



# FACTSHEET

## Endoparasite and Ectoparasite control

### **Fly strike**

Fly strike is a condition that can affect all breeds of sheep and goat especially those with long coats or fleeces in the summer months. Flies colonise wounds laying their eggs which then hatch into maggots. Evidence of strike can be seen on the fleece as wet stained areas. The most commonly affected area in sheep/goats is the breech, fecal soiling predisposes this area. Sheep and goats are often irritated by the presence of maggots and can be seen intensely scratching. In severe cases sheep can become toxic and the condition can be fatal.

Preventative measures include shearing (May time) and application of a topical pour on fly treatment (many are available with differing durations of protection so please ask)

Fly strike is usually treated by clipping the affected area and removing the maggots. Topical summer fly cream should be applied to soothe the affected area and prevent re-infestation and a topical pour on to treat the strike. Often antibiotics and anti inflammatories are also required. The hydration status of the animal is also important as fluid therapy may be required.

### **Worming**

Its important not to over worm sheep and goats.

A worm egg count (WEC) should be performed, with a collective sample provided from each management group. Worming advice can then be given accordingly.

If you do have to use a wormer then we recommend dosing for the heaviest animal in the group and repeating the WEC 14 days afterwards to check for resistance. If the WEC is very high then we may also advice concurrent use of a anti inflammatory agent when worming.

## Vaccination

### **Clostridial diseases**

Sheep and goats should be vaccinated against clostridial diseases. The clostridial diseases include Tetanus caused by clostridium tetani, pulpy kidney caused and endotoxemia both caused by clostridium perfringens and can all be fatal.

Several vaccine preparations exist and we can advise you which one would best suit your flock.

The vaccine course can be given to animals from 3 weeks old and usually consists of a primary course of 2 vaccinations 4-6 weeks apart to be completed before the period of risk (lambing time). In adult ewes/does a booster should be given 4-6 weeks pre-lambing/kidding to provide protection for the lambs/kids in the colostrum. The booster interval varies between vaccine preparations but is usually between 6-12 months.

### **Ovine enzootic abortion and Toxoplasmosis**

Both of these diseases cause abortion in sheep and can be prevented by vaccination.

Ovine enzootic abortion is caused by the agent chlamydomyces abortus and Toxoplasmosis is caused by toxoplasma gondii. Several vaccinations are available for these diseases and we can advise you accordingly depending on the level of risk in your flock.

### **Pneumonia**

Some of the clostridial vaccines are combination vaccines which also include protection against pasteurellosis. Pasturellosis can cause pneumonia in sheep so depending on flock risk this is another option for vaccination.

### **Foot trimming**

The feet of both sheep and goats should be inspected regularly and trimmed where necessary. Feet should not be over trimmed and only excess horn should be removed. For certain conditions it is necessary to expose horn so topical products can be applied or to aid foot bathing. Its important to ensure that all equipment is cleaned between animals especially if there may be an infectious cause for the lameness.

### **Disbudding**

Disbudding is a procedure that is commonly carried out in goat kids under 7 days old.

The procedure is carried out at the surgery. Sedation is given intramuscularly, the area surrounding the horn is clipped and local area numbed with local anaesthetic. The kid then has a short anaesthetic whilst the horn bud is removed with a disbudding iron. Antibiotics and tetanus cover are then given. Recovery from the anaesthetic is quick and

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