

## A Separation

NorCal Wantage is separating from NorCal Thame. NorCal Wantage and NorCal Thame have increasingly been run more and more independently. Jono, who ran the Wantage branch, is going on his own with the clients that he visited on a regular basis in the Wantage area under the name CW Farm vets. Jono will be running his own business which will eventually buy out Evan over the next few years. This will give Jono his own business while recognising Evan's good will in setting him up. We will continue to work in conjunction with each other on emergencies, meetings, and medicine purchases and pickups and drop offs and as friends as we have been for the last 15 years.

For those customers and friends that are in the Wantage area I want to thank you for your valued custom over the past 10 years. I will continue to be here for you as a vet and friend and my phone is always on if you would like some advice or you just want to chat. I have very fond memories of visiting all your farms and I wish you all the success moving forward in these very changing times. Who knows I may be on your farm in the future to help Jono out over his honeymoon in the fall. See you all soon

Evan David

## Medicines Administration Course

We now have a Red Tractor Approved medicine administration training course that can be delivered in person or online via Zoom.

**Zoom dates for February to be confirmed**

Limited places so **book early** to avoid disappointment

It is a Red Tractor requirement that all medicines are administered by a competent person, and a recommendation for beef and sheep farmers that competency is demonstrated by completing an approved course.

Our course covers all aspects of medicines use, including storage, administration, disposal and record keeping to ensure you are up to date with all the Red Tractor requirements.

Once completed, all participants will be issued with a certificate of attendance.

Cost of the course is £35+ VAT per person

**If you are interested in completing the course please get in touch with Rebecca at [thame@norcalvets.co.uk](mailto:thame@norcalvets.co.uk) or call 01844 260616**



## What is Coccidiosis?

Coccidiosis is a highly infectious protozoan parasitic infection of the intestinal lining in cattle and sheep which can destroy large amounts of the lining. The disease is most commonly seen in young stock of around 3 – 12 weeks of age, usually as inappetence, scouring and weight loss. It is very common in the spring with a new lamb crop and not only causes the above but also can lead to subclinical disease leading to significant economic loss. The parasite's oocysts (eggs) are passed out in faeces contaminating the environment and are able to survive for more than 12 months. Susceptible young stock then picks up the oocysts and within 2-3 weeks are shedding more.

Treatment: as well as essential management measures to help reduce exposure of stock to contaminated areas, there are oral treatments available. The timing of treatment administration is critical, so if you suspect you may be seeing signs of the disease, or have had it in previous years, please come and talk to us.

## Tolracol© vs Vecoxan©

Outbreaks of coccidiosis can be complex and multifactorial with the health status of the youngstock, concurrent disease and environmental factors all playing a significant role. Tackling these other factors are as important as the treatment itself. Prevention is key to stopping the severe economic losses associated with coccidiosis, so please seek the advice of one of our team.

Tolracol is active against all intracellular development of coccidia, so that all stages are destroyed so it is coccidiocidal. (coccidia cause disease by multiplying in the gut cells and destroying them).

Vecoxan is active against one or other of the stages so has a coccidiocidal effect, so it would appear Tolracol treats more stages.

Tolracol is licensed for prevention of clinical signs of coccidiosis and reduction of oocyst shedding in housed calves and lambs where as Vecoxan is licensed for the treatment and prevention of coccidiosis in lambs and an aid to control of coccidiosis in calves. Whilst the timing of administration is important for both products in that both are best given before clinical disease is seen, a second dose of Vecoxan may be needed in lambs after 3 weeks in conditions of high coccidiosis numbers which is not unusual, whereas the datasheet for Tolracol does not state this is necessary.

Tolracol does have withdrawal periods for meat and offal which we do not think is a problem as the stock is treated at such a young age. This withdrawal period could be partly due to the fact that Tolracol persists in the body longer than Vecoxan (drug elimination ½ life).

We have concluded that our recommendation is to use Tolracol as our first line treatment/prevention for coccidiosis.

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NorCal Vets

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### Please note:

Any cheques/post are now to be sent to this address.

Many thanks