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Enzootic Abortion and Toxoplasma Vaccination of Ewes



Enzootic abortion and Toxoplasma account for over three quarters of all abortions diagnosed by veterinary laboratories nationwide.

Enzootic abortion usually arrives on the farm for the first time when infected replacements are bought in. Wildlife can also be implicated in the transmission of the disease by carrying infected material from one farm to another. Once in a flock, infection will spread at lambing time so that the disease will carry over from one year to the next.

Toxoplasma abortion is spread by contaminated cat faeces. A single cat dropping can contain enough infectious material to infect more than 100 ewes. Toxoplasma oocytes can survive in the environment for well over 12 months.

Enzootic abortion vaccine needs to be administered at least 4 weeks prior to tupping. A single dose of ENZOVAX or CEVAC CHLAMYDOPHILA will usually result in a lifelong immunity to the disease. **Toxoplasma vaccine (TOXOVAX) needs to be administered at least 3 weeks prior to tupping,** a single dose usually providing a lifelong immunity.

Enzootic abortion vaccine can be administered at the same time as Toxoplasma vaccine, otherwise there needs to be an interval of at least 2 weeks between administration of the vaccines. No other vaccines should be given in the 2 weeks before or after abortion vaccinations.



We have stocks of Enzootic abortion vaccine in the surgery at all times (**Reminder: Please try to give 24 hours notice when ordering drugs, this allows us the opportunity to ensure we have the items in stock and have them authorised by the vet**) but because Toxoplasma vaccine only has a very short shelf life (approx. 2 weeks) it needs delivering from the manufacturers when you place your order, so please allow at least 10 days for arrival.

On Farm Sheep Lameness Meeting (Tuesday 9th September)



The RDPE North West Livestock Programme is funding a series of meetings to discuss health issues on sheep farms. The first meeting that we are holding is on **Tuesday 9th September** starting at 4pm which will be held at Scriddles Croft Farm, Grindleton by kind permission of Mr David Towler. We anticipate that the meeting will finish at approximately 8pm (refreshments will be provided).

The main subject for discussion will be control of lameness in the sheep flock with advice given on the economic impact of lameness, diagnosis of causes of lameness, treatment and preventative strategies. We will also discuss pre-breeding fertility inspection of rams and quarantine strategies for bought in sheep. Further details to the meeting can be found on the North WEST Livestock Programme website.



If you would like to attend the meeting please either contact us at the surgery or the EBLEX events office on 01904771211.

Lungworm Disease In Cattle (Husk)

August and September are the most common times of year for seeing clinical cases of lungworm in cattle. Most commonly affected are dairy replacement calves in their first grazing season on land grazed by youngstock the previous year, although suckler calves and adult cows can also be affected.

Clinical Signs

- Early clinical signs include an increased respiratory rate at rest with coughing when moved.
- Severe cases will become reluctant to move with their heads down and necks extended, coughing frequently even at rest
- In dairy cows there is a reduction in milk yield with widespread coughing especially as cows are walking to and from the parlour

Life Cycle

Overwintered larvae which can survive on pasture from one year to the next are usually the initial source of infection although some animals can be symptomless carriers.

Larvae consumed off infected pasture by a susceptible animal penetrate through the gut wall and migrate to the lungs. This process takes approximately one week. The larvae then start moving through the lungs setting off an inflammatory reaction and narrowing of the airways. In heavily infested animals there may be thousands of worms present which result in such a severe lung reaction that death from respiratory distress can occur.

As worms mature in the lungs to become adults they lay eggs which themselves hatch out into larvae and are coughed up and swallowed to be passed out in faeces to further contaminate pasture. One adult worm can produce thousands of eggs to continue the life cycle.

Immunity

First season grazing youngstock are most susceptible to lungworm infection as they have had no previous exposure to stimulate immunity. Huskvac vaccine is available to provide immunity pre-turnout.

Adult cattle build up immunity from vaccination as calves or natural immunity from exposure in their first grazing season. This immunity is not lifelong and needs to be boosted in subsequent grazing seasons by a level of natural exposure.

How is lungworm diagnosed?

- Clinical signs
- Dung Samples - dung is examined for the presence of lungworm larvae. This can be done in our practice laboratory



Treatment Options

Whilst white drenches and levamisoles are effective against lungworm they have no persistent activity, therefore leading to cattle becoming re-infected soon after treatment if grazing contaminated pasture. Treatment of youngstock is usually with an ivermectin based wormer which as well as treating for gutworms has a persistent effect for 28 days against lungworm (e.g. **Enzovex, Bimectin or Animec pour-ons**) **Closamectin pour-on** will also treat for fluke in addition to gutworms and a 28 day persistent activity against lungworm. For dairy cows **Eprinex or Eprizero pour-ons** are the only effective treatments with a nil milk withhold period. These also give 28 days cover for lungworm.

Two Men and a Pedalo (and a few floating supermarket trolleys)

Following his 2013 squashing by a cattle crush, and airlift to hospital, John Marriott is raising money for Yorkshire Air Ambulance. Starting out on Wednesday 20th August from Stanley Docks in Liverpool, John and James Thurstan (husband of Tracy, one of the companion animal nurses) are powering their way the full length of the Leeds Liverpool canal (127.5 miles and 91 locks) in a beaten up ex-rental pedalo. Since the TOP speed of the pedalo is 2.2 miles an hour, they are planning to arrive in Leeds (or Dublin if they take a wrong turning at the start) sometime on Bank Holiday Monday 25th August. Any sponsorship money will be gratefully received and shared 50:50 between Yorkshire Air Ambulance and Prostate Cancer UK (James's nominated charity). If you feel like donating and keeping us motivated, please either go on line to the 'Sponsor Me' website and search under 'James Thurstan' which should then take you to the 'Man Up Pedalo Challenge page', OR donate at the surgery using the forms on the reception desk.

