



## Happy New Year!

Wishing all of our clients a happy and healthy 2022



### **Spectam Scour Halt Availability Issues**

As some of you may already be aware Spectam Scour Halt similar to last year is currently experiencing availability issues. This is the only licensed oral antibiotic for the prevention of watery mouth (E.coli septicaemia) in neonatal lambs.

Although many flocks have made significant improvements in the reduction of the use of oral antibiotics through hygiene, good colostrum management and good ewe nutrition this year identifying who is most at risk will be more important than ever

Firstly, ewe nutrition is vital. Having ewes in the correct condition and on the right plane of nutrition in the run up to lambing will improve colostrum production and quality and minimise lambing problems. This will increase lamb vigour at birth and make sure they receive sufficient colostrum.

Colostrum management is the single most important element in preventing watery mouth. Tube feed any lambs that you are concerned did not receive enough colostrum - lambs should receive 50ml/kg within 2 hours of birth and 200mls/kg within the first 24 hours of life. Tubes/feeding equipment/jugs should also be well maintained - any dirt will introduce bacteria into the lambs. Scratched/damaged tubes should not be used as well as potentially internally damaging the lamb bacteria will cling to the damaged parts.

Make sure to use plenty of bedding and clean out pens between ewes in order to keep bacterial challenges low. If any ewes are scouring this is also a source of infection for naive lambs so ensure worming if necessary is carried out.

Remember who is most at risk: triplets, lambs with low birth weights, lambs from ewes with poor body condition and those who had a hard birth.

It is now recommended to treat cases with amoxicillin e.g. Trymox LA rather than oxytetracyclines (Engemycin/Alamycin) due to reports coming back from labs with resistance. Give us a call to chat about the best approach if you start seeing cases in your flock.

## Ewe Vaccinations - Heptavac P Plus and Supply Issue

With lambing fast approaching its time to think about boosting ewes against Pasteurella pneumonia and clostridial diseases. In adult breeding ewes Heptavac P Plus should be boosted 4-6 weeks prior to lambing. Again, it is vital to ensure that lambs receive sufficient colostrum after birth. Lambs should themselves be vaccinated from 3 weeks of age with two 2ml injections separated by an interval of 4-6 weeks.

There is currently a supply issue with Heptavac P Plus. The smallest available size is 250ml. For those of you who do not need these volumes of doses it would be advisable to plan now and check whether there are any nearby farmers that you could split a bottle with.

We are trying to coordinate dates when people with smaller flocks might be able to share a bottle between them as once opened a bottle needs to be used within a few hours. Please email [thame@norcalvets.co.uk](mailto:thame@norcalvets.co.uk) to register if you are interested and we will get back to you - the more people who register for this the cheaper the price of a split bottle will be.

## Vaccinating for Calf Scour

Calf scour is one of the most common causes of death in calves less than one month old. Pregnant cattle can be vaccinated against rotavirus, coronavirus and E.coli (K99) from 12-3 weeks prior to calving. This is especially a good idea on farms which have a history of scour. Antibodies produced by the cow will be stored in her colostrum and will be passed to the calf in the colostrum at their first feed - it is important to note that antibodies produced by the cow or heifer will not transfer to the calf before birth. Therefore it is again vital to follow the 1,2,3 rule and ensure that in the **1st 2 hours** a calf receives at least **3** litres of good quality colostrum. The ability of the calves' gut to absorb antibodies begins to decrease from 2 hours after birth.

Please give us a call to discuss vaccinating against scour or how to effectively deal with an outbreak of scour should one occur.

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### NorCal Vets

Unit 2 Rycote Lane Farm,  
Rycote Lane,  
Milton Common  
OX9 2NZ

Tel: 01844 260 616  
Mob: 07725 039 093 (Evan)  
[thame@norcalvets.co.uk](mailto:thame@norcalvets.co.uk)

### Accommodation Wanted

If anyone knows of any one-bedroom properties available to rent (dog friendly) please get in touch.

Many thanks