

## In this issue:

- Acorn Poisoning
- Lambivac Discontinuation
- Horse Routine Change
- Food for Thought...

Don't forget to order your Vitamin D for your alpacas/llamas. This requires us to do a special import so we need ample time to order this in.

## Equine Clinics NO VISIT FEE!

Book into our regular clinics next door at **Dodderhill Equestrian Centre** for routine dentals, vaccinations, blood sampling, weighing and gastroscopy.

**Next clinic:**

**25th November**

**Gastroscopy on clinic days at Dodderhill will be at a reduced price of £200 (including sedation).**

Please phone the office  
**01905 773262**  
to book a space



## Acorns

This year we've had a bumper crop of acorns on our oak trees. With high winds and rain recently, many of you are concerned about how to avoid and recognise acorn poisoning. Acorns in large quantities can be toxic to almost all of the animals we deal with; cattle, sheep, goats, camelids, and horses - with the exception of pigs!

Having oak trees doesn't necessarily mean that the field cannot be used for livestock. They can provide natural shelter and most animals will not choose to eat acorns when other food like grass or hay is available. This means, luckily, that cases of acorn poisoning are relatively rare.

Make sure water troughs and buckets are not in areas where acorns will fall into them. If you are providing forage, do this away from the tree so your livestock won't accidentally pick up acorns when hoovering up the last bits.

After high winds we'd recommend moving animals out of highly contaminated fields and clearing all fallen acorns. At a minimum we'd suggest fencing off the area around the base of the tree where acorns may fall.

**Severity of symptoms often depends on the amount of acorns your horse has eaten. Sometimes you will find the empty husks in their droppings.**

### Mild cases:

- Depression and lethargy
- Reduced appetite
- Dehydration (dark urine)
- Mouth ulcers
- Constipation or loose faeces

### More Severe signs:

- Watery Diarrhoea
- Mild to moderate colic symptoms
- Constipation
- Red/ dark brown urine
- In-coordination and neurological signs

## Lambivac Discontinuation

This will affect a lot of our goat clients that are using this vaccine for their herds. The Goat Veterinary Society has



released a statement (**follow the QR code above to read**) advising vets and clients on vaccine advice. There is not an ideal vaccine available now, but vaccination with any Clostridial vaccine is better than not vaccinating at all. Options are available so please speak with us about your goat re-vaccinations.

## FARM REMINDERS:

- **Order your calf pneumonia vaccines!**
- **Footvax– now is the time to deal with your sheep lameness that you've been putting off!**
- **As I write this... Heptavac P (25 doses) are available with a good shelf life... This may change by the time you read it :)**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO  
ORDER DRUGS AT LEAST  
24 HOURS IN ADVANCE**

## Routine change for our horsey friends

The onset of winter with darker, colder nights and less food in the field produces a lot of changes to your horse's routine. Horses hate change, so there are a few things we can do to make the transition easier for them. Reduce turnout slowly; although not easy to do on every yard, changing the time you bring your horse in gradually can be helpful. For example, 15 minutes or half an hour earlier each night over a week or 2 will be much easier for them to manage than a sudden 2 hour advancement. A combination of colder nights and feeding more forage can mean that your horse has a lower water intake. Horses don't like to drink very cold water so may decide not to drink as much overnight. In addition, forage (ie. hay or haylage) has a much lower water content than grass. This is one of the reasons we see more colic symptoms over the winter months. Adding water to your horse's feed or soaking their hay nets can increase their water uptake and improve their digestion.

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT...

There was a point this summer where I actually recommended feeding one client's livestock with branches from a nearby willow tree. The relief of some rain over the last few weeks has been a bit of a godsend after months of dry fields and buffer feeding, but it comes with its own problems. This season's lambs have had a relatively good year in terms of growth rates and worms. With the wet weather, though, we've entered a period where worms and Haemonchus/Barber Pole rear their heads, and the last crop of lambs have little immunity.



We are excited that our clients are readily using our worm egg count machine to monitor their worm burdens. Our machine uses AI technology to count and identify eggs to give us a detailed worm egg count. It now has the capacity to pick out suspected Haemonchus contortus (Barber pole) and Nematodirus battus eggs. This helps to expand our knowledge of which worms we have on farm so we can tailor our management more specifically. If you'd like to add this on to your normal WEC, please let us know. Counts are a great way to see whether we have a worm burden or a flush of grass with a change in field, causing mucky bottoms.

Although our lambs and calves may have done really well, our ewes and cows might be lagging behind—having given more of their energy to their young during the drought. The warm summer has posed a potential problem to our livestock going into the winter as most of the country has had poor crop yields. This is especially true for poor conditioned ewes going into tugging. We need to be making the most of the grass we have at the moment as winter feeds will be severely low. Please be mindful of Grass Stagers if you do keep your livestock on grass a little longer than you normally would. Don't forget to supplement with Magnesium! A shortage in winter feeds can lead to poorer nutrition and lower body conditions, which will have a roll on effect on udder development and colostrum quality. Although a long way off, lamb and calf health in the Spring will be affected if good quality colostrum is not produced by the dam.

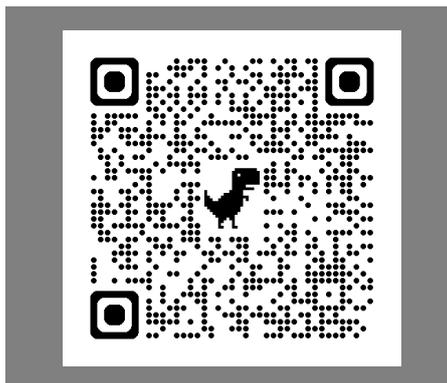
Ewes that are not in the best condition - but *have* had a flush of grass (pre-tugging) - will have higher ovulation rates and increased lamb numbers, without potentially getting fit enough by lambing. Remember, it takes about 4 weeks to increase a body condition score by half. Some farmers are choosing to reduce stocking density and/or push tugging and lambing back, so they don't need to rely on winter forage as much.

### Blue Tongue Update:

It is not too late to vaccinate for Blue Tongue. This disease is in the UK and is most likely here to stay.

Vaccination remains the most effective long-term option for disease control. You are encouraged to discuss BTV-3 vaccination with us to determine if it is right for your animals. **If you vaccinate your animals you must report it within 48 hours.**

*Report vaccinations online via QR code or GOV.UK website.*



### Upcoming Talks:

**Dates to follow– Watch for Details**

*Dissection of the Equine Limb with Anne*

*Equine Wound Management with Becca*

*Crypto Vaccine Talk– Ollie & Josie*

*Grasslands Society Talk– Maggie and Jade  
– 17th December*

**MacArthur Barstow & Gibbs**



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