

Treatment protocols for lambing time 2015



Weight of newborn lamb 5kg
Weight of average ewe 60-70kg
Weight of average ewe in lamb with twins 85kg

Twin lamb disease:

- Due to lack of energy. Common in ewes carrying two or more lambs, this leaves little room in the rumen for food.
- Treat with Calciject 20 (calcium, magnesium and glucose) 100ml under the skin, twice daily. Warm it up first and inject in 3 different sites (it will work quicker!).
- Give 50ml of propylene glycol orally plus 1/3 sachet Prorumen (in a 1 litre warm water) orally twice a day. Or give 100ml Glycerol Plus twice a day.
- If ewe does not respond please call vet.

Hypocalcaemia:

- Due to low calcium.
- Treat with Calciject 20 (calcium, magnesium and glucose) 100ml under the skin. Warm it up first and inject in 3 different sites (it will work quicker!).
- Give 50 ml of propylene glycol orally plus 1/3 sachet Prorumen (in a 1 litre warm water) orally twice a day. Or give 100ml Glycerol plus (in a litre of warm water) twice a day.
- If ewe does not respond please call vet.

Caring for sick ewes:

- Lambing can be a traumatic time in a ewe's life and not all ewes are robust as others.
- If a ewe will not eat or drink then she should be drenched to give her the energy and water she needs. Before drenching make sure the ewe is conscious, lying upright and able to swallow!
- We recommend using products such as, Prorumen, Glycercol Plus, Restore, Effydral or Rehydion.
- Often one well timed drench, such as after a bad lambing is all a ewe needs to stop the ewe sliding down the slippery slope to death. Ewes which have had a caesarean have an increased survival rate if they are drenched.
- At least 2 litres should be drenched twice a day using a beer bottle or feeding tube. If the ewe is dehydrated and refusing all food and water she will need more like 10 litres twice a day! This is a good job for the student!
- Consider drenching ewes which have had a caesarean, rough lambings, rotten lambings, twin lamb, low calcium, mastitis, abortions.
- All sick animals benefit from anti-inflammatory medicines like Cronyxin or Metacam/Meloxidyl

Mastitis:

- Very sick ewes have poor prognosis. Please call vet for advice.
- Give 5ml Penstrep in the muscle daily for at least 5 days.
- Give 4ml of Cronyxin in the muscle daily for 3 days. This will help with toxins in the blood.
- Strip out as much fluid / pus from the udder as you can. This prevents toxins going into the blood.
- Giving 1ml Oxytocin in the muscle will help to let down milk / fluid / pus.
- Once the udder is stripped out, insert a mastitis tube into the udder.
- You may need to strip the udder several more days.
- Make sure ewe's lambs are receiving enough milk.
- Generally the affected side of the udder is lost and can even slough off. If you have saved the ewe you have done well. Cull ewe before next tupping.

Prolapsed vagina:

- Happens before lambing, common in fat ewes carrying two or more lambs (possibly hereditary).
- Gently wash prolapse with diluted Vetasept solution and with gentle but firm pressure replace.
- Use a harness or call vet to place a Buhner stitch. Refrain from using a spoon.
- Do not place a stitch yourself unless you know the proper technique - please use an epidural! (Ask us if you would like to learn how to do an epidural).
- Pain relief is a wonderful thing to help irritation and straining. Give 4ml Cronyxin in muscle, repeat daily as needed. (or 3 ml Metacam under the skin, once)
- Mark these ewes clearly, keep a careful eye on these ewes in order to remove device when lambing starts.
- Ewes which have prolapsed this year are at risk of prolapsing again next lambing. Mark them permanently so they can be culled or to keep an eye on them next lambing.

Aborting ewe:

- Frequent occurring causes: Toxoplasma, Enzootic abortion (Chlamydia), Listeria (mouldy silage) and Campylobacter.
- Observe good hygiene as there is potential for you to catch these diseases too!
- Isolate animal, remove any aborted material and soiled bedding for burning. Ewes can shed infection for over a month so keep isolated even when she is turned out.
- Treat ewes with rotten smelly abortion with 5 ml Penstrep in the muscle for 3-5 days or until discharge has disappeared.
- Sick ewes should be given 4ml of Cronyxin in the muscle daily for 3 days or Metacam once. This will help with toxins in the blood.
- Call vet if more abortions occur. Foetus and cleansing can be sent for post-mortem at the VLA. Bloods can be taken to investigate the cause - many vaccine companies offer free laboratory testing.
- Consider vaccination for Toxoplasmosis and Enzootic abortion (Chlamydia) before tupping next year.
- Vaccinating for Enzootic abortion is the most cost effective way to control the disease.
Did you know you only have to vaccinate a ewe once in her life?

