

## February Newsletter

### Fluke in Sheep & Cattle

We are still seeing problems with Fluke in both cattle and sheep.

At this time of year Fluke can cause significant liver damage and we can blood sample for this damage as well as faeces sampling for Fluke eggs.

Fluke in sheep could start to cause secondary problems including twin lamb. Flocks traditionally free of fluke and with very dry land are also experiencing the disease. Remember to treat ewes before lambing.

Treatment Factsheets are on the website or available from the Office. Feel free to contact the Office to discuss any problems.

### 2010 Barren EweCheck

Barren EweCheck is Intervet/Schering-Plough's complimentary diagnostic service which aids the diagnosis of whether *Toxoplasma gondii* is a cause of empty or aborting ewes.

An early diagnosis allows us to put in place control programmes to reduce further losses.

Please contact the Office to discuss any problems you may be experiencing, especially unexpected scanning results.

### Lepto & BVD Vaccination

Many of you will be thinking of administering booster doses for Leptospirosis and BVD vaccines at this time of year.

Replacement heifers should complete both primary courses (two injections 4 weeks apart) before they go to the bull to ensure protection for the unborn calf. Heifers can be vaccinated for BVD from 8 months of age.

Remember that Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease which means that it can also affect people.

Please contact the Office if you would like to discuss your vaccination protocol.



### Rat-Bait Poisoning

We have recently seen a few cases where dogs have eaten rat poison. Rat poison will poison pets as well as rats and mice if they are exposed to it.

The antidote for most rat poisons is Vitamin K. Unfortunately this is now only available in an injection form. In the past tablets could be prescribed but they are no longer available, you may need to bring your dog into the Practice daily for a number of days for treatment.

Therefore it is imperative to ensure that rat poison is used properly:

- Ensure that poison is stored securely and out of reach of pets and working dogs.
- When placing rat poison remember that dogs can often get into smaller holes and behind things easier than us.
- It is a very good idea to use purpose made bait boxes etc.
- If it looks edible to rats most dogs will try it as well!

If you are worried about possible exposure of your dog to rat poison contact the Office as soon as possible. Treatment is more likely to be effective earlier.