

# Newsletter

# February 2023

2023 seems to have kicked off milder than normal, hopefully that doesn't bode for a nasty shock come lambing time. This month we highlight potential issues with iodine availability and update you on staff changes within the practice. We are pleased to invite you to a couple of face to face meetings in the coming months too.

## Iodine shortage

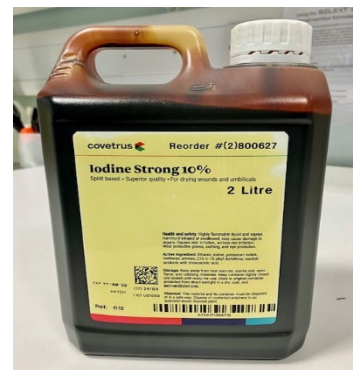
As some of you may already be aware there is a risk of poor supply of strong iodine for navel dipping this spring due to an issue with production. Any products with less than 7% iodine are not as effective at drying and disinfecting the navel, and their use can lead to an increased incidence of disease.

**If you are unable to get strong iodine** you can use alternatives such as;

- Vetricyn Super 7 spray
- 4% chlorhexidine solution
- 50/50 mix of chlorhexidine and alcohol

Lambs should receive 50mls/kg of good quality colostrum as soon as possible after birth, definitely within the first 2 hours. Ensure they get 200mls/Kg within their first 24 hours. While calves should receive 10% of their body weight within those first two hours. There is a significantly increased risk of death and disease in the pre-weaning period in animals which don't receive adequate, good quality colostrum at birth.

Please contact the practice if you have any queries or to arrange metabolic profiling of animals prior to calving/lambing.



**The use of antibiotic sprays to treat navels is not advised. It is not an appropriate use of antibiotic and they do not dry the navel out effectively.**

Navel dipping is essential to limit diseases such as joint ill and as such it is important that we don't let standards slip this year even with the supply issues. Navel dipping is however not our only defence against these conditions, hygiene, adequate dam nutrition and prompt intake of good quality colostrum are all vital factors in reducing disease incidence.



## Staff changes

In January we sadly said goodbye to Paul who has been with the practice since 2016. He is headed to pastures new across the road in the main vet school, taking up the post of Animal Life Program Director. We'll miss him here in the practice and wish him well in his new role.

In February we will be saying goodbye to another valued colleague, Rob Kelly. True to form, he's keen to leave us with some wise words:

A short note to say that I'm sadly leaving RDSVS and the FAP at the end of Feb 2023 for pastures new. I just wanted to pass

on a **MASSIVE thank you** to all you all for putting up with me and for the banter over the past 7 years. It has been very rewarding working with such a great bunch of clients who have exceptional patience, not only for my Yorkshire ways but also supporting our students. I'm moving on to a role to try and support retaining vets in general practice but, as I'll still be based in Edinburgh, you'll still see me running with a lame greyhound in tow! Rob



On a cheerier note we welcome some new additions:

We welcome back Rachel, who has spent the last year working in New Zealand. She will be a familiar face to lots of you and we're delighted to have her back in the practice



We are also excited to have Jeanne joining us as of the end of February, she sent the following from NZ to introduce herself;



Since qualifying from Dublin in 2012, I've been plying my trade as a farm vet in Ireland, UK and New Zealand. After spending the past few years in the southern hemisphere, I'm looking forward to joining the team for a Midlothian Spring. In my spare time, hoping to spend plenty of

time out on the hills running, mountain biking and walking....maybe watch Ireland beat Scotland at Murrayfield...

## Upcoming practice meetings:

### Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023

Lunchtime meeting at the Stair Arms Hotel, Pathhead, EH37 5TX.

11.30am for 12 noon start, lunch afterwards

#### Speakers:

##### Colin Penny (Zoetis)

Covering emergence of new pneumonia agents in calves, *Histophilus somni* and *Mycoplasma bovis*

##### Rachel Bragg

Covering updates from her ongoing PhD project looking at neonatal calf health

##### Alberto Luque Castro

Giving an update on his sheep mastitis project which many of you will have been involved with recently

### Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

Afternoon meeting at Easter Bush Campus, EH25 9RG

#### Practical Lambing Essentials

Course covering preparation for the lambing period, tips and techniques for when and how to assist with difficult lambings and an opportunity to practice those with a lambing simulator.

Charge £15 per person