

COUGHING CALVES

Its that time of year again! Unfortunately December saw an increase in pneumonia cases in calves. Pneumonia is thought to cost the UK cattle industry £80million each year. With losses seen in the cost of treatment, increased labour costs, calf deaths and significantly, in decreased weight gain by affected calves.

If your stock are suffering there are a few things to consider:

- Colostrum! Start the way you mean to go on. Ensure that calves get adequate good quality colostrum within the first 6 hours (6 pints in 6hrs)!
- Avoid stress: avoid stressful management practices, such as weaning, dehorning or castrating, around housing. Ensure good nutrition at all times!
- Housing: ensure good ventilation to avoid stale air, and ensure bedding is dry and drainage good to keep humidity low. Prevent draughts!
- Vaccination: in general pneumonia is caused by viruses. Antibiotics do not treat viruses therefore vaccination is an important step in pneumonia control. Speak to your vet about an appropriate plan
 - BVD: infection increases susceptibility to disease, consider testing cattle (using the BeefCheck or DairyCheck schemes) to determine if BVD is present on your farm, and vaccination to control disease.
 - Avoid overcrowding and mixing stock of different ages.
- Treatment: prompt treatment of affected cases is important! Contact your nearest branch for advice.

As mixed vets we care for a variety of animals. We thought we'd take this opportunity to introduce you to one of our less common patients.



Marvin a 3 year old alpaca has happily made a full recovery following surgery on his neck earlier this year.

Marvin was suffering from a large injection site abscess which had burst out, causing him discomfort. To enable the wound to heal the abscess and surrounding tissue were removed under general anaesthetic by vet Sam and nurse Jenny.

After some bandaging and lots of care from his dedicated owners,



We would like to welcome Mary Noon to Wern Vets for the next 6 months. Mary is a 2011 Liverpool graduate who, until recently, has been working as a vet in New Zealand. She will be joining our Ruthin branch.

SHEEP SCANNING RESULTS NOT WHAT YOU EXPECTED...

With sheep scanning underway we can now offer ewe blood tests for flocks with a barren rate greater than 2%.

Blood testing helps establish whether the common parasitic disease, toxoplasmosis, is the likely cause of barren ewe issues. Almost all flocks in Great Britain have been exposed to the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite, which is the main infectious cause of early embryo loss and barrenness.

You can contact the practice to take advantage of subsidised blood tests for toxoplasmosis, which are available until 31st March 2016 courtesy of **EXPERTIS™**

If you have any worries about your scanning percentages then please don't hesitate to contact your nearest Wern Vet's practice.

