



Newsletter January 2022

Vet Tech Services

Our busy winter period is upon us! Seasonal diseases like pneumonia and scours add to our workload and we are starting to feel the effects of the new 6 monthly TB testing. Thankfully we have 2 new Vet-Techs/ATTS (approved Tb Testers) to help lighten the load. We've had great feedback about Ellie and Helen with farmers appreciating their cattle handling experience and cheerful "can-do" attitude. Remember that the ATTS can undertake no clinical work during your test so please continue to help us by booking in any Vet work (PDs, Disbuds/dehorns) separately.

The Vet techs also offer lots of extra services to our clients. **Dairies** can avail of our new calf service where the Vet-techs will visit regularly to carry out all the disbudding required as well as administration of any pneumonia vaccines and monitor disease and growth rates in the calves. Did you know, you can book our ATTS/Vet-techs to deliver vaccines to the **whole dairy or suckler herd?** They will bring the vaccine with them to ensure the cold-chain is maintained. They also offer mobility scoring (ROMS accredited) and teat/hygiene scoring during milking. Speak to Ellie or Helen or any of the Vets about the new services they offer.

One option for **calf-rearers** and **suckler** herds is our welfare friendly "**stress-free**" **group disbudding**. We can go out and sedate batches of calves and complete all the disbuds at the same time, quickly, quietly and safely without the need for calf crates or crushes. This is only suitable for disbuds, not dehorns, so ideally 1 month-old calves. The calves in the picture are not dead (!) but sedated before being disbudded.



TB Testing - 6 month testing begins

With the beginning of 6 month routine testing and several breakdowns, we, like all farm animal practices in England are jam-packed with TB tests to complete. To allow everyone to get their test done, please help out by working with us:

- Do not leave booking in your test to the end of your window - that slot could be gone and leaves you/us no flexibility for staff issues, illness, COVID-19 etc.
- Aim to book your test in at the beginning of your window.
- **NO** clinical work will be done during your TB test. PD's, castrates etc must be booked in separate from your test.
- Most TB testing will be done by our team of ATT's (approved tester) - do not always expect your usual vet (or any vet) as the vets must be available for clinical work and emergencies.

Ovine Pregnancy Toxaemia (twin lamb disease)

Ovine pregnancy toxaemia is most commonly encountered in lowland flocks, affecting older ewes carrying three or more lambs during the last month of gestation.

It occurs following a period of severe energy shortage, whether the result of poor roughage quality, inadequate concentrate allowance or high foetal demand (twins/triplets), but clinical signs can be precipitated by a sudden stressful event such as adverse weather conditions, handling or housing. The early clinical signs of ovine pregnancy toxaemia include disorientation leading to isolation from the remainder of the flock. Over the next 24 to 48 hours affected ewes become increasingly dull and depressed and are easily caught because they are blind.

Head pressing into the corner of a pen is a common finding. Continuous fine muscle tremors may be observed around the muzzle and affecting the ears. Ewes often become recumbent with the hind legs held out behind the ewe. Inability to stand leads to urine scalding of the ewe's skin and fleece. Treatment with propylene glycol, intravenous glucose injection, and glucocorticoid injection is successful in at least 30% of cases which are still able to walk when treatments commence.

- Palatable feeds to promote appetite, and fresh water
- Drench with propylene glycol
- Intravenous glucose injection
- Glucocorticoid injection, although this will cause lambing/abortion
- Neovit B injection (if available)

Hypocalcaemia can be confused with twin lamb disease so injecting with Calcium is usually appropriate.

Spectam for lambs

Unfortunately, this product is now discontinued. Speak to a vet about alternatives - but remember in most cases, with attention to husbandry, housing and nutrition most lambs don't need Spectam or an alternative.

