

Blowfly strike in sheep

The trend towards warm, wet summers is resulting in increasing problems with blowfly strike in sheep. This is a serious condition and can occur almost anytime between April and October. It can develop quickly with significant damage occurring rapidly in as little as 36 hours.

Blowflies lay their eggs on skin wounds and dirty areas of the fleece with the maggots hatching from the eggs and feeding off the skin and flesh.

Shearing can help delay infestation, but as the fleece grows back on the sheep the risk of strike increases to favour the survival of maggots. Sheep and lambs that aren't sheared are at continual risk. Areas on the sheep commonly affected are the withers and flanks as well as the tail area which can be hit heavily after scouring. Blowfly strike causes intense distress to animals; it can affect the wool, leather quality as well as live weight gain. In badly affected cases blowfly strike can result in death.

Blowfly strike is therefore very damaging to the animal but also to the farmers income so best management is to use a preventative blowfly treatment.

CLiK pour on provides 16 weeks blowfly prevention from a single application which means one application will provide protection for the whole summer.

To get value for money when using CLiK May/June is the optimum time for application with this product.

For more advice please contact the surgery.

