wks	35p	8 days	
Spotinor	Treatment only	4-6 wks	30p	35 days	
OP Dip	8-10 wks	4-8 wks	70p	40/79 days	Scab also