



THRUMS VETERINARY GROUP

Thrums News

March 2020

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Practice News

It's starting to feel like winter is passing on and the days are lengthening, and with this comes the start of the spring work; the number of lambings, calvings and ceasars we have attended has recently started to increase and we expect the ensuing month to be our busiest with emergency work.

Fodder seems to be plentiful although protein levels are slightly low in some instances. Liver fluke has made an unwelcome appearance in several groups of out-wintered cattle and sheep, even where back-end dosing was carried out. We assume these to be winter acquired infestations rather than evidence of drug resistance.

One farmer, who had noticed that Rotavec Corona had effectively protected his cattle against both Rota-virus and Corona virus had asked if he should vaccinate his staff whilst he was at it! We would not advise this, it would be extremely painful and the Corona virus is entirely different from the one currently causing problems for people.

New surgery in Scone

As some of you have no doubt heard we will be opening a new branch surgery later this year in Scone. This will be primarily for small animal patients but it may save a bit of a drive for some of you as large animal medications will be able to be collected with 24 hours notice.

Medicine Availability

In recent years we have suffered numerous outages of certain medicines. The problem is ongoing but by and large by importing medicines direct from certain European countries, often with the help of XL Vets, we have managed to maintain supply.

Sometimes this has led to temporary branding changes. Currently we are sourcing alternatives to Betamox, Vitesel, Adrenacaine, Norodine and Multivitamins to name but a few. Once we leave the EU this process may become harder. If there are key medicines that you would like us to forward order for you please contact the surgery.

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Top Tips for a successful caesarean section

Nobody wants to have to call the vet for a difficult calving or caesarean section, but sometimes it is an inevitable outcome of breeding animals. March and April will see us at our busiest for these call outs, and there is a few things you can do to that are directly correlated with a successful outcome.

- Make the decision to call the vet earlier rather than later - we may look like it sometimes but we're not miracle workers!
- Have somewhere to properly restrain the beast - a crush that the sides open or a Ritchey style calving gate are ideal. A locking head yoke is often suitable. Being tied to a pole in the middle of the barn is less than ideal!
- Have two large, clean buckets of warm water ready.
- Ensure plenty light - a head torch and the tractor headlights are not ideal.
- The environment should be as clean and draught free as practical. Don't turn on the straw blower once the calf is out! (This has happened...)
- A minimum of two assistants are usually required. We try to bring a vet student when we can, but this is not always possible. Assistants play a vital role in restraining the cow, delivering the calf and reviving the calf, as well as hopefully providing a bit of chat whilst stitching up!

Metabolic Profiling Ewes

Ensuring adequate nutrition to pregnant ewes in the run up to lambing time is critical to avoiding an endless list of problems such as watery mouth, joint-ill, hypothermia, prolapse, twin lamb disease and mastitis.

The only way to know exactly how ewes are responding to their diet is to perform a "Metabolic Profile" which provides an insight into:

- Ewe body condition
- Energy provision
- Short and long term protein provision

By analyzing the results, along with the knowledge of their current diet we are able to recommend any last-minute adjustments to the diet that may help to offset impending problems.

It is a simple test that can save multiple lives. We are able to run all the tests in-house which means we can get same day results, and cheaper too!

Ideally 6 twin/triplet bearing ewes from each separately managed group should be sampled 2-4 weeks pre-lambing. Please contact the surgery to arrange this work.