

White Lodge Farm Clinic

01643 703649 farm@whitelodgevetclinic.co.uk

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter!

Welcome to the Autumn edition of our newsletter. With the unprecedented dry summer, specific problems are likely to arise this autumn with livestock, including plant poisoning and lungworm as discussed below. Hopefully by the time this newsletter makes it to you we will have had some rain and grass growth!

In staff news, Hannah has sadly left us to pursue her dream of travelling and we wish her every success in the racehorse practice near Melbourne she's moving to! Thank you for your two years with us Hannah!



We have also recently welcomed Charlotte, who will have met many of you while she spent time with us as a student. Charlotte graduated this year from the University of Bristol, and will be splitting her time between the large animal practice and companion animals. Charlotte has four horses and two dogs at home keeping her busy, as well as enjoying wild-swimming, running, yoga and surfing!

SHEEP ABORTION VACCINES - ORDER NOW!

Infectious causes of abortion are very common in sheep, leading to big economic losses, and can also cause abortion in humans. Both Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasmosis are very common causes, but can be effectively controlled in a flock via good biosecurity practices and vaccinations.

Enzovax is a vaccine to reduce abortion caused by *Chlamydophila abortus* infection (Enzootic abortion), and reduce shedding. A single dose should be given 4 weeks before mating.

Toxovax is vaccine against *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite acquired from the environment, and a common cause of barrenness and abortion, and should be given at least 3 weeks before mating.

Both vaccines can be given on the same day.

For more information, or to order, please call!



FAREWELL MR BROWNE!

We have recently celebrated the retirement of Philip Browne after 52 years in practice! Philip qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon from Bristol University in 1970, and only managed to stay away from Minehead for three and a half years after qualifying, before returning to work as a mixed vet for the founders of White Lodge - George Carter (Philip's cousin) and Bill West.

Over the years Philip gradually honed his interests from covering all species, to point-to-point and National Hunt racing, working as the lead vet for two large National Hunt yards and vetting at many local Point-to-Point races, along with other equine work.

In his now increased spare time, Philip loves shooting and Point-to-Point racing, with three working dogs and his own Point-to-Point horses. Congratulations to Philip for sticking with us for so long, thank you from us and all of our clients for all your hard work over the years!



LUNGWORM IN CATTLE - 'HUSK'

Lungworm in cattle is caused by *Dictyocaulus viviparus*, a worm with a complex lifecycle, and unpredictable outbreaks. Although a dry summer has reduced our chance of lungworm, the weather breaking may suddenly release large numbers of larvae onto pasture.

The lifecycle, as with gastrointestinal worms, involves larvae being picked up from pasture after being released from faecal pats, normally by rainfall. The larvae are eaten, then migrate from the guts to the lungs. Adult worms living in the lungs lay eggs, hatching into larvae that are then coughed up, swallowed, and excreted in faeces to complete the life cycle.

Animals that have been previously exposed to lungworm usually get a strong immunity to the worms, so infection of adult cattle is rare.

Clinical signs

The main signs seen are from the larvae and adults living within the lungs, causing pneumonia and bronchitis. Some animals however can show severe signs after an outbreak (post-patent parasitic bronchitis), which is often fatal. Bacterial infections can also take hold in the damaged lung tissue, worsening signs.

- Coughing and increased breathing rate
- Inappetence and weight loss
- Laboured breathing

- Fever may occur when there is secondary bacterial infection
- Badly affected animals may die



Diagnosis

Diagnosis is usually based on a careful history and clinical signs. The disease usually affects all young cattle in a group on grass for the first time. Specific tests on faecal samples can show the presence of larvae.

Treatment

All wormers available are effective against lungworm, and there is currently no resistance known. Treatment must be carefully targeted towards the least and worst affected animals in a group, and veterinary advice should be sought before blanket treatments.

Prevention

The best method of preventing disease is with the lungworm vaccine. The live attenuated vaccine is given orally to calves aged eight weeks or more. Two doses are given at an interval of four weeks and, to allow a high level of immunity to develop, vaccinated calves should be protected from infected pasture until two weeks after their second dose. Youngstock may be at increased risk at housing if a lungworm burden is combined with pneumonia challenge. Speak to one of our vets for methods to reduce this risk.

WHY HAS EVERYTHING BUT THE GRASS GROWN?

With such a dry summer, grass, hay and silage are all in short supply coming into Autumn, potentially forcing livestock to seek out other plants at the margins of their grazing.

Ragwort, acorns, sycamore, water dropwort, yew, and bracken are all commonly found in and around pastures, and all can cause severe clinical signs, leading to death. Before moving livestock onto new pasture, it would be sensible to do a lap of the field to check for any potential toxic snacks!

If any unwell animals or dead animals are found, prior identification of a potential toxin can massively help with speed of diagnosis and treatment. Clinical signs may include: diarrhoea, refusal to eat, weight loss, bloat, depression, difficulty breathing, or sudden death.

