

Planning for the future

2010 will be a busy year for the farm animal team. In addition to the usual routine, emergency and TB work we are starting a campaign to promote farm health planning. Both Wales and England have funding to help our clients to develop tailor-made farm health plans with us. The aim is to identify and prioritise any herd/flock health problems, work out what they're costing and then put in place ways of controlling or eliminating them. In the long term this should produce demonstrable financial and welfare improvements on your farm.

As well as individual health plans, we are running events on a variety of farm animal health topics. These are open to everyone, though numbers attending workshops will be limited to ensure they are as practical and informative as possible. The events will be run by Hay Vets, along with some external speakers who are experts in their fields.

Our provisional program for 2010 is given below, but we are always keen to hear suggestions from you about other topics you would like covered.

Workshop: Basics of lambing, care of ewes and sheep management - Feb

Seminar: Johnes Disease in cattle herds - Feb

Seminar: Sustainable Control of Parasites in sheep and cattle - April

Workshop: Building design and control of pneumonia - June

Workshop: Preventing calf scour - September

Workshop: Successful calf rearing - October

The venues and dates will be confirmed nearer the time, so look out for more details during the coming months. These events are supported by LANTRA and Advantage West Midlands, however, clients living in Wales are welcome to attend. Call 01497820863 and speak to Barney, Guy or Hannah who will give you more information.



Poor ewe

Watch out for thin sheep this spring. A combination of miserable weather, poor silage and heavy fluke burdens has meant that we have already seen a number of pregnant sheep 'down and out' with twin lamb disease and malnutrition. Don't rely on a visual inspection of your flock. A full fleece can be very deceptive. Take every opportunity to get hands-on and part out any with a condition score of 2 or less for special treatment.

Need help with cattle handling?

Whether you're belly clipping, TB testing, checking tags or blood testing, a good crush and race can make the job quicker, safer and easier. If your handling system struggles to cope then contact the surgery for information, we have a contact who hires himself and his fully portable handling system for use on farm.

Johnes - what you need to know

If your 60 cow herd was infected with a disease that cost you over £6000 a year, you'd want to know about it. Johnes disease hits profit hard, by increasing culling rates, reducing fertility and slowing finishing. Every week we diagnose Johnes disease on local farms, usually in adult cows that are losing condition or scouring. However, these animals are only the tip of the iceberg and it is likely that many herds have some infection which has gone undetected. Come and find out more at the Johnes seminar at the end of February, and speak to us next time we're on farm about how control measures can help.

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Office Hours: Monday to Friday 8.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. Saturday 8.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Appointments are available throughout the day)

Spring Newsletter 2010

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Practice News



After the cold and snow of recent weeks it feels like it must be time to look forward to Spring. We are pleased to be welcoming a new vet to the team. Emily Williams grew up on a farm outside Kington and after a few years working in South Wales she is returning to her home patch. Emily's experience in mixed practice will be a great asset and everyone is looking forward to her arrival at the start of February.

Lambing has begun and this year promises to be busy, with some of the best stock prices in recent years bolstering the sector. A lambing list is available at the surgery, the prices are competitive and the list makes it easy to stock up on all the essentials before lambing begins. Those of you bringing ewes to the surgery will probably agree that our small car park can be difficult to navigate. We have arranged alternative premises just outside Hay for use during the busiest times, directions will be provided when you telephone the surgery.

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a requirement for all vets, and each year we attend courses to broaden and update our knowledge. In January the practice ran its first in-house training day. Kate White MRCVS, Associate Professor in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia at the University of Nottingham, covered aspects of pain relief, sedation and anaesthesia. Everyone involved with care of small animals attended an intensive day of lectures and practical sessions. The training will help ensure we

continue to provide the safest and most effective care for our patients.

