



HIGHGATE VETERINARY CLINIC— Farmer Newsletter

July 2009

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Clinic opening times
Monday—Friday
8.30am—7.30pm
Saturday
9.00am—12.30am
Sunday
emergencies only

New Mastitis Control Plan

Mark is now a recognised provider of the DairyCo Mastitis Control Plan (DMCP). There are only a few vets able to supply this new initiative. Despite the development of new medicines to treat mastitis, it remains at a high level. Nationally a quarter of herds have a mastitis rate of over 100 cases per 100 cows per year. This is a huge financial drain to the industry and a substantial welfare concern.



The DMCP initially seeks to diagnose the causes by looking at the patterns of mastitis incidence in the herd and this is backed up by bacteriology. This is followed by a comprehensive questionnaire which leads to an action plan which is based on best practice. A pilot study of this plan showed that if farmers carried out over two thirds of the action plan, they reduced their mastitis rate by 35% in twelve months.

If you are interested in reducing mastitis, contact Mark or go onto the DMCP website (www.mastitiscontrolplan.co.uk) for further details

Nuisance flies

The recent hot weather will be good news for the fly population. Warm weather means that their life cycles are shorter and therefore populations explode.



Bluetongue Warmth and winds from the east may re-introduce midges infected with bluetongue over the channel from Europe. If you haven't protected your stock yet, please do so soon.

Other Infections Nuisance flies which spread eye infections and mastitis breed in damp places such as woodlands and water courses, but many that you see in farm buildings are breeding in bedding and muck that builds up in these hard to scrape places.

Control There are very effective products such as Neoprex, which comes as pills to sprinkle every six weeks around the edges of bedded areas and over muck heaps. This prevents maggots from developing into flies.

Spy and Oxyfly are long acting fly killers that you spray or paint onto the walls of a building to kill the adult flies. For disease control and general welfare of cattle we do recommend you control flies. We think that using these products in combination will improve life for man and beast, we are carrying a small amount of these products in stock for you to try.



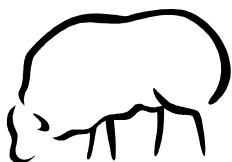
See overleaf
for canine
leptospirosis
vaccination
offer

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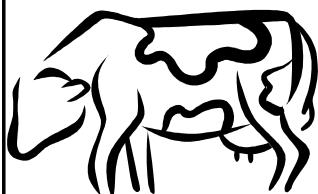
This Month

If you haven't already done so, vaccinate against bluetongue



Check rams for general health, lameness and lumps and bumps in their scrotum.

If illness makes them infertile, it can take up to 3 months for fertility to recover. Make sure they're healthy and stay that way.



Start fly prevention now.

If buying dry cow therapy in bulk please order in advance and remember our discounts for paying for large boxes at the time of collection.

Farm dogs and leptospirosis

Many of you are familiar with the disease leptospirosis in cattle, but may not know about a similar disease in dogs.

There are two types of leptospirosis found in dogs both of which attack the liver and kidneys often resulting in death. The good news is that dogs can be protected using vaccines, but this vaccine doesn't last long and requires annual boosters.

Boosters

Many of you vaccinate your farm dogs as puppies, but then don't follow on with boosters. This means that at best protection is poor, but in the case of leptospirosis it is almost non-existent after a year.

Leptospira icterohaemorrhagiae is caught by dogs drinking water contaminated by rat urine, or from rat bites, or eating rats. The clinical signs include high fever and jaundice.

Vaccination offer

For July only we are having a special offer on dog vaccination. If the dog's vaccines are out of date we will give a primary course of two vaccinations, two weeks apart for the price of a single booster.

This is a great opportunity to get your working dogs and family pets fully protected.

Please mention the offer when phoning to arrange visits.

New vet—David Anderson

Our new veterinary associate David Anderson will start work with us in mid July. David has been qualified for 4 years, working mostly with dairy cattle and sheep in a mixed practice in Matlock, Derbyshire, although he also has experience of small animal medicine. He is originally from Yorkshire and will be relocating to the Kendal area with his girlfriend Dawn.

David will be working alongside Mark to continue to develop the service to our farm clients

Thank you one and all

Colin sends his sincerest thanks for the generous leaving gifts given to him by our clients.

He says his new business is going well, having already got to the point of having to turn work away!