



# Milfeddygon Steffan Veterinary Services Ltd

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## Newsletter October 2012

### Fireworks Phobia

With Bonfire night just around the corner, now is the time to be considering how to make the proceedings less stressful for your pets. While it is getting late to start a program of desensitisation, there are still some things that you can do. We have pheromone products available for both dogs and cats which help to calm them down. We use these products in our kennel rooms and they can help to relax the animals. Call in to the office to discuss these products and pick up a free leaflet on other ways to help your pet cope with firework phobia.

### Schmallenberg Virus

This virus which has been circulating in England since 2011 has now been found in cattle near Lampeter. The virus is thought to be transmitted by midges and there is currently no vaccine. There are not thought to be any clinical signs in adult cattle or sheep. Abnormalities are seen in new born animals and abortions. If you are getting a high number of deformities, abortions, swollen heads, swollen necks or weak animals at birth please contact us so that we can further investigate.

### Fluke Alert for Sheep, Cattle and Goats

As you will be aware the risk of acute and chronic Liver Fluke disease is very high this year.

The warm wet weather during the summer ideal for the mud snail to thrive and allow the liver fluke life-cycle to turn. Levels of infective larvae are very high on pastures, especially those fields with muddy areas (around ditches, water troughs and boggy areas). Sheep and cattle are therefore highly likely to become infected.

Acute liver fluke disease does kill sheep. If you have animals dropping dead it is essential that the cause is investigated.

At this time of year it is best to treat animals, sheep especially, with a product effective against the immature stages of fluke. Triclabendazole (e.g. Fasinex) is recommended. There is increased resistance to Triclabendazole; to find out if you have resistance on your farm we recommend that faecal samples are brought into the Practice 3 weeks after treatment with Triclabendazole.

Other Flukicidal products kill different stages of the life cycle and to ensure that you effectively treat Fluke you may have to wait a period of time after housing (or extremely cold weather) or repeat treatments. When deciding on a treatment there is more to think about than just the cost and ease of use.

There is more information about which products to use on our website, [www.steffanvets.co.uk](http://www.steffanvets.co.uk)

If you wish to discuss Fluke control on your farm please contact us and we will be happy to advise.