

# Top Vasectomy Time!



**Ark Vet Centre**

Your farm's health is in our hands.



## Tup Vasectomies

Now is the time to get your tups booked in for vasectomy to create teaser tups. Teaser tups are used to help synchronise ewe cycling which leads to a more compact lambing period.



Vasectomising a tup needs to happen at least 2 months before their intended use, with teaser tups going in with the ewes for 12 days before removing and introducing the ram. It is crucial that the ewes are out of sight and smell of both the teasers and rams for 1 month before they are introduced.

Ideally, we carry out this procedure at our practice as it allows for a more sterile operating site, reducing the chance of infection, as well as allowing us to monitor the tups during anaesthetic recovery.

Please phone the practice with several days warning to book your tups in.

## **Mobility Scoring and Foot Trimming Services**

**We have 4 ROMS accredited mobility scorers in the practice so please get in touch with us for more information on this.**

**RoMS**

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Welcome to our summer newsletter!

Although not feeling much like summer at the moment! In this issue we have some upcoming meetings dates. A feature on Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep, the importance of tup vasectomies and looking back at our informative dairy lameness meeting which we held in July.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

### Ark Vet Centre Golf Day

Wednesday August 30th 2023 at Lockerbie Golf Club 12.30pm start with bacon rolls. Tee off at 1.30pm, £10 fee, dinner included



### Keep TB Out Of Your Herd Meeting

Thursday August 31st 7pm for 7.30pm start with speakers Sarah Tomlinson of the TB Advisory Service and Colin Mason of SRUC who will be providing practical advice on how to reduce your risk of a TB breakdown in your herd.

**To book your place for either of these meetings please call us on 01576 202552**

## Dairy Lameness Meeting



We had a very informative practical meeting in July with James Wilson from Herd Health Consultancy.

James held a practical showing how to effectively treat various conditions, as well as explaining causes and prevention of these on farm. Our vets Katie & Mary also discussed foot anatomy and the changes to this around calving time, and our Vet Technician Carley talked about our mobility scoring services.

The main take home messages from this meeting were:

- Early detection and regular trimming is essential (i.e. trim when you notice bruising rather than waiting for an ulcer to form)
- Giving newly calved heifers Ketofen for 3 days, 24 hours after calving, greatly reduces inflammation and can lead to a 10% decrease in lameness in this group

Thank you to the Hyslop family for hosting this meeting. We hope those who attended found this session informative and enjoyable.

Remember to like our Ark Vet Centre – Farm Facebook page to keep updated on meetings,



## Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep

### Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep

Round worms will always be a part of your flocks' environment - therefore it is key to ensure that your sheep can live with worms without causing resistance to wormers. When worming sheep/lambs do not dose and move onto clean pasture: This will increase the proportion of resistant worm eggs on the pasture and therefore encourage resistance. This occurs because the only worm eggs passed onto the clean pasture after worming are those that were resistant to the wormer used. **By dosing and turning out onto dirty pasture, the resistant eggs that are passed from the sheep are mixed with eggs that remain susceptible to the wormer. This will produce a range of susceptible and resistant eggs, diluting the resistance to wormers.**

**Quarantine** all bought in sheep and then turn back onto dirty pasture after 24-48 hours. At the moment the advice for quarantine dosing is to dose **with Zolvix**. Always use the correct dosage of wormer. Ensure the dosing gun is correctly calibrated and that the sheep/lambs are given the correct amount of wormer for their weights. **Dose according to the heaviest animal in the flock** not to the average weight; underdosing encourages development of anthelmintic resistance.

Maintain the pasture population of susceptible worms. When dosing a group of animals it is a good idea to **leave 10-20% of the animals** (selecting the healthiest in appearance and weight) untreated to maintain the population of susceptible worms to dilute down the resistant ones.

**Avoid repeated use** of wormers with a **long-acting action** as these encourage development of resistance.

**Target treatments** to when the animals need treating rather than when you have traditionally wormed in the past. Adult ewes have a natural immunity to worms and therefore should not be wormed repeatedly, once per year around lambing time should be all that is needed (if that). **Worm egg counts can be used to determine whether lambs need worming through the summer for parasite gastroenteritis.**

At Ark we offer a **faecal egg count service** to help you make informed decisions on targeting your anthelmintic usage. Faecal egg counts give an indication of the worm burden an animal is carrying and can inform you on **when and what to treat**. This is particularly useful for lambs throughout the summer months. **Samples handed in on a Wednesday before 12pm will have results on the same day!**