



THRUM'S VETERINARY GROUP
DEDICATED PROFESSIONAL CARE

Thrum's Farm News

APRIL 2020

- Practice News
- Services
- Medicines
- Social Distancing

Practice News - Coronavirus Special

We sincerely hope everybody and your loved ones are keeping safe and well during these worrying times, this newsletter serves as an update of all the recent changes we have had to make to adjust to the restrictions put in place and keep our staff and clients safe. Even if you have read recent email or social media updates, please read the newsletter carefully, as it contains the most up-to-date information and hopefully will help dispel some confusion about what a lock-down farm vet service looks like.

Whilst these are worrying times for all of us, not only for our health, but what it means for our farming businesses, it is fantastic to see the countryside coming alive on our rounds - particularly with such favourable weather.



Another life saved
by a Thrum's Vet!

What Services Are Thrum's Running?

Following guidance from the Government and our veterinary governing bodies we continue to do work that is important for safe, efficient and welfare friendly food production.

All emergency work in relation to calving and lambing. We have naturally been busy with this over the past few weeks, though fewer cows have required caesarean sections so far this year compared to previous years.

Disease investigation. Over the past weeks we have investigated ovine abortion outbreaks, pneumonia cases and adult ewe mortality. Where production and welfare is at risk, investigation of these issues should not be delayed.



Nearly 100% of fertility issues
we investigate are bull related
- and avoidable

Fertility work. As calving progresses, minds will soon turn to the oncoming mating period. Routine **semen sampling of bulls** and **problem cow checks** are vital to efficient beef farming and should continue as before. **Synchronisation** of heifers and late calving cows can also improve productivity of beef herds so we continue to offer these services.

Attending sick animals. Cases of mastitis, down cows and scours etc all still need attended to, and as ever, the sooner we're involved, the better the outcome is likely to be.

Lameness. Whilst we are advised against carrying out routine foot trimming under lock-down, our hydraulic crush is still available to attend to lame animals. This is particularly important with regards to bulls that will be expected to work in the coming months.

BVD eradication and TB testing is carrying on as normal. However, the labs are not currently processing other health scheme testing and as such this form of testing will be postponed.

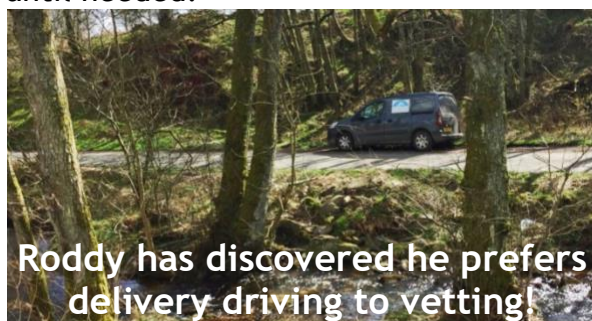
Metabolic testing. Metabolic profiling of ewes has thrown up some interesting results this year that has allowed impending energy and protein issues to be avoided. Our beef cattle metabolic profiling project with SRUC continues and looks to be a very informative piece of work.

Face to face health planning is currently postponed. However, we remain at the end of the phone for any advice and have become recent experts at video conferencing if it helps! QMS recently changed their requirements with regards to health planning and we will be in contact again in the summer to help you all out with this.

Currently the advice is that routine castration and disbudding should not be carried out by a vet. We are seeking clarification on this where delaying this task may result in welfare issues later in the year. However, where possible we would advise using gas disbudding, caustic paste and elastic bands by trained personnel as much as possible.

Medicines Update

We continue to be assured that production of medicines will not be affected by the pandemic, however, the certainly and **frequency** of our supply will be. Rather than every-day deliveries we are currently on an every-other-day delivery and this may well be reduced to weekly. This should encourage all of us to **be organised** to make sure we have what we need to protect the health of our stock for the months ahead. Currently we can obtain most things and are happy to forward order and store for committed orders that will not be charged until needed.



Roddy has discovered he prefers delivery driving to vetting!

We have also trialed a **delivery service** which has been well received, we are exploring how to implement this into the future. In the meantime, if you have an order of reasonable quantity, please let us know if you'd like it delivered and we'll see what we can do.

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Or find us on
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Medications to start thinking about now include:

Ovovac/Heptavac for lambs
White wormer for nematodirus in lambs
Vecoxan/Tolracol for cocci

Despite a few misconceptions, we are often as competitively priced as the trade and sometimes much cheaper! As ever, we will always seek to prescribe the right product at the right time for your farming system.

Social Distancing and Working Patterns

When our vets are out on farm please respect the required distance of 2 metres between people. Whilst there are situations this is challenging such as a caesar or prolapse, occasionally the distances have not been respected in much less critical situations. Our vets are a polite bunch, so might find it awkward to ask you to step back when just having a chat at the back of the car after a job, so please keep this in mind as much as possible!

If anyone on the farm is self-isolating or is experiencing symptoms consistent with coronavirus, it is **ESSENTIAL** we are informed of this prior to any visit.

The doors to our surgeries are locked. We are open 8.30am-5pm Mon-Fri and 9am-12.30pm Sat. Outside of these times, the out-of-hours emergency team is available. If collecting medicines, ensure these are ordered in advance and phone on arrival to collect them. If at all possible please avoid doing this between 12-2.

We have the minimum number of people possible working in our buildings. This means the large animal team are working from home (hence why we're often delighted to come out to a tough calving these days - it's a much better alternative than enduring the kids!!!) and we have only one or two receptionists working. Please bear with us if this causes any inconvenience or delay, we're trying our best to keep everyone safe and happy in the current circumstances.



Thank You!

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone for continuing to work with us through these past few weeks and for the months ahead. It really has been a stressful and testing time for all, but our staff and clients have made this challenge much easier than it could have been. Thank you and stay safe everyone!