

NorCal News...

Invoices / Statements

We are moving towards email invoices / statements, if you would like to receive them in this way please email wantage@norcalvets.co.uk to confirm the email address you would like to receive them to.

COVID 19

We thank you for your patience with covid-19. The measures we have put in place at the practice are for your safety, and ours. Our aim is to ensure that should any of us fall ill it will not be at the same time, allowing those of us that are well to continue working. The British Cattle Veterinary Association has issued a directive that we should continue to deliver TB testing and 'essential work', which includes fertility work, as this is essential to maintaining the food supply chain. Where at all possible we will be aiming to maintain a 2M gap between you and ourselves. This is more for your protection than ours.

APHA have said that we are able to extend test windows without financial penalties if you think you will be unable to complete your TB test on time. Please do contact us if you have concerns that you may not meet the deadline due to self isolation or lack of availability of helpers.

Finally, it is your decision whether or not we attend your farm. If you would prefer that we don't come please contact us to talk about it. We will do our best to help, within the constraints of keeping everybody safe.

Lameness in Grazing Cattle

One of the main problems we see over the summer in cattle at grass is lameness. Most commonly this is due to an infection caused by bacteria that live in the soil - commonly known as foul in the foot.

Foul can be treated very effectively with antibiotics, but it is also important to check that there is no underlying cause that would result in the lameness recurring. Commonly, these could include stones or other foreign bodies between the claws, or cuts caused by sharp objects such as loose wire.

Other risk factors for foul developing are poached or muddy areas, open swards with bare soil and flinty ground. Where these are unavoidable, ensure you are keeping a close eye on cattle as the sooner you detect and treat lameness the quicker it is likely to heal.

If you are struggling to get to treating lame cattle because of needing to run them in, we can help! All our vets carry Masterject dosing systems (pole syringes), which means we can often treat lame cattle directly out in the field.

For more complicated cases we can sedate animals to allow us to get a closer look at the problem. This can often be a much more cost and time effective way to treat lame cattle than running a whole group in, and if done promptly then recovery times will be quicker too!



Mastitis

This can be a high risk time for mastitis in cows and ewes. Warmer temperatures, dirtier pastures, more flies about and calves and lambs starting to eat a more varied diet can all contribute to the risk.

Keep a close eye on stock for signs of mastitis, including changes to the udder (redness, hardness, uneven quarters), and more general signs of ill health such as reluctance to eat, reluctance to stand and dullness.

If you suspect mastitis, catch and pen the affected animal and her calf/lambs. Safely restrain her in a crush, and strip as much milk out of the affected quarter as you can. This may need to be repeated regularly if the calf/lamb is not managing to suckle the quarter. As well as treating with antibiotics we would advise giving animals with mastitis an anti-inflammatory e.g. Inflacam/Meloxidyl as this is a very painful condition. If the patient is not eating and drinking, they may need further supportive care, such as drenching with fluids. For advice on treating specific cases please get in touch with us.



SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FOR SHEEP & BEEF RESEARCH PROJECT

The University of Liverpool is running a project to investigate Johne's disease on UK beef and sheep farms. Ovine Johne's disease is much more common than most people realise and this project will investigate the risk factors and effect of the disease on the productive lifespan of ewes and farm economics. Furthermore, little research has been done on cross species transmission and a major aim of this project is to better understand the risk posed by sheep to cattle for Johne's infection and vice versa.

We would like to invite sheep only, beef only and mixed beef and sheep farms to participate in this practical research, whether you think you have Johne's on your farm or not. If you wish to take part, please complete the short questionnaire which can be found here, <https://liverpool.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/johnes-disease-copy> along with further information about the project and a consent form. A follow up, free of charge visit for flock and/or herd-level sampling and further data collection will be arranged for later in the year for approximately 100 suitable farms. Each enrolled farm will receive a detailed diagnostic report from the samples collected, free of charge. Please feel free to email Laura Taylor at L.Taylor11@liverpool.ac.uk for further information.

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NorCal Vets Thame

Pearces Yard, Aylesbury Road,
Thame, OX9 3AS
Tel: 01844 260 616
Mob: 07725 039 093 (Evan)
thame@norcalvets.co.uk

NorCal Vets Wantage

Unit 8a Elms Farm Business Park, Grove Road,
Wantage, OX12 7PD
Tel: 01235 429 767
Mob: 07711 923 909 (Jono)
wantage@norcalvets.co.uk