



# Highgate Veterinary Clinic

## Farmers Newsletter - March 2006

### Steps to successful vaccination

There is a wide range of vaccines currently available for protecting ewes and lambs against pasteurilla and clostridial diseases. However, using them incorrectly can mean they could have as little effect as not using them at all. Knowing how vaccination programs affect the immune status of flocks can give a better understanding of why and when to vaccinate for the optimum effect.

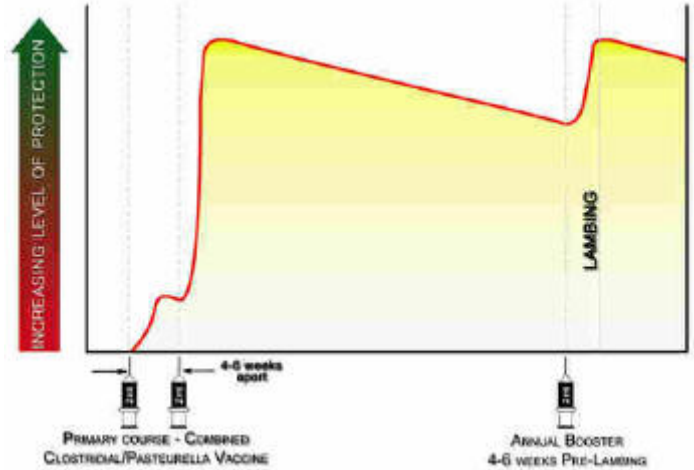
The protection given by the initial two-dose course will slowly decline with time, which is why an annual booster is given. This maintains

- \* Vaccination simulates a natural challenge without exposing the animal to disease-causing organisms.
- \* Achieving adequate immunity requires two doses of vaccine, administered 4 to 6 weeks apart.
- \* The initial vaccine dose stimulates the immune system while the second dose raises the immunity to a protective level.

immunity at a protective level.

Giving the annual booster to ewes 4-6 weeks pre-lambing will also contribute towards protecting newborn lambs by increasing the protection they receive through the ewe's colostrum.

Once lambs reach three weeks of age, it is possible to start to protect



them through vaccination. Again, it is important that a booster dose is given 4-6 weeks after the initial dose to ensure an adequate level of protection.

To help with timings for vaccination, Intervet has produced a Heptavac-P Plus and Ovivac-P Plus planner, available directly from the company on 01908 685685.

### Ringworm - treatment and prevention in just one product



Intervet's Bovilis Ringvac vaccine which has, until recently, only been licensed for the prevention of

ringworm can now also be used to treat animals suffering from the disease.

This new indication offers you the convenience of being able to use just one product for both treatment and prevention of ringworm.

Once established in a herd, ringworm can be very difficult to eradicate. The spores are very hardy and can remain alive in the environment for many years, particu-

larly in and around cattle housing, resulting in a high probability of reinfection in the absence of an effective control programme.

Ringworm is a zoonotic disease, which means it can be passed from infected cattle to humans. Where this happens the disease can cause temporary disfigurement, as the lesions tend to appear on exposed areas of skin such as the face and hands.

In situations where cattle become infected, Intervet recommends initial treatment affected and in-contact animals. Thereafter, to keep on top of the disease and prevent it being reintroduced, calves and replacements should be vaccinated before coming into contact with previously vaccinated animals. Call the surgery to discuss a treatment programme.

### Worming for turnout.....worming for profit



Now is the best time of year to plan your worming strategy for young growing calves for the next grazing season. Worm larvae picked up whilst calves are grazing are likely to reduce daily live-weight gains, and also increase the possibility of more serious dis-

ease, both of which farmers can plan to avoid.

The cattle wormer market has seen many significant changes over the years, but many farmers still prefer a Bolus to a Pour-On. Before stock receive their spring turnout treatment, it is worth considering additional lungworm protection. By stimulating immunity with a vaccine, a more profitable control programme can be achieved, particularly for those dairy replacements or where there is a known lungworm problem on-farm.

Intervet's lungworm vaccine, Bovilis Huskvac, used pre turnout, combined with the use of a bolus, such as the company's Panacur Bolus, should provide season-long control of the important species of gutworm and season-long immunity from lungworm, maximising your profit.

After the initial course of Huskvac, as with most vaccines, a 'booster' is required to stimulate the immune system and help provide immunity. In the case of husk, the same effect as a booster is provided by allowing the ani-

mals to be exposed to lungworm while out grazing.

To achieve this natural exposure, it is important that the chosen wormer, (Pour-On or Bolus), doesn't kill lungworm ingested by the animal. If the chosen wormer kills 100% of the lungworm larvae, then there is a chance that immunity won't be maintained and a heavy challenge later in the year, or next season will result in an outbreak of husk – even in adult cattle. Advice on the use of Huskvac and wormers should be sought from the surgery.