

Farm Newsletter

Castle Veterinary Group

July 2017

A Word From The Vet...Teaser Rams



The aim of a vasectomised 'teaser' ram is to bring your ewes cycling earlier.

The ideal time to vasectomise is around 5-6 months of age and a minimum of 6 weeks before the tups go in. This allows 4 weeks for the teaser ram to rest after the procedure and 2 weeks for him to run with the ewes

The procedure is carried out at the practice with local anaesthetic and will be done whilst you wait

For more information or to make an appointment please phone the surgery

Tim



Sheep Abortion Vaccination

An abortion 'storm' can be devastating for your flock
Vaccination is available against two key causes of abortion, Toxoplasmosis and Chlamydia. These need to be administered at least 4 weeks before you put the rams in

We only receive Toxovax orders once a week so please allow for this when planning your vaccinations

Sheep Abortion Facts



An enzootic abortion storm can take up to 25% of your lambs

Enzootic abortion is spread from ewe to ewe at lambing time

Toxoplasmosis can cause barren ewes, abortions, stillbirths and weak lambs

Lungworm in Cattle

At this time of year be aware of lungworm risk in cattle at pasture. If you see an animal coughing bring a dung sample in to the surgery and we can run a test overnight to look for lungworm larvae

Summer Mastitis

Remember to keep up fly treatment in your herd (don't forget the heifers!) to reduce the risk of summer mastitis. If you do get a case, prompt treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatories is needed to prevent the animal getting a high temperature which can cause abortion

Rat Bait Poisoning In Dogs

There are 2 important factors to know:

1. It generally takes a few days for the rat bait to take effect and use up the dog's vitamin K stores
2. There may not be visible signs as bleeding often begins internally

General symptoms that should alert you to possible rat bait poisoning are:

- Lethargy / unwillingness to work / dull
- Increased breathlessness / panting
- Collapse
- Very pale / white gums or conjunctiva (in the eye)
- Increased respiratory rate and/or effort
- Swollen abdomen
- Haemorrhage (however as stated previously this may be absent)

DO NOT take a 'wait and see approach'. Phone us at the surgery and bring the dog and the rat bait packaging in to us. Within the first 2 hours after consumption we can make the dog vomit and provide Vitamin K tablets if necessary

If you are suspicious that your dog has eaten rat bait but are not sure when we are able to run blood tests and give treatment. This is much cheaper and easier than trying to treat a dog that has started bleeding further down the line

Next GRASS Meeting



Date: Wednesday 9th August 11am – 3pm

Venue: To be confirmed

New Faces Are Always Welcome, Please RSVP to 01566 772371