



January 2024

New Branch for Castle Vets opening in Liskeard!

Our medicines collection box and farm office in Liskeard has now moved to our new Liskeard branch at:

- Unit 6B, Heathlands Industrial Estate, Liskeard
- Next to 'In Bloom' flower shop
- In front of Ugalde & Sons Funeral Directors

We are currently open 0930-1300, with our medication collection box available 24hours. The access code has not changed – please give us a ring if you need a reminder of it! However, our small animal branch is opening on the same site on Monday 15th January. This will allow us to offer our farmers extended reception hours of 0845-1800 (excluding 1330-1430 daily). This increases flexibility of when fridge meds can be picked up, as well as giving more time during which you will be able to speak face-to-face with a receptionist.

As previously, we ask that all fridge medications still be ordered at least a day in advance - these will still be driven to the Liskeard branch as needed. Thank you for your continued support of our independent veterinary practice and we look forward to seeing you in 2024!

Castle Vets has busy few months of meetings coming up in the run-up to spring:

Lambing Live- a beginner's lambing course

A lambing course for beginners, young adults (13-17yr olds) and those just wanting a refresher.

Monday 29th January 2024, 5.30pm – 7.30pm

Hosted by Castle Veterinary Group at Lower Goodmansleigh Farm, Launceston PL15 9QS (next to Homeleigh Garden centre), by kind permission of Derek Broad + Rob Dymond

£40 ex VAT per person

- Preparation for lambing
- Care of the ewe at lambing
- Use of a lambing simulator to practice delivering lambs
- Care of the newborn lamb
- Tagging, castrating and tail docking
- Problems that can occur and when to call the vet
- Information booklet to take away



This is a hands-on and fun evening to help you prepare for the approaching lambing season! Advanced booking is essential, so please call the practice on 01566 772371.

Lambing For Kids!

Back by popular demand, this year we will also be running a lambing course for children 5-12 years old
February Half Term 2022

Thursday 15th February 3pm – 5.30pm

Hosted by Castle Veterinary Group at Lower Goodmansleigh Farm, Launceston PL15 9QS (next to Homeleigh Garden centre)
By kind permission of Derek Broad + Rob Dymond

£10 ex VAT per child, accompanying adults go free!

- Use a lambing simulator to practice delivering lambs
- How to care for newborn lambs
- Spotting common problems
- Advanced lamb care - tagging, castrating and tail docking



Planning for the year ahead: Sheep small holders!

This February, Vets Natalie and Lucy will be holding a sheep small holder meeting at the practice. They will be discussing important dates for the upcoming year, helpfully collated in a take home calendar. Issues such as when to worm and vaccinate your flock will be discussed, alongside how to keep on top of common illnesses (eg foot-rot).

Castle Vets is now looking after a growing number of small holders. We're keen to discuss your requests for meetings and events in the future that you think would be helpful. Whether you are planning to lamb this year or simply have a few pet sheep, all small holders are welcome to attend. Food is, of course, provided!

Date: Monday 26th February 2024

Time: 18:30

Cost: £25 / attendee

Address: Castle Veterinary Group, Pennygillam Way, PL15 7ED

Please ring the practice on 01566 772371 to RSVP



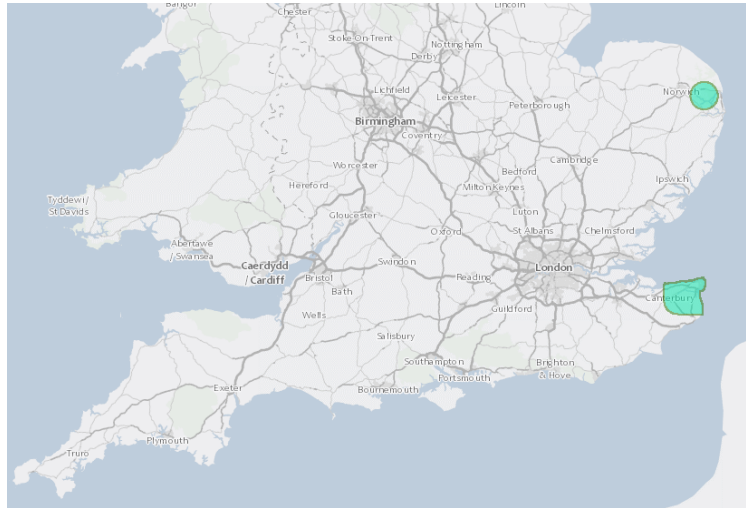
Innovative Farmers webinar – breeding worm-tolerant sheep

18th January, 6:30 - 7:30pm

Join an evening webinar discussing the latest results from Castle Vets partnered study, on breeding worm-tolerant rams. Speakers will include Matt Smith from Trefranck Farm in Cornwall and Adam Hayward, Research Fellow at the Moredun Institute. Sign up [here](#) (or Google 'Eventbrite Innovative Farmers')

Bluetongue – an update

As you will all be aware, active surveillance of Bluetongue is currently being carried out in the East of the UK. At time of writing, there is no evidence of active circulation of the virus within the UK, or between UK animals. There have been no clinical cases - all positive animal have been identified via increased frequency and breadth of blood testing, due to the risk of the new strain of Bluetongue virus that has emerged in the Netherlands.



For a detailed review of what bluetongue virus is, how it is spread, and why the government have increased surveillance, please see our November 2023 Newsletter, available on our website in our 'Farm' then 'News' section.

An interactive up-to-date map of all current and confirmed cases can be found here:

<https://defra.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=514ec88edec74575958d860f0196d2ea>

Lead Poisoning Risk

We have been made aware of two significant incidences in the South West relating to lead shot:

In one, sheep had been grazing a pasture which had been heavily contaminated with lead shot. This followed a period of several years when the pasture had been adjacent to an area used for clay shooting. Shot had repeatedly been fired in the direction of the pasture. Several lambs died from acute lead toxicity and restrictions were placed on the remainder of the group, precluding their entry into the food chain. Additional measures required blood sampling of the group at the owner's expense and offal discard at slaughter. As the pasture is clearly a high risk source of lead for grazing animals the farmer plans to turn it into a wildlife meadow, utilizing an environmental program.

The second was a cattle incident: an entire group of 48 fattening animals either died from lead poisoning or were euthanised. The source in this case was contaminated maize silage. Lead shot from a clay shoot had become trapped in the hollow between the maize leaf and stem and had then become incorporated into the maize silage. Younger cattle on the farm were also fed the contaminated silage and blood sampling established they had raised lead concentrations.



There has been an increase in the provision of clay pigeon shooting, as farms look to diversify and expand their business portfolios. In many shoots, stainless steel shot has replaced the use of lead shot, but the amount of lead shot still being used is uncertain. If there are shoots near the area where animals graze, or where forage is harvested, then it is advisable for the livestock keeper to check that lead contamination of those areas is not occurring.

Many thanks to the APHA surveillance team the above article.

