

## October Newsletter

### Fluke Risk and Treatments

As you will be well aware this year has been very warm and wet so far and thus the risk of Liver Fluke disease is high. Fluke burdens can significantly reduce growth rates of both lambs and calves but can also affect fertility and milk yields of adults.

Incidence of Fluke in dairy cattle has been high and we can check your herd cheaply with a bulk milk test. Beef cattle and sheep can be checked by blood sampling or faecal egg counts. If you wish to investigate a problem in your herd or flock as part of your on going Animal Health Plan, please contact the Office.

It is too early to treat cattle which will be housed during the winter. Depending on the product used usually 4 to 6 weeks after housing is the optimum time to treat. This allows most of the immature stages of fluke to become adults and most products are better able to kill adult stages of fluke.

“Closamectin” (Ivermectin and Closantel) is a relatively new product which is an effective treatment for Fluke and Worms. It is in an Injectable form for cattle. Two 500ml packs with a free gun are available from the Practice for £170 ex. VAT. The dose is 1ml per 25Kg, we recommend weighing cattle to ensure the correct dose. Over dosing is costly and under dosing is ineffective and will lead to resistance.

Sheep are also at high risk and should be treated with a product which will kill both immature and adult fluke e.g. triclabendazole (“Fasinex”). It is likely that this will need repeating in the new year as they will continue to be infected by Fluke.

For more details about available treatments visit our website [www.steffanvets.com](http://www.steffanvets.com) or call into the Office.

### Worming Cats and Dogs

Your pet needs regular worming to stay fit and healthy. Some of the worms your pet can carry are also a danger to people, particularly children. We recommend regular worming every 3 months for animals over 6 months old, using a good quality wormer. Puppies and kittens need even more regular worming, as they pick up worms very easily from the environment and their parents. They need worming every month up until 6 months of age.

Unfortunately, most of the wormers available from the pet shops do not treat many of the worms which your pet could be carrying. We advise using “Milbemax”, as this treats the widest range of worms.

Call in and speak to us for more information.

### Free Flea Treatment for new Puppies & Kittens

While stocks last we are able to offer puppies and kittens free flea treatment at their primary vaccination.

### Bluetongue Vaccine

Bluetongue vaccine is now available, to order from the Office.