

March Newsletter

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB)

As you are all probably aware this devastating disease continues to increase and is moving across the practice area at an alarming rate. At the same time we are seeing an increase in the number of cattle confirmed (Visible Lesions VL) with TB following slaughter.

From the 1st March 2009, inconclusive (IR) reactor animals will only have one retest. If they are still an IR (or a Reactor) at the second test they will be removed from the holding. Animal Health aim to remove all such cattle within 10 days of the test.

Up to date information is available on the Animal Health website which can be found on the Practice website www.steffanvets.com.

Vaccination Amnesty Week – POSTPONED

Due to a current shortage in Leptospirosis vaccine for dogs, the planned Vaccination Amnesty Week has been postponed until further notice. Lepto is a nasty bacterial disease which attacks the liver and kidneys and can cause death due to failure of these organs. The vaccine is an effective way of protecting your dog against this disease, but must be repeated annually, as studies have shown that protection only lasts 12 months. We are using a different make of vaccine, and so can continue to offer cover against this disease. We will update you on the planned Amnesty week when we get a date.

New Nurse Clinics

Our three nurses, Alison, Becky and Caroline, are all experienced, fully qualified Veterinary Nurses and will be carrying out the following procedures during their clinics:

- Weigh-ins and weight loss advice
- Flea and Tick advice
- Suture removal
- Microchipping (£18.40)

Clinics will initially run on Tuesdays from 12.00 to 12.30pm by appointment only. There is no consultation fee for these appointments.

We hope that they are a success and do plan to include more procedures in due course. Please telephone the Office to book an appointment.

Bluetongue Virus

The advice remains the same: to vaccinate all stock.

The DEFRA supplies of vaccine are running low and we anticipate that the price of vaccine will increase once these stocks are exhausted.

If you would like to discuss vaccination or order vaccine please call into or Telephone the Office.