

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2020

Temporary Changes During the Covid-19 Outbreak

Any pre ordered parcels will be placed in the normal out of hours parcel cupboard at the end of the building, the door will be left open during office hours (9am-5pm from 6th April 2020).

FARM ANIMAL DRUGS AND SUPPLIES:

If you phone **BEFORE 12.00** , drugs will be ready for collection **AFTER 3.00pm**

If you phone **AFTER 12.00**, drugs will be ready for collection **THE NEXT DAY AFTER 9.00am**.

BENTHAM parcels for same day collection **MUST BE PHONED IN BEFORE 12.00** for collection **AFTER 6.00pm** the same day.

If arriving with a lambing or calf to drip, **please stay in your vehicle and phone the surgery to inform us of your arrival**. Our staff will unload the animal and deal with it **while you wait in your vehicle**.

Please keep a 2 metre distance between yourself and our staff or other clients at all times, even if talking through a car window or vent in a trailer!

ON FARM:

Please respect the 2 metre distancing, plan the movement and handling of animals so that this can be maintained at all times. This is particularly relevant for calves. **If a 2 metre distance is not possible, the job is unsafe, and we may have to delay it until it can be undertaken in a safe way.**

Please advise us of any suspicious symptoms that you may be displaying at the initial phone contact or on the day of the visit to ensure the safety of our staff and allow us to continue to provide veterinary services during this difficult time.

Guidelines from the governing veterinary bodies state that:

"During this period veterinary professionals can continue to work but must only provide urgent treatment and emergency care where animal welfare would be compromised by delaying for this period of time, or activities that are essential to maintaining the future food supply chain. These services must also be provided in a manner that avoids all unnecessary contact with clients, maintains a safe physical distance, and ensures that animals are only seen face to face when absolutely necessary"

Lambings, calvings, prolapses, slaughter certificates and acute illness are all deemed emergency welfare issues, which we will attend. Fertility work is permitted, **when it can be safely performed**, to maintain the food supply chain. Routine work such as castration and dehorning will be temporarily suspended.

Red Tractor inspections. As of 26th March, Red Tractor have suspended all physical inspections.

TB testing. At the time of writing, APHA is still insisting that TB testing goes ahead, despite the fact that we are a 4 yearly testing area. **"There are currently no plans to cancel any statutory requirements for TB testing"**. **As a consequence, a herd that goes overdue will still incur movement restrictions.** This may change as the number of vets available nationally for testing reduces as they go into self-isolation. **It is stated that if a test cannot be performed without safe distancing, then it will not be undertaken!** When booking your test you may be required to speak to a vet who will discuss and assess the practical aspects of your test and facilities.

Farm vets are no longer based actually inside the office building, so PLEASE DO NOT go to the practice to talk to a vet! If you want to speak to a vet, phone the practice, staff will take your name and number and a vet will phone you back - **THIS MAY NOT BE IMMEDIATELY**, please be patient . In a time when a lot of businesses are closed and drastic changes are occurring all around us, please be accepting of the fact that we have had to implement changes that will require your patience. These changes will allow us to continue to provide veterinary services, protect our staff and protect you. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in these matters. **STAY SAFE.**

New Surgery Opening Times: 9am to 5pm

In order to comply with government guidelines on social distancing and because of the impact on our business we have had to take the difficult decision to furlough staff. Reduced staffing levels mean that from 6th April 2020 the surgery will be open between 9am and 5pm.

Deliveries

In normal times we receive daily deliveries from our wholesaler which allows us to place orders to arrive with us by 9am the following day. We are currently only receiving deliveries every 2-3 days. While we try to stock plenty of the most popular product lines for any less commonly used medications the more notice we can have of your requirements the better. Products are currently only being guaranteed for delivery within a week by our wholesaler so please bear with us!

Vaccine Availability

Huskvac (Lungworm Vaccine)

Whilst there are currently no issues with availability of **Huskvac** we have been warned that because part of the production process takes place in a human medical facility, there is a possibility that supplies could be interrupted. The expiry date on current stock is 5th May 2020. We would advise anyone intending to vaccinate calves this spring who has not already ordered vaccine to place your order ASAP and we will order the second dose at the same time as the first (provided the 2nd dose can be used before 5th May 2020). Calves need to be over 8 weeks of age at the time of the 1st vaccination with an interval of 4 weeks between the 1st and 2nd doses and a further interval of at least 2 weeks before calves are turned out.

Scabivax

As with Huskvac, we have been warned that there may be disruption to the supply chain. We currently have plenty of **Scabivax** in stock but there may be issues later in the season. The expiry date on the vaccine is September 2020. To ensure availability of your vaccine we would recommend ordering and collection of vaccine now, although once collected we are **not** able to take back any unused bottles.

Enzootic Abortion Vaccine

For anyone wishing to vaccinate hogs to protect against Enzootic abortion as they return from wintering, there is currently vaccine available with a May 2020 expiry at a significantly reduced price. The vaccine comes in 20 or 50 dose bottles and provides protection for several years. For more information or to place an order, contact Anne or Louise at the surgery on 01729 823538.

Leptavoid H

No supply problems but only available in 25 dose bottles.

IBR Vaccine

No supply problems.

Bovela BVD Vaccine

No supply problems.

Bovilis BVD Vaccine

25 dose bottles are currently unavailable but 5, 10 and 50 dose bottles are available with September and October 2020 expiry dates.

Other Product News:

Manufacture of **Orojet** dosers has now ceased permanently with remaining stock having been used up. For alternative products, please speak to one of the farm vets.

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www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