Finally congratulations

to Chris Davies (practice manager) and Liz on the arrival of baby Lottie

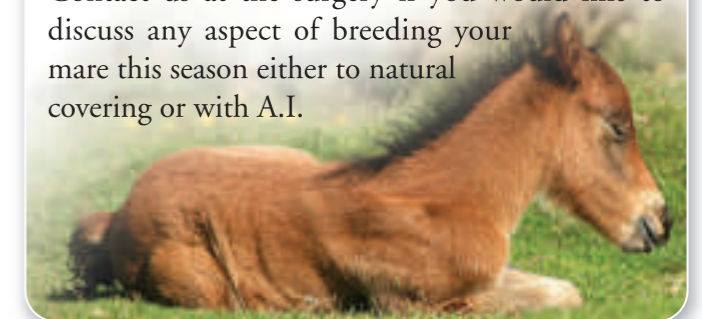
to Loo Graham (office staff) and Stuart on the arrival of baby Seren

Foal about

At the beginning of January, Barney Sampson attended a three day foal-care course run by the prestigious Rossdale and Partners Practice in Newmarket. The course covered a comprehensive range of topics from nutrition of the orphan foal to surgical treatment of limb deformities. The delegates were taught by some leading speakers in their fields and Barney is sure that the knowledge he gained will be invaluable in the months to come.

We are in the process of developing a set of mobile stocks that we can take out on visits. This will make fertility exams simpler and safer for both mares and vets.

Contact us at the surgery if you would like to discuss any aspect of breeding your mare this season either to natural covering or with A.I.



Killer Lilies

Lilies are beautiful flowers, often included in arrangements, but did you know that they are very toxic to cats? All parts of the plant are poisonous but the pollen seems to cause a particular problem as cats rub up against it and then lick it off when grooming. If untreated, lily poisoning can cause acute kidney failure within 24 - 72 hours. Sadly over half the cats that develop this will die.

So, if you think your cat might have eaten some part of a lily, call us immediately, even if he seems well. We can make him vomit to get rid of any undigested plant and also put him on a drip to try and protect his kidneys. If you have lilies in a flower arrangement, remove the pollen bearing stamen if at all possible - this will prevent stains on your carpet as well as protecting your cat. Remember, if you are at all concerned about lily poisoning call us immediately on 01497 820863.



Chips with everything

Microchipping of dogs has been in the news again recently, with the suggestion that it should become compulsory in breeding animals. Although that is probably some way off, here at Hay Vets we strongly support microchipping as the best possible way of trying to reunite you with your pet should they go missing. It is also the compulsory first step if you wish to take your pet abroad on the Pet Travel Scheme, and dogs examined under the British Veterinary Association health schemes must now be permanently identified with a chip as well.

Because we believe it is such an important thing to do, we have cut our fee for microchipping from February 1st. Single animals will now cost £14.99 inc VAT (from £19.99), while multiple pets from the same household chipped at the same time, or those being chipped at neutering will cost only £12.50 inc VAT.

During February and March single pets booked in for a chip with Nic (our qualified Veterinary Nurse) will also benefit from the £12.50 price. These appointments are available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday between 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. Call 01497 820863.

Acupuncture

Acupuncture has been used in Traditional Chinese Medicine for centuries, to treat all sorts of medical conditions. The western approach to acupuncture uses similar techniques, but with a different grounding in conventional medical science. Kate Platt is pleased to be able to offer an acupuncture service within the practice, focussing mainly on painful conditions such as arthritis. Although not suitable for all patients, it can be a useful extra or alternative treatment in animals that have had side effects with medication, or it can be of use in delaying the start of drug treatment.

While Kate continues her training she is keen to see as many patients as possible, so she is happy to offer this service at half the normal price. Acupuncture is not a quick fix, and usually 4 appointments are required at weekly intervals. If you think your pet may benefit, speak to your vet at your next appointment, or give Kate a call on 01497 820863.

Mouth Month

March is Oral Care Month at Hay Vets. Four out of five dogs over the age of three have gum disease, which in its early stages can cause 'dog breath', but can eventually lead to severe pain and loss of teeth. During March, Hay Veterinary Group invites your dog for a FREE dental check up, with free Pedigree Dentistix (while stocks last). We can advise you on home dental care and pick up early disease before it becomes a real problem. Please call 01497 820863 to make your dog's dental health check appointment.



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