

FARM NEWSLETTER Autumn 2020

Two Rivers Vets welcome new farm clients - dairy, beef and/or sheep. Our 5 vets have broad experience with all farm animals.

www.tworiversvets.co.uk

BIGGAR SURGERY

157 High Street
Biggar
ML12 6DL
01899 220073

Office hours

Mon 8.30am - 7.00pm
Tues - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12noon

Consulting times

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 10.30am
Mon 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Tues - Fri 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 11.00am

PEEBLES SURGERY

15 Old Town
Peebles
EH45 8JF
01721 722879

Office hours

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm
Wed 8.30am - 7.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12.30pm

Consulting times

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 10.30am
Mon - Fri 3.00pm - 6.00pm
Wed 3.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 12noon

**24 HOUR
EMERGENCY SERVICE**
on either telephone number

Blowfly Strike

The recent warm, humid weather has meant sheep are at high risk of blowfly strike. This is caused when the green bottle fly lays eggs in decomposing matter such as carcasses, open wounds, footrot lesions and dirty backends.

Blowfly strike poses a welfare issue for affected sheep as well as financial losses through reduced productivity, fleece damage, treatment and labour costs and even loss of stock.



Clinical signs include irritation such as rubbing, nibbling and tail swishing. In more severe cases there will be areas of damp, discoloured fleece and fleece loss. Affected sheep will graze less and become separated from the flock. Death can occur due to secondary bacterial infections.



Treatment involves clipping and cleaning the affected area before removing all maggots and/or applying insecticide. Please note the insect growth regulators (Clik®, Clik Extra®, Clikzin® and Vetrazin®) are not an effective treatment and are licensed for blowstrike prevention only. Systemic antibiotics and anti-inflammatories are recommended for sick sheep.

Preventative measures:

- apply preventatives prior to risk period (see table over page)
- tail dock lambs
- reduce dirty back ends by clipping and ensure good worm control
- promptly treat lame sheep
- control fly population with traps and prompt disposal of carcasses
- graze less risky pastures during mid-summer

If you would like to discuss measures for blowfly strike treatment and prevention, please contact the surgery and chat to one of our vets. See over for table of products.
Claire Cameron MRCVS



Products for the treatment and prevention of Blowfly Strike

Group	Active Ingredient	Preventative	Treatment	Route	Product	Withdrawal
IGR	Cyromazine Dicyclanil	10 weeks		Pour On	Vetrazin 6%	28 days
		19 weeks		Pour On	Clik Extra	40 days
		16 weeks			Clik 5%	40 days
		8 weeks			Clikzin	7 days
OP	Diazinon	6 weeks	√	Plunge Dip	Osmonds Gold fleece Paracide 62	49 days 70 days
SP	Alpha Cypermethrin	8-10weeks	√	Pour On	Dysect Zermasect Sheep	49 days 49 days
		6-8weeks	√	Pour On	Crovect Ectofly	8 days 8 days
	Deltamethrin	4-6weeks	√	Spot On	Vectocert	8 days
					Dectospot	35 days
					Deltanil	35 days
					Fly and Lice Spot On	35 days
				Flydown	35 days	
				Spotinor	35 days	

Lungworm (cattle)

The recent warm, wet weather provides ideal conditions for lungworm. Typically grazing youngstock are affected but adult animals can be affected where there has been no previous exposure or immunity has waned. Clinical signs include increased respiratory rate and widespread coughing post exercise initially then even at rest, as well as rapid loss of condition.



Diagnosis is suspected on clinical signs and time of year and can be confirmed by larval detection in faecal samples, blood testing or post mortem examination.

Treatment involves moving stock to safe pasture, e.g. aftermath or indoors ensuring good ventilation. Most anthelmintics are effective versus lungworm.

Severely affected animals may need anti-inflammatories and/or antibiotics to control secondary infections. In rare cases, anaphylaxis and death can occur post treatment after mass killing worms in the airways in heavy infections.

Post treatment, cattle can return to the same pasture after 4-6 weeks as they will develop good immunity during this time.



Zolvix®

The use of Zolvix® in grazing lambs is recommended once annually, typically mid/late season, as a clear out drench. This can help reduce the development of anthelmintic resistance and should be used prior to the development of resistance to the other worm classes. In farm with triple resistance, where Zolvix® has been used exclusively, reports of resistance are emerging.



The drug can also be used as a quarantine drench for incoming stock. This cleans out incoming stock and prevents the introduction of resistant worms. It should be used sequentially, with a drug from another class, usually one which is also effective versus sheep scab (e.g. Cydectin®). Where possible, yard animals for 48 hours post dosing to prevent infective eggs being released onto pasture. Then turn out onto 'dirty' pasture (grazed by sheep that season).