



# FarmVets

S O U T H W E S T



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## Newsletter October 2015

### Complications of Castrations

Castrating calves with rubber rings is common practice. While a cheap and easy method, it's not without its risks. The result of incorrect technique can be extremely damaging.

The most common problem we see is the missed testicle where only one has been caught by the ring leaving the other fully intact (and functioning!). These require surgical castration by us which is an added cost and complication for you. Always check that both testicles are caught below the ring. If this is not possible then do not castrate the calf and speak to one of our vets.

Old rings lose their stretch. A ring needs to be tight enough to successfully cut off the blood supply to the testicle in order to work. If old rings are used, not only can the animal remain potentially fertile, but the testicle can become swollen and infected.



The same problems can be seen when using rubber rings in animals over one week old. The scrotum is too wide by this point for a ring to successfully work. This results in a swollen, infected, and painful scrotum which, if left, could be life threatening. Regulations state that rubber rings must only be used in animals **under one week of age**. Even when done correctly, rubber rings in calves cause chronic pain. Giving Metacam at the point of castration significantly reduces this pain and also improves growth rates.

### Calf Pneumonia Meeting Wednesday 21st October at Sedgemoor Market 7:00 (sharp)

As we head towards Winter, join us at our meeting at Sedgemoor Market on Wednesday, 21st October to discuss calf pneumonia. We will review the importance of calf health, housing, the bugs involved and treatment options/vaccination policies.



*Free bar and hot meal provided at the end of the meeting  
Please call any of our offices to book your place*

## Flock Prescription Checks

All Veterinary Surgeons providing POM-Vs (prescription only medicines) are now obliged by law to carry out regular visits to the flocks under their care. As such we have devised a quick and easy flock check visit to satisfy all your legal requirements so that you can continue to get all your Veterinary medicines from us as usual. POM-Vs include common antibiotics and other medicines. If you have not had a recent vet visit to your flock we will ask you to book a flock prescription check before further drugs can be supplied.



*Q. What will the visit entail?*

A. The minimum requirement is a visual examination of some/all of the flock and the filling in of a few records regarding flock health and management. It may only take 10-15 minutes of your time, and certainly nothing to worry about!

*Q. How will this benefit my flock/business?*

A. We hope you will make the most of having a Vet at your holding. If nothing else it's an opportunity to pick the Vet's brains! He will also be able to discuss all the additional services that we offer e.g. flock plans, worming plans, worm egg counts, lameness plan, etc, etc. Additional services will to be arranged and charged separately.

*Q. What happens should I not book my flock visit?*

A. Unfortunately, legally, your flock can not be thought of as "under our care" and we will no longer be able to supply you with POM-Vs. **We will also no longer be able to attend any emergencies including those out of hours if a flock visit has not been arranged.**

*Q. How much will it cost?*

A. The flock exam will cost £30 + VAT plus visit fee.

## DEFRA/XL LETTERS

We are aware that recently some of you have received letters from XL regarding your TB tests. Basically, from your point of view, **NOTHING** has changed - you still organise your tests through us and you don't need to contact XL Vets.



**Always call us if you're unsure about anything to do with your TB test.**

## Improving Beef Performance Farm Event Withiel Farm, Cannington

Event looking at improving overall performance in the beef sector being held on Tuesday, 20th October from 11-14:00 at Withiel Farm, Cannington TA5 2LZ.

**To book your free place call AHDB on 01904 771211**