

Smallholders' News

Castle Veterinary Group



Smallholders' Club

Vet's Welcome

Welcome to this, the first edition of our Smallholders' newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about what we have planned and find the information included useful and interesting. As a new venture for the practice we are really keen to hear from you, so please do get in touch with any questions or feedback. Regards – Katherine and Amy.



Case Review – Cuppa Tea??

A few weeks ago we received an urgent call from Suzi's owners. Suzi is a five year old Appenzell goat who was off her food, drooling, vomiting and not her usual bossy self. We went to see her and discovered she was vomiting, constipated and had dilated pupils. Coupled with the other signs we suspected poisoning and so explored the garden to find the culprit. A diagnosis of Rhododendron poisoning was made.

Suzi received antibiotics, anti-inflammatories and vitamins from us and we advised keeping her walking, away from the rhododendron, a concoction of eggs, sugar and milk to line the stomach all washed down with regular quantities of tea. Yes, that's right, tea – it contains tannins which help neutralise the toxins. Thankfully Suzi went on to make a full recovery, unfortunately this is not always the case and sometimes hospitalisation is required.

Rhododendron is not the only tasty but poisonous goat favourite; Bracken, Foxglove and Deadly Nightshade all make the top of a rather lengthy hit list.



Medicines and the law...

Medicine usage is strictly controlled in food producing animals to ensure consumer safety.



'Withdrawal periods' are used to specify the time post treatment when meat, milk or eggs can re-enter the food chain.

When a drug is licenced for a particular use in a particular species these withdrawal periods are specified in data sheets.

Medicines can be used 'off-licence' meaning a drug with a sheep license can be used in goats, for example, if no existing product is licensed in goats for that condition. In these cases statutory withdrawals (below) are put in place unless the original withdrawal on the product is longer.

Meat = 28 days Milk = 7 days Eggs = 7 days

It is a legal requirement that a livestock owner keeps a **medicines record book** recording;

Animal Identification	Medicine Name	Volume Used	Treatment Date	Batch Number	Expiry Date	Withdrawal Period
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Top Techniques Column

Subcutaneous injections in many species.

Several injections, including anti-inflammatory pain relief, must be administered under the skin.

- 1) Restrain the animal. A second person will make this easier.
- 2) Identify a loose area of skin which you can tent between two fingers. Pull it away from the body. (Sheep; armpit or neck. Goats; armpit or neck. Cattle; over the ribs. Pigs; behind the ear).



- 3) Insert the needle into the triangle of the tent where it pulls away from the body, at a shallow angle. Insert about a centimetre of the needle.



- 4) Pull backwards on the syringe plunger and check that there is no blood in the needle or syringe. If any blood reposition needle.



- 5) Then, holding the needle and syringe inject steadily.
- 6) Remove the needle and massage the area applying a little pressure for a few seconds.

Any questions?

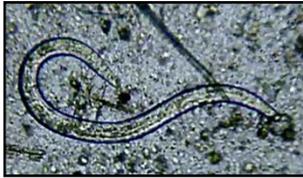
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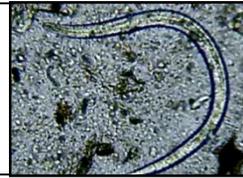
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Quick Quiz Question??

Any ideas what Sami has found under the microscope, pictured here?

Let us know your guess via email or find out in the next issue...



Red mites (*Dermanyssus gallinae*)

Red mites (*Dermanyssus gallinae*) are 1mm long, red or grey external parasites of poultry. Adults can live for up to a year in the dark cracks and crevices of chicken housing. They crawl onto chickens and other poultry in order to feed on blood – hence their red colour.

When red mites feed regularly anaemia (pale comb and wattles), lethargy and death can occur. In milder cases they cause stress and irritation which may lead to feather pecking and reduced egg production. Birds should be checked regularly (at least once a week), it is important to look under their wings and around their vent. It is worth considering that red mites tend to live in housing during the day and feed at night so you may not see them. Blood spots on egg shells are also an indication of red mite infestation.



To control red mite levels housing should be cleaned regularly, with insecticide application throughout the house. These measures are especially important in spring and summer months as mites like warm conditions. Care must be taken when choosing insecticide that its use will not affect the chickens and eggs they produce. Mites can also be physically removed using vacuuming, brushing, blow torching and using red mite traps.

Up and coming events ...

Shepherds' Hut Training for Sheep Keepers, 24th September and 16th October (*Limited places remaining*)

In the next issue...

Find out the answer to our 'Quick Quiz Question'.

A 'Case Review' based on a real clinical case seen by us since this issue.

Read our article on Pig Vaccination

Top techniques will feature Tipping Sheep

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Top Techniques Column

Intramuscular injections in Sheep.

Many injectable drugs, including the majority of antibiotics, are given in the muscle.

- 1) Restrain the animal, A second person will make this easier.
- 2) Decide on the injection site. Several sights are available.



- 3) Part the hair, insert the needle at 90 degrees to the skin, into the muscle, fairly slowly.



- 4) Pull backwards on the syringe plunger and check that no blood enters the needle or syringe. If any blood reposition needle.



- 5) Then, holding the needle and syringe inject steadily.



- 6) Remove the needle and massage the area applying a little pressure for a few seconds.

Any questions?

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