



# Highgate Veterinary Clinic

## Farmers Newsletter - April 2006

### Vaccines

Many of you use vaccines throughout the year but at this time of year we see lots of vaccines being ordered. Without exception, these vaccines should be kept cool i.e. refrigerated until they are to be used. Most vaccines we do not stock and order in especially from the wholesalers. Thanks to Claire and Janet, mistakes are rarely made.

New regulations have meant that we are not allowed to re-

turn vaccine to them. It seems sensible if you think about it.

It just can't be guaranteed how that vaccine has been handled before its return and would you like to take the risk of using a vaccine that has already been returned?

Consequently we are no longer accepting the return of vaccine to the practice. Please ensure that you order and collect the correct amount to avoid expensive mistakes.



### Free abortion testing

Intervet, the firm who makes Toxovax and Enzovax are running their Flockcheck scheme again. This scheme allows you after lambing time to blood test a selection of ewes that have aborted. The antibody levels in the blood give a good indication whether the abortion was caused by enzootic abortion or toxoplasmosis. The scheme runs until 31st July so if you have abortion problems, please get ewes tested before that date.

### SUCCESSFUL "VETAID" VENTURE!

As you may have heard by now Nick made it to the top of Kilimanjaro at the end of February and spent 15 minutes at 19,500 feet before descending as quickly as possible!

The trip was a great success with the group of 24 vets and vet nurses raising over £95,000 for the Vetaid project in Tanzania, literally under the shadow of Kilimanjaro.

Nick's fundraising has reached over £7,000 so a big thank you to all of you who contributed to that total.

Seeing the Vetaid work with the Maasai and their livestock

was both inspiring and humbling, seeing just how few resources they have, especially in the present severe drought situation. However the Vetaid work was both helping and encouraging the Maasai in the 30 villages of the project area and they were incredibly grateful for our visit.

For a full report and pictures of the trip please see our practice website on [www.highgate-vets.co.uk](http://www.highgate-vets.co.uk)



Nick with Maasai children and drought affected cattle.

### TB testing

As you are all aware, the TB situation in large areas of the country is becoming very serious.

Although wildlife (especially badgers) has a role to play in the spread and lack of control of TB, movement of infected cattle is by far the most common cause of new infections in herds.

I'm not against culling badgers in infected areas but if it is to

be done, it can't be done half heartedly. Trials

have shown partial culls just increase the number of new infections as disturbed badgers move further a field.

Before Foot and Mouth Disease, Cumbria was free of TB but now parts of it are TB hot spots. This wasn't caused by badgers being airdropped in from the Southwest or our local badgers suddenly develop-

ing TB. In fact, to my knowledge, an infected badger hasn't been found in Cumbria up to now. No, the disease came here because farmers bought infected cattle. It is no coincidence that the Kendal area, which was not infected with FMD, does not have TB!

At least 5 years after veterinary associations advised pre movement testing, the government has brought it in. These tests

have to be paid for by the farmer and are valid for 60 days after the test. We are charging for this testing on a time basis.

The good news for most of our clients is that they don't need to do it. Only premises and parishes that have to test annually or biannually (i.e. at high risk) have to have pre movement tests.