Lambing:

- When a lambing is not making any progress, wash your hands and the back-end of the ewe. Using a long sleeved glove will protect both you and the sheep from disease. Use plenty of lubricant.
- Check whether the lamb(s) are in the right position. If not, correct the position and help the ewe lambing.
- After lambing check that the vaginal passage and uterus are not damaged.
- Big hands in a small passage can cause a lot of bruising. Giving pain relief will make sure ewes eat, drink and nurses her lambs - reducing the number of lambs left for you to feed!
- If ewe has had a rough lambing give Cronyxin 4ml in muscle (lasts 24hrs) or Metacam 2ml under the skin (lasts 3 days).
- Following an assisted lambing inject the ewe with 1ml of Oxytocin in the muscle (this helps the womb contract and cleanse) and 5ml Penstrep in the muscle for at least 3 days. You can also put a pessary into the uterus (especially if lambs were dead and rotten).
- Always check the udder of the ewe to see if she has enough milk and to break the plug. Make sure that the lamb receives enough colostrum. The first hour 200-250ml/kg and in total the first day 800ml – 1litre. If no colostrum is available feed a colostrum replacer (Lamaid or Volostrum) instead.

Prolapsed uterus:

- Happens when the ewe keeps straining after giving birth.
- This is an emergency! Call the vet as soon as possible. Try to keep the ewe quiet and the prolapse clean in the mean time with something like a clean bin bag.
- If you are confident to replace this yourself, remember an epidural will stop the ewe straining against you (please ask us to show you how to do it). Give 1ml Oxytocin in the muscle after replacing prolapse to contract the uterus, 5 ml Penstrep in the muscle for 3-5 days for infection and Cronyxin 4ml in muscle (lasts 24hrs) or Metacam 2ml under the skin (lasts 3 days) for pain relief! A harness helps to give you piece of mind that it won't come out again.

Retained cleansing/ uterine infection:

- Bad hygiene at lambing is one of the main causes of a uterine infection!
- Treat the ewe with 5ml Penstrep in the muscle for 3-5 days or until discharge has disappeared.
- If the ewe is sick give Cronyxin 4ml in muscle daily as required and drench if not eating.

Weak lambs / hypothermic lambs:

- Take temperature, normal temperature is between 39-40°C or 102-104°F. If the temperature is 37°C (100°F) or below the lamb is hypothermic.
- Give colostrum or milk (via feeding tube if necessary) only if lambs are able to swallow.
- Comatose lambs which can not swallow will need a warm glucose injection into abdomen. Call vet if you do not know how to do this.
- Dry the lambs and place lambs in a warm environment **AFTER** feeding.
- Check frequently – don't cook them!

Watery mouth:

- This is caused by E.coli infection in the gut. Make sure lambing environment is hygienic and lambs receive enough colostrum in the first hours of life. Lambs become toxic, dull, bloated, drool and have a cold mouth. The bloating prevents the lambs from breathing.
- Give oral antibiotics – Spectam Scour Halt is very effective.
- For collapsed lambs move to warm environment.
- No milk for first 24-48hr, it just ferments and causes more bloat.
- Small fluid feeds 50 -100ml at least four times a day, given via a tube feeder. Use electrolyte solutions e.g. Effydral, Lectade, Rehydion.
- 20 ml warm soapy water enema (e.g. lubricated feeding tube up the bum ... please wash afterwards!) will help promote gut movement.
- If outbreak occurs, lambs can be treated preventatively with oral antibiotics as soon as possible after birth (15mins). E.g. Spectam drench, Orojet, Norodine tablets.

Joint ill:

- Bacteria causing joint ill in lambs gain entry to the body via the gut, lungs and navel, therefore a high standard of hygiene in lambing sheds is essential.
- Treat with 1.5ml / 5kg of Penstrep in muscle daily **for at least 5 days.**
- Pain relief can be given using 0.2ml of Metacam under the skin (4kg lamb).
- Treatment is most effective when lambs are treated early within 2 days of symptoms showing.
- If lambs remain lame or lameness reoccurs repeat treatment course for 5 days.
- If lambs are still lame after 2 courses of treatment they are unlikely to fully recover or thrive. Chronic joint ill - lameness may remain due to damage to joint cartilage.
- In the face of a mass outbreak a one off injection with 1.5ml / 5kg of Penstrep can be given 36-48hr after birth as a preventative. This should only be done if all management techniques to provide a clean lambing environment have been exhausted.

Navel ill:

- Caused by nil or poor navel dressing. Bacteria gain entry via wet umbilical cord. Infection can spread to liver, abdomen, joints and brain.
- Treat with 1.5ml / 5kg of Penstrep daily **for at least 5 days.**
- Pain relief can be given using 0.2ml of Metacam under the skin (upto weight of 10kg).
- Fully dip or (thoroughly) spray all navels in strong iodine solution as soon as possible after birth (15mins). And dip again before turnout. Antibiotic sprays are inferior to iodine and more expensive.

Any queries please ring the practice 01743 891855