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JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

NEW YEAR, NEW SERVICES Happy New Year all! As 2024 brings some changes to North Park Veterinary Group, we thank you for your constant support as we continue to offer a wide variety of modern veterinary services. Some highlights and new additions include;

- Our ATTs will be able to offer **knockdown disbudding** services at Herd Health Visits. The vet can sedate the calves for the ATT to complete the disbudding while the cows get scanned. Contact your vet to arrange this.
- Clare is soon finishing her mobility course as part of the Health Hoof Initiative and will be able to offer tailored and more in-depth **lameness advice**.
- Elske and Jonathan have completed **dynamic parlour testing** training and are able to offer the service. Please contact the practice if you are interested.

NPVG Staff Changes in 2024



Our **phonerlines** will be separated into “Farm” and “Small Animal” divisions from 8th January 2024. Please listen to the **new switchboard options** to be connected with dedicated support staff. Our reception and administrative teams have been split so that calls can be organised and completed efficiently.

Roger is stepping back from the directorship and clinical work. He has practiced at NPVG since 2004. He will continue his product export work.

Elske and Ben are becoming directors in Roger’s place. They are excited to bring their ideas and experience to forefront and help lead the practice to even higher standards. Congratulations to both!

We **welcome Amy back** from maternity leave as she resumes her farm vet role.

New vet Sam will be joining the team as a Small Animal and Equine Vet, starting in January.

Rya will sadly be leaving us in Mid-January to pursue a new career in Zoo medicine. We all wish her well.

(Another) reminder: VETERINARY ATTESTATIONS NUMBERS now required for all stock going to slaughter. This VAN must be allocated by a vet who has seen your stock in the last 12 months. **Red Tractor assured farms do not need this further attestation.** The visit can be in combination with routine calls such as Animal Health and Welfare Pathway, prescription checks or at a TB test. Please plan ahead and be patient as we need to complete the forms for all applicant farms.



SHEEP SCAB



In the last few months, we have had several outbreaks of sheep scab; *Psoroptes ovis* mites that live and breed in the skin of sheep. They cause **severe itching** and must be treated promptly as a matter of **welfare**. The disease is spread via contact with live mites, either directly **from infected sheep or from contaminated equipment, fences or hedges**. The mites can live in the environment for over 2 weeks, depending on conditions. Whilst large proportions of the flock are likely to be carrying the mite, symptoms of the disease are likely to be more prominent in some individuals, and there will be various stages of the disease process at any one time.

CLINICAL SIGNS can take up to **2 months** to appear and may begin with **restlessness, excessive rubbing/ head tossing/ shaking and small stained areas of fleece**. Progression to **obvious scratching, wool loss and secondary skin infections**. If left untreated, the infestations can cause animals to **lose weight and abort their lambs**.

TREATMENT may be given as injectable Group 3 wormer product (Macrocytic Lactones). Depending on the product, a second dose may be required at a set number of days apart to improve the chances of killing all mites and the hatching eggs. The obvious disadvantage to this treatment is the effect it may have on **gutworms developing resistance** to 3-ML wormers. Another disadvantage that 3-ML **resistant mites** have been recorded in the UK and it is in our interests to **preserve the efficacy** of these medicines. **Treatment failure** is a serious issue; if you suspect that scab mites have not been controlled with 3-ML injectables, please call to speak with a vet.

A different treatment plan would be to **dip the sheep in organophosphates**. The dip is effective in killing the mites quickly and provides several weeks of **protection against re-infection** if the sheep return to the same area.

BIOSECURITY AND BIOCONTAINMENT are important tools in the control and prevention of scab mites in the national flock. Where appropriate, stock should be **isolated for a minimum of 28 days** to allow symptoms of **scab, CODD, lameness, orf, bluetongue, respiratory disease**, or other ailments to appear. Care moving groups of sheep that display disease symptoms as some pathogens can persist in the environment for several weeks to months.

Bluetongue Virus in the UK Surveillance in the UK is ongoing as further cases in the East and South East of England have been detected through routine blood sampling. Control zones have been applied to the affected premises, restricting livestock movement. Symptoms may be discussed with a vet or viewed in our previous newsletters. For more information visit www.gov.uk/guidance/bluetongue

UPCOMING EVENTS 06/02/2023 Lambing Day Course. Discussion and practical sessions with refreshments. Please call reception or book online to guarantee a place. £60 + VAT for first person, £30pp + VAT for additional attendees from same farm. 50% discount for SHC members.



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