

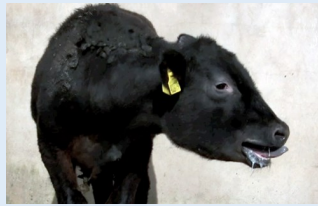


Lungworm in Cattle

Lungworm is quite common, but varies from year to year in terms of timing and severity. Disease is often seen July to October, which may seem a long way off, but the time to plan prevention is NOW. It is usually seen in first season grazers, but can happen in older animals if they have never developed immunity to it.

• CLINICAL SIGNS:

- * Widespread coughing in group - characteristic harsh 'husk' cough.
- * Progresses to difficulty breathing, rapid breathing, frothing at mouth.
- * Weight loss, milk drop (in dairy cows) Farm history and signs may be enough.
- * Confirm by finding larvae in faecal sample.
- * Blood antibody test: indicates previous exposure to lungworm.



PREVENTION IS KEY: Good quarantine measures/treatments to avoid introducing it and Vaccination - Huskvac (2nd dose at least 2 weeks before turnout).

• TREATMENT:

- * Most wormers (yellow, white, clear) are effective, but ideally move to clean pasture afterwards to avoid immediate reinfection.
- * REMEMBER: cattle need exposure to lungworm to gain immunity. Long-acting or bolus wormers are effective but stop this happening.

Orf in Sheep

There has been a shortage of the Scabigard vaccine we have been using to prevent Orf virus in sheep. Due to this shortage we have specially imported a vaccine called **Ecthybel** to use as an alternative.

The vaccine is different to Scabigard or the previous Scabivax as involves giving a 1ml dose under the skin rather than the scratch applicator. **DO NOT** use the scratch applicator with Ecthybel.

The vaccine needs to be reconstituted (powder put into the solvent that comes with it) and this provides 25 doses.

Since the product is imported from Europe, we are including our own English language datasheet with the product. If there are any further questions please contact the surgery and we will be happy to help.



As always, we are always available for lambing's and caesar's at the surgery. Please remember to call ahead to ensure we have a vet available for when you arrive. We do offer visits also.

It is also useful to provide your own container to transport lambs home in—clean, straw filled old lick buckets are perfect for this.

Due to changes in prescription rules, an up-to-date herd or flock plan will now need to be in place before medications can be dispensed. Funding through the Animal Health and Welfare pathway is available to help towards the cost of these plans.

Please pre-order all medicines over the phone to ensure we can authorize these medications.

We are now able to process Direct Debits.

Please contact the Practice to set up this method of payment.



POLITE REMINDER:

When writing a cheque please remember to address it to Belle Vue Vets Ltd.

FARM DISCOUNT SCHEME

Excellent discounts on selected drugs / vaccines when accounts are paid before the month's end.

Please pre-order all medications by calling 016973 42174, this will help speed up collection at the desk and get authorisation from one of our vets.



Viruses to be aware of

Lambing 2024



Schmallenberg's

A non-contagious viral disease causing many problems when the virus crosses the placenta and affects the growing foetus.

Clinical signs of the disease;

- Abortions, stillbirths, foetal abnormalities

Malformations include;

- Bent limbs and fixed joints
- Twisted neck or spine
- Brain deformities



Schmallenberg's can affect all ruminant species but is prominent in cattle and sheep. Midges are key in the transmission of the virus between animals.

Unfortunately there is no current vaccine for Schmallenberg but prevention can include;

- Reducing sheep exposure to midges during late summer/early autumn, perhaps shifting mating season.

Bluetongue—

Foetal deformities similar to those seen with Schmallenberg's can occur, as well as;

- High rectal temperature
- Eye and nasal discharges
- Drooling as a result of ulcerations in the mouth
- Abortions

APHA offer a free-of-charge testing for suspicious cases. Please contact us for any more information on this or if you suspect a case of Schmallenberg's or Bluetongue.

Johnes Diseases in Sheep

Johnes is caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium avium* paratuberculosis and is thought to be underdiagnosed in flocks as it is often considered as a disease affecting cattle only. It can have a significant impact on the performance of a flock as it causes chronic weight loss, a poor fleece and dampens the immune system making infected ewes more susceptible to secondary conditions. One key difference between Johnes in cattle and sheep is the lack of diarrhoea although this can be seen as many will also have high worm burdens.

Infection typically occurs when they are lambs, via the faecal/oral route as well as in the uterus. It is therefore recommended to have high hygiene standards when lambing and replacements from infected ewes should not be kept. Clinical signs often appear when ewes are typically 3-4 years old however infected animals will intermittently shed contaminants throughout their life which can survive on pasture for up to 12 months.

Diagnosis of this disease relies on various factors including post-mortems, blood sampling a group of 'cull ewes' or faecal sampling. Unfortunately, there is no treatment for Johnes disease therefore prevention is key – this relies on having a strict culling policy (which will also help reduce many other conditions) of all ewes in poor body condition. There is also a licensed vaccine for flocks with high levels of infection which can help to reduce the spread and clinical signs seen but will not eliminate the disease.

If you are concerned about your flock and want further investigation into wasting/ill-thrift please contact us for more information. We can carry out various investigations including faecal worm egg counts, post-mortem examinations and screening blood tests.