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**VETERINARY SURGEONS**

**STRATHBOGIE VETERINARY CENTRE LTD**



With lambing and calving in full swing, we have come across some issues over the past few weeks….

Firstly sheep abortions… we have seen some outbreaks of abortions this year so far, many of which have been put down to enzootic abortion (EAE/chlamydia). It is very important to a) isolate the cases – as bodily fluids and abortion materials are very infective to others and b) mark aborted ewes. Ewes which abort should be kept away from the main flock as possible. If no vaccination for Enzootic (EAE) and Toxoplasma abortion has taken place then we would strongly recommend that these ewes are blood sampled to check for these causes of abortion. One of the drug companies are offering a FREE blood lab fee for these unvaccinated ewes. (There would be the cost of a visit and blood sampling fee). Please speak to any of us to discuss abortion cases and ideally lab testing is the best way to get a diagnosis.

Last year we mentioned ‘Sensiblex’ This is a relatively new drug to the market which has been proven to help relax soft tissue in the birth canal. This can make calvings (especially heifers) easier. This can also be used in sheep to help open them up in cases of ‘ringwomb’, though please note this is not always 100% and a caesarean may still need to be performed. Full effects of the drug are seen around 20 minutes after injection however it does start working from 5-10 minutes and takes around 20 minutes to work, so can be very useful for calvings and lambings that you are managing yourself. But also may be given to cows/sheep at the same time as you phone us for assistance. The dose for heifers/cows is 10ml into the muscle and in sheep 3-4ml into the muscle. We would recommend having some on farm to aid in parturition, and hopefully decrease mortality, birthing injuries and metritis following calvings.

You may have noticed that a few of our well used drugs have gone out of stock recently. There is currently a shortage of local anaesthetic. Though we have managed to source some so theres no need to panic for use in caesareans! However with regards to dehorning, please think about using ‘Hornex’ paste in calves. Back on the market is the Vitamin ADE injection. This can be given to newborns. There is poor placental transfer of these vitamins from Dam to calf, and with variable colostrum quality we would recommend an injection of ADE and vitesel at birth. These vitamins play roles in; immunity, bone development and sight.

Norbrook has just announced that they have had to change the meat withdrawal period of Closamectin Pour on. This is increasing from 28 to 58 days due to reducing drug residues in meat. Please ensure that all cattle treated in the last 58 days abide by this.

For those of you that noticed the lack of jokes last month here they are….

 ‘ I took my dog to the vet today because he bit my mother in law’.

‘Did you have him put to sleep?’

‘Put to sleep hell…. I had his teeth sharpened’

What is worse than finding a maggot in an apple while you are eating it? Half a maggot.

Do you know why so many flies are short sighted? Because they are always leaving their specks behind.

Quotes from Mr Brown…

‘The noblest of all dogs is the hot dog: it feeds the hand that bites it. ‘

‘Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man. Communism is the exact reverse.’

‘Having one child makes you a parent: having two makes you a referee’ David Frost

‘Television contracts the imagination and radio expands it’ Terry Wogan

‘If there is one thing above all that a vulture can’t stand, it’s a glass eye’ Frank M Hubbard

Gambler: ‘ Is this a game of chance?’

W.C Fields ‘Not the way I play it’