

- Use group 4 or 5 wormers which have less incidence of resistance than groups 1 and 2 (white and yellow). After waiting 24-48 hours for any worms to be cleared out, turn-out onto a dirty pasture so if there are any remaining worms, they will be 'diluted' by the susceptible ones on the pasture. Faecal sampling can assess if treatment was effective

4) **Minimise the selection for worms that are resistant to anthelmintics when you treat sheep.**

- Consider avoiding treatment for the fittest 10% of the group to preserve a population of 'susceptible' worms
- Only use fluke and worm combination products **if necessary** – otherwise there is a risk of exposing worms to unnecessary anthelmintics which could increase resistance.

*Get in touch with the farm vet team if you want to discuss any of these things in more detail*

*Gus Cassie*

**Farm Visits and Ordering Drugs During the Coming Weeks**

To protect you and our staff, please can you ring all drug orders in to the surgery. This will mean we can ensure we have the products in that you need.

Please wait outside when you come to collect them – just ring to let us know you are waiting and we will bring them out to you.

We have good stocks of all the main farm drugs stored at both sites so there is no need to stockpile. There are some delivery delays with non stocked items such as vaccines due to driver shortages so please order these well in advance of needing them and we would advise ordering your 2nd doses at the same time as the 1st doses for primary courses.

We are currently delivering MOST farm visits, however a vet will ring you to discuss the safest manor in which this can be carried out before arriving on farm. E.g Where we may normally of worked with you restraining cattle close to us we will now ask the animal is appropriately restrained within a crush or similar to ensure we can observe the 2m social distancing rules wherever possible to protect us and you.

*Thanks in advance, The WVG team*



Well the long period of dry weather in April has certainly meant that lambing time has gone very well for most folk this year, a welcome break from the incredibly wet winter, especially with the current curbs on general movement. It seems that current recommendations on social distancing are going to continue for many months yet. These measures are mostly able to be worked around on farms, thankfully, so that most jobs are able to be completed, keeping everyone as safe as possible and looking after livestock to protect welfare and ensure that the businesses of our clients keep in as good a shape as possible. Every visit is still to be planned for, checking that everyone on the farm is well, and that provisions are in place to restrain animals appropriately- the lovely new crushes that most folk have continue to prove their benefits daily!

The current good weather has proved a flip to animals too, with a dry spell reducing the total burden of bacteria and viruses on a farm and fewer cases of infectious disease, such as watery mouth, joint ill and calf pneumonias, generally.

We are seeing some of the seasonal increase in dairy cow metabolic issues. A few cases of ketosis, and a few displaced abomasa (twisted stomachs), although much reduced on previous years. With the ability to find cases of ketosis early on, and the availability of Kexxtone boluses, we are finding that many cases are treatable and don't progress on to a twist if treated promptly- a definite win for the cow!

*Richard Knight*



**Kendal Surgery**

Monday to Friday 8.30am—7.00pm  
Saturday 8.30am-12noon  
Tel:01539 722692

**Kirkby Lonsdale Surgery**

Monday & Thursday 8.30am-7.00pm  
Tuesday 8.30am-6.00pm  
Wednesday & Friday 8.30am-5.00pm  
Saturday 8.30am-12 noon  
Tel:015242 71221

## Calf Scour

Calf scour is a common disease seen in both beef and dairy calves and the cost of a calf scour case can soon add up. This disease is caused by damage to the lining of the intestines after exposure to parasites, bacteria or viruses which in turn results in watery faeces. The guts are no longer able to absorb water and electrolytes across the damaged lining as they should, and this can mean the calves become malnourished and dehydrated. It's a serious disease that can result in death if not caught and treated early, and it is so important to identify the cause of the scours so that you can nip it in the bud before it spreads to other calves sharing the same housing.

The main culprits;

**Bacteria-** E.coli and Salmonella

**Viruses-** Rotavirus and Coronavirus

**Parasites-** Cryptosporidium and Coccidia spp

**Nutritional-** composition of milk powder



### **Diagnosis**

If you see a calf with scours, it's a quick and easy job for us to identify the cause. All we need is a fecal sample and we perform a dipstick test and a fecal egg count on it. Contrary to popular belief it is not easy to identify the cause of scours by simply looking at the appearance of the diarrhoea. Once we have identified the cause we can then prescribe the appropriate treatment to effectively get rid of the scours. It is also important to isolate the calf from the rest of the group to try and reduce spread.

### **Treatment**

1) Give the calf electrolytes- this is vital to replace what the calf is losing. We sell a few different forms at the practice in both liquid and powder forms so give us a ring if you would like to know more about the options available to you. This is the priority and the most important step in treating this disease.

2) Continue to feed milk or good quality milk replacer to the calf/calves, or leave suckler calves with their dams. The milk is the best source of energy to the calf and also can help to mend the gut lining which has been damaged.

3) Antibiotics- Only required if the cause of the scours is BACTERIAL, which we can tell you from the fecal sample. Scours caused by viruses or parasites are often more common, and antibiotics will not work as an effective treatment for these.

### **Prevention**

Good colostrum management is the most important factor in the prevention of calf scours. It is full of energy and the important antibodies needed for the calf to fight infections.

Even if you have good colostrum management, it is so important to ensure that your calf feeding equipment is cleaned between feeds, and that the environment in which you keep your calves is cleaned regularly also to help reduce the amount of pathogens in the environment.

*Liz Aubrey*

## Effective Treatment of Internal Parasites in Sheep

With many farms reaching the end of lambing, we are receiving more calls about issues in the growing lamb. These have included cases of coccidiosis and nematodirus. If you are concerned about these then get in touch – a phone call and faecal sample can go a long way to identifying issues and forming an efficient treatment plan.

As well as in lambs, effective treatment and control in adult sheep is critical - to maximise productivity and do so in a sustainable manner that reduces the risks of anthelmintic (wormer) resistance.

There are 4 key ways in which we can help ensure this (as laid out by SCOPS):

### 1) Always make sure that any treatment you give is fully effective.

- Accurately dose the sheep by weighing rather than just guessing weights. Weigh the biggest sheep to set a benchmark, and if there are a variety of sizes then separate the group into larger and smaller.
- Make sure the drenching gun is correctly calibrated and that all staff are happy with correct technique to ensure sheep receive their full dose.
- Under-dosing is ineffective in killing worms and can leave a population that can develop resistance

### 2) Try to reduce your reliance on anthelmintics using management options and monitoring where possible.

- **Faecal worm egg counts** are inexpensive and quick tests to do. They can assess whether treatment is required and can help assess resistance to wormer products (get in touch with the farm vet team for more details).
- Think about **pasture management** and risk to different groups in the flock – weaned lambs are more at-risk than mature and well-conditioned ewes to a worm challenge and it is worth bearing in mind when moving stock to more or less contaminated fields.
- This picture shows a creep feeder with medicated cocci feed for lambs – however a wet and muddy surrounding area can quickly build up with cocci eggs and undo some of the effects of treatment in the feed.



### 3) Avoid bringing in resistant worms and/or other parasites by following a robust quarantine routine.

- Protect the farm from incoming resistant worms by having a **standardised isolation and treatment protocol** for new arrivals.

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