



# Highgate Veterinary Clinic

## Farmers Newsletter - February 2006

### Lambing Contract

We are repeating our lambing contract this year.

The contract consists of:

Examination of all sick ewes and lambs one month before until one month after lambing.

All lambings/ prolapses etc except caesareans.

Costs £120



### Poultry Register

Just a reminder that if you have more than 50 birds i.e. poultry, geese and ducks, you are obliged under the control measures for bird flu to register with DEFRA.



### Control of Toxoplasmosis Abortion

Yet again, last year many young ewes missed out on vaccination against toxoplasmosis due to lack of vaccine.

So what can you do to reduce this abortion?

Ideally you should stop contamination of any foodstuff including hay with cat faeces but this doesn't appear to be fool proof as pastures can also be contaminated.

Feeding ewes up to 14 weeks prior to lambing with feeds containing Deccox will help to reduce abortion. Deccox can either be added into cake or is present in bucket mineral blocks such as Tub Toxo. The dose rate for controlling toxoplasmosis is higher than that for controlling coccidiosis. This additive requires a prescription from us before it can be supplied.



### Calf Pneumonia

We've seen a number of outbreaks of pneumonia last month. Aggressive treatment with antibiotics and anti-inflammatory saves the majority of calves but at what cost? Already you're thinking of the cost of the drugs and our visit aren't you?

Well that's the tip of the iceberg! The obvious other costs are the calf that dies either immediately or that is a poor doer and dies of something else later. The more subtle costs are the calves you may not have even treated. Studies have shown that even the "well" calves suffer a measurable check in growth.

Vaccination needs to be part of the control strategy for pneumonia control. It can be sometimes difficult to give a full course of vaccine before the calves are at risk of getting pneumonia.

A new vaccine against RSV and PI3 virus has come onto the market. It is an intranasal vaccine which can be used at 3 weeks of age and gives protection within days. Protection then lasts for approximately 9 weeks.

If you think this vaccine can help your pneumonia problem, please give the surgery a ring.

