

Merry Christmas

Smallholders' News

Castle Veterinary
Group



Smallholders'
Club

We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year! Remember this is your club so please get in touch with us about anything you wish to learn more about for 2016 – Kelly and Amy

Disbudding in Goats

**Disbudding and dehorning in goats
Should only be carried out by a vet.
Ideally at 2-3days old but no older than 10days.**



Unlike disbudding in calves removing the small horn buds of young goats is a risky procedure which must be carried out by a veterinary surgeon. A hot iron is used to burn away the horn at its junction with the skin. The skull of a goat kid is much thinner than that of a calf hence a need for this to be performed under general anaesthesia. There is a risk of major side effects include fitting, neurological signs or death and are associated with thermal necrosis – overheating of the brain, this risk is greatly increased if the kid is not anaesthetised or the horns are too large.

As vets we minimise the risks using safe anaesthetic drugs, short procedure times and suitable equipment.

As stock keepers you can help to reduced these risks by making sure kids are between 2-4days of age, leaving the kids with their mothers until the time of surgery and following all post-operative instructions.

We will not disbud goat kids if we feel the horn buds have grown to large. At this point the procedure becomes more stressful and unsafe for the goat, and less likely to succeed in the long term prevention of horn re-growth. At this stage we would recommend allowing the horns to grow until they are big enough to remove with wire. This is a procedure which may need repeating during the goat's life time.



Just a quick reminder
our Holiday opening
hours are:

24th Dec: 8.30 am– 5.30pm

25th Dec: Closed, Emergency
service only

26th Dec: Closed, emergency
service only

27th Dec: Closed, emergency
service only

28th Dec: Closed, emergency
service only

29th Dec: 8:30am – 5:30pm

30th Dec: 8:30am – 5:30pm

31st Dec: 8:30am-5:30pm

1st Jan: Closed, emergency
service only

Smallholders' News



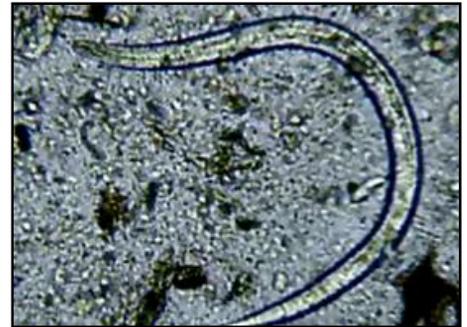
Did you know?

When it comes to terminology: reindeer are very similar to their less exotic relatives, domestic cattle.

Male reindeer are called bulls. Females are called cows. And baby reindeer are called calves.

Coughing animals??

Some of you may remember the picture on the right from a previous newsletter, it's a lungworm larvae. Due to the particularly mild weather we have been diagnosing more and more cases of lungworm. The risk period is usually July until September. Animals are at risk of lungworm if they are out or have been out on pasture. Lungworm affects many species including; pigs, sheep and cattle. It can affect any age of animal however once the animal has been exposed to lungworm they will develop immunity against the worms.



The main clinical sign reported to us is coughing particularly after the animals have been running around. When the animal is resting you can see increased breathing rate. The clinical signs for a lungworm infestation can often be mistaken for pneumonia. We can diagnose lungworm in-house, the test requires around 50g of dung and takes 24 hours to run the test. The test costs £15.60 ex vat, and Sami is able to pool samples if you collect dung from several animals in the group.

There are different stages of infection; there are three stages to be familiar with:

- The pre-patent phase which is when the larvae are developing in the lungs
- The patent phase which is when the larvae mature and produce eggs – this is when we can detect larvae in the dung as the animal
- The post-patent which is normally the recovery phase

Lungworm can be treated using certain wormer groups and there is also a vaccine available for at risk animals. There has been no reported resistance, please call us to talk through your options of worming.



Castle Veterinary Group Ltd

Pennygillam Industrial Estate, Pennygillam Way, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7ED

Farm; 01566 772371 and Pets; 01566 772211

Email us at smallholders@castleveterinarygroup.co.uk