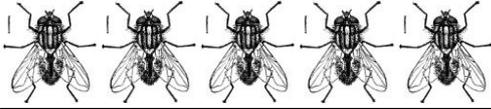


CASTLE VETERINARY GROUP
FARM NEWSLETTER JULY '2016
Fly Treatment for Summer



It is important to keep on top of the increase in fly populations at this time of year.

Failure to adequately protect your livestock may have an adverse effect on both productivity and welfare resulting in reduced milk yields of up to 20%, increased incidence of summer mastitis and lower calf weights at weaning.

For sheep, a reduction in reproductive potential and a downgraded quality of wool clip are possible.

Regular monthly treatment is recommended throughout the fly season.

Starting treatment early before the fly population noticeably increases will maximise the success of any treatment. A "Deltamethrin" product such as "Spotinor" will treat and prevent infestation by lice and flies in cattle, ticks, keds, lice and established blowfly strike in sheep and lice and ticks in lambs.



Spotinor can be ordered through the surgery in pack sizes from 250ml up to 2.5 litres to suit your needs, at competitive prices.

Please contact the surgery and we will be pleased to help you with your order.

Bluetongue Latest: Vaccine Available

With an 80% chance that bluetongue, the devastating midge-borne virus, will reach Great Britain once again later this summer, vaccinating the country's stock is the only way to prevent the disease from spreading.

Bluetongue affects mainly sheep and cattle and is a notifiable disease. Signs of the disease include: high fever, excessive salivation, swelling of the face, lips and tongue and death.

Vaccinating will help you to protect the welfare of your stock and prevent loss of production on your farm.

Contact the practice to place your order as soon as possible as vaccine stocks may be limited.

Link to the Government website – Bluetongue is a notifiable disease. Find out what to do if you suspect a case

<http://bit.ly/1WdzthR>



Launceston Show 28th July 2016

We will once again be having a stand at the show and would be delighted to see you. We will have refreshments, competitions and freebies for the kids. So please do come along and say hello

Nematodirus in Lambs

Young lambs on pasture that has been grazed by sheep in the last 12 months are at risk of Nematodirus worms. The Nematodirus larvae cause black scour and can lead to death. This can happen before eggs are shed in the faeces so you cannot rely on faecal egg counts alone. The larvae hibernate over winter and hatch when a cold spell is followed by temperatures above 10C. Farms with a history of Nematodirus should follow the forecast on the SCOPS website and treat with a white drench when larval hatching is predicted www.scops.org.uk

How many lambs can you afford to lose? - Abortion Vaccination for Ewes



Vaccines are available against Toxoplasmosis and Enzootic abortion in ewes. These should be given **at least 4 weeks before the**

rams go in. The two vaccines can be given on the same day. The pack sizes available are 20 doses and 50 doses.

We receive Toxovax deliveries once a week so please give as much notice as possible when ordering. Please be aware that it is a fragile vaccine with a very short shelf life of just 7-10 days. Please bring a cool bag with you to collect your order.

Grass Dairy Discussion Group

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 3rd August at New Standon, Bridestowe EX20 4ET by kind permission of the Taylor family. New faces are always welcome.



How “safe” is your bait?

Kill the rats; Save the dogs & owls!

Rat Bait is obviously formulated to be super tasty and attractive to rats. After all we want them to eat it.

However, it is also extremely tempting for our dogs and we have had a few recent incidents where some much loved and valuable working dogs have eaten enough to cause serious illness and, in some very sad cases, death. If your dog is unusually quiet or won't stop bleeding from a wound or is

dripping blood from the mouth **THINK** rat bait! Come to the vets and we will do all we can to help.

Firstly, all baits should be kept in a locked cupboard and placed where there is no access for the dogs and confined so that the rats cannot drag it out.

However, some dogs are very inventive in the ways that they get to this “treat” and they do manage to eat it. Rats can also retrieve bait and stash it for later but, a clever dog might find it first!

So.....

All baits are not the same and whilst still effective at killing rats some are less lethal to dogs than others.

One of the commonest poisonings we get at the vets is **Brodifacoum** poisoning. This is because a dog needs to eat very little of this for a lethal dose (5g bait/kg of bodyweight), and similarly a rat only needs one feed to be killed. However, some single blocks or sachets contain enough to easily kill a 20kg collie.

So our advice would be to choose rat bait products containing Difenacoum as an active substance. Whilst not exactly “safe,” products containing Difenacoum require a dog to eat 200 times more of the bait than one containing Brodifacoum before a lethal dose is reached. The trade off is that a rat needs to have 2-3 meals to be killed; but rats will feed up to 10 times a day, so don't worry in one day they will easily take in enough to be killed and your dog is worth it! It is also “safer” for birds of prey eating rats/mice than brodifacoum.

In all cases: If you suspect your dog has eaten rat bait come to the vets immediately