

SHEEP MEETING



SCOURING CALVES



LUNGWORM IN CATTLE



LIVER FLUKE



**GALEDIN
VETERINARY**



Scouring calves

With Autumn calving now underway we are starting to see more young calves with scours. There are numerous causes of scours in calves and they all affect the calf at slightly different ages. The common culprits are *E coli*, *Rotavirus*, *Coronavirus* and *Cryptosporidium* although very occasionally we find *Salmonella*. Other factors influence how likely it is that a calf will get scours for example the cleanliness of the environment, whether the mother is a heifer or a cow, whether the mother was vaccinated against rota and corona viruses, how much colostrum the calf received in the first 24 hours of life etc. You can treat calf scours yourself if the calf is still bright and drinking, the calf is able to walk around and the calf still has a suckle reflex. If the calf is missing any of these things it would be a good idea to get advice from the vet. Please try and take a faecal sample from the affected calf **before** you treat it. This is very important especially if you have had several cases as getting the correct diagnosis will allow us to give you the best advice for successful treatments. Please bring the samples into the surgery for testing purposes. If you are treating the calf yourself, the essential thing is to keep it hydrated. We have several rehydrating treatments such as Rehydion gel which can be mixed with water or milk available at the surgery. It used to be thought that stopping milk for 24 hours allowed the gut to recover/heal. However this is outdated advice, there is not enough nutrition in any of these electrolyte treatment to fulfil the calf's needs so milk must still be fed even if it is in smaller amounts than usual. In calves older than 6/7

Cheeklaw Vet Centre

An important message for our Duns clients. As of 29/08/16 we have closed the Golden Square surgery. All veterinary services are now located at the newly refurbished **Cheeklaw Vet Centre, Station Road, Duns, TD11 3HS, 01361 883742**. We are open 8.30 am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to 12 noon on Saturdays. Please be aware the Golden Square phone number **01361 883266** still works. Please accept our sincere thanks for all your patience whilst our surgery refurbishments were undertaken.

days another important factor involved with scour is the development of metabolic acidosis, which means that there is too much acid in the calf's blood, as a consequence of the continued fluid loss from the scour. This is often best fixed with intravenous bicarbonate which the vet will usually administer with drip fluids depending on how badly dehydrated the calf is. Fluid therapy is the most important part of the treatment the vet will administer as well as anti-inflammatories. Occasionally other drugs are also necessary such as antibiotics however these are mostly supportive remembering that most causes of scour are either viral or parasitic as discussed above.



Lungworm in cattle

We always see cases of lungworm in late summer and into the autumn, especially following a wet summer, and this year has been no different. Lungworm is caused by cattle picking up infective larvae from the pasture, which then migrate to the lungs, causing inflammation and a dry "husky" cough. Left untreated lungworm can progress to a severe pneumonia, and even death. Lungworm is most commonly seen in yearling cattle which haven't yet developed an immunity, and also occasionally in older cattle that have not been exposed previously and are then moved onto infected pasture. Young cattle that were treated with long acting Moxidectin at turnout could now becoming susceptible as the effectiveness of the wormer starts to wears off. A diagnosis can be confirmed by looking at dung samples, although in the early stages of the disease dung sample are often clear, so we will often advise treatment based on the clinical signs and history. If you have multiple cattle in a group coughing, then it is most likely lungworm. All of the commonly used cattle wormers are effective against lungworm, with most farmers choosing to treat the group with an ivermectin type pour-on. If lungworm is established on your farm, then consideration should be given to vaccinating young stock before turn out next year - speak to one of us for advice.

Thank you for attending

Thank-you to everyone who attended our sheep farmer meeting at Ramparts, Berwick on 31st August. We had a great turnout given that it was in the middle of harvest and we are very grateful to Simon Hunt and Matt Colston for speaking. We discussed worming and wormer resistance and also how nutrition can influence whether or not we actually need to worm ewes at lambing. We will continue to host further meetings throughout the rest of the Autumn with details to follow in this newsletter.



We are coming up to fluke season this month and the NADIS parasite forecast has predicted that Scotland will be high risk for fluke. This is in-part due to the mild conditions in 2015 so there will likely to be a high fluke egg burden on the grazing pastures deposited from last year's stock.

You can reduce liver fluke risks by moving sheep off wet pastures from the end of August.

Triclabendazole is the drug of choice as it is effective against the immature stages of fluke which we see at this time of year. However there are farms within the practice where Triclabendazole resistance occurs amongst fluke so the same rules apply as with wormer resistance, weigh stock carefully, dose accurately and calibrate your dosing equipment

There are a number of diagnostic tests for fluke but the Coproantigen blood test can detect fluke up to 2 weeks before a fluke egg count would be able to detect them. The faecal fluke tests require adult fluke to produce the eggs which means these are best used during the winter period.

Fluke also increase the likelihood of sheep getting the clostridial disease called Black Disease so keeping up to date with clostridial vaccines is also really important.