



FLY STRIKE

With the persistent warm weather, the risk for fly strike is now at a medium level and is likely to increase rapidly in the coming months. The cornerstone of fly control is an early and prompt response to reduce the number of flies that are around and able to breed and increase the population. To achieve this most effectively a multi-pronged approach is necessary.



Warm, humid conditions and any foul-smelling sites will attract flies, therefore:

- Consider the surrounding environment – are there any mucky areas that could be cleaned up? Are there any leaking water troughs creating stagnant water?
- Consider your animals – have they been shorn or dagged? Do they have dirty back ends?
- Control lameness – footrot has a particular smell that flies find attractive and it isn't uncommon to find maggots in infected hoofs
- Regularly check animals to make sure problems are identified early - flystrike is a debilitating disease and can very quickly become fatal
- Use preventative products to reduce fly numbers – this will also reduce irritation to sheep which can lead to long term production losses e.g. poor growth rates

Please ensure you are regularly checking and monitoring your stock for any signs of interrupted grazing, nibbling behaviour, stamping or other signs of irritation and discomfort.

TREATMENT FOR FLY STRIKE:

1. Clip away wet & discoloured wool until dry fleece and healthy skin is present. Maggots often extend further and deeper under fleece than you think!
2. Clear away all maggots and scrape the area clean. Kill all removed maggots.
3. Apply antibiotic spray (e.g. Engemycin spray) to the whole affected area.
4. You must use a **TREATMENT** product (e.g. Crovect or Spot On) on the surrounding fleece to kill any residual eggs or larvae to prevent an ongoing cycle.
5. Monitor for signs of illness. Systemic antibiotics and fluids may be required in severely affected stock.
6. **If concerned, call a vet.**

Product	Treatment or prevention	Protection duration	Withdrawal period
Clik	Prevention	16 weeks	40 days
Clik extra	Prevention	19 weeks	40 days
Crovect	Prevention & Treatment	6-8 weeks	8 days
Spotinor	Treatment	Treats established strike	35 days

Please contact the practice to order any fly products.

Abortion vaccines



It doesn't seem very long ago that you were all powering through lambing but now you are out the other side it is a good time to reflect and plan ahead. Did you have any abortions? How many? If you had more than 2% and didn't get any testing done at the time we can still help. With subsidised lab fees from several of the pharmaceutical companies we can blood test any ewes that have aborted for toxoplasmosis and enzootic abortion if you do not already vaccinate. Give us a call to book in. The sooner the better as testing needs to be done within 3 months of lambing ideally.

If you do vaccinate for both or either of these diseases have you considered when you will vaccinate? How about getting it out of the way early so that there isn't a risk of missing the window. Both vaccines can be given in the 4-month window prior to tupping with the latest being 1 month beforehand. Ewe lambs need to be over 5 months of age when given the vaccine.

Revaccination:

- Toxovax – after 2 years all breeding stock to have a repeat vaccination
- Enzovax – after 3 to 4 years all breeding stock to have a repeat vaccination