

## Lungworm and Ticks in Dogs

Lungworm (*Angiostrongylus vasorum*) is a parasitic worm that can cause serious health problems and can even be fatal to dogs. Unfortunately, while it used to be confined to certain areas it has now spread throughout much of the UK. Slugs and snails can carry lungworm larvae with dogs becoming infected when they eat them intentionally or accidentally when running through undergrowth, eat grass or drink from puddles or outdoor water bowls etc.

Possible signs to look out for include depression, lethargy, seizures, coughing, weight loss, poor appetite, vomiting or diarrhoea, excessive bleeding from minor wounds, nose bleeds, bleeding into the eyes or paleness around the eyes and gums. Symptoms can easily be confused for other illnesses therefore many cases go undetected for some time.

We have also seen an increase in ticks on dogs in the past few weeks. In the UK infestations are usually seasonal between March and June and again from August to November. Ticks can lead to infection with the potentially fatal parasite *Babesia* or Lyme disease.

Please give us a call to discuss suitable wormers and tick preventatives for your dog.

## Fly Strike in Ewes

With the warmer humid weather, we have seen increased cases of Blowfly strike in sheep that are yet to be shorn. If caught early fly strike is easily treated however if not detected and left untreated the maggots can cause severe damage with the most severe cases resulting in death.

Affected sheep are usually restless and may bite or kick at the area. These areas are usually sites of faecal contamination or infected wounds and therefore usually occur over the hindquarters. Eggs hatch within 24 hours with larvae penetrating and damaging the skin. Maggots will be seen at skin level when the fleece is parted. Fleeces will become discoloured and damp with loss of wool progressing to separation from the flock and eventual death due to septicaemia, secondary bacterial infection and release of toxins.

Treatment involves immediate removal of dirty, contaminated fleece around the whole area of strike and removal of as many maggots as possible. Wash the area with a disinfectant such as iodine or hibiscrub and apply engemycin spray. Preparations such as Crovect, Dectospot, Spotinor, Deltanil should be used as per the instructions. In severe cases antibiotics and anti-inflammatories are needed.

Prevention is key so call us to discuss methods including dagging and shearing, tail docking of lambs, control of worms and parasites to reduce dirty fleeces as well as products such as Klik, Crovect or plunge dipping.



### **Sheep Skills Workshop**

We are offering a day course to come and learn everything you need to know about your sheep. From buying in new sheep, lameness, parasite control, pasture management, tugging and lambing. This is a chance to learn new practical skills and to ask questions about your own flock.

Prepare and refresh your skills and knowledge with our vets.

Ideal for new shepherds/shepherdess but also an excellent update for livestock keepers.

Numbers are limited to 12 people.

Please contact the reception team at NorCal on 01844 260616 to book your place.

Thursday 5th August 2021

10am – 4pm

Location: Chinnor Hill, OX39 4BH

£100 per person including lunch

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**NorCal Vets**

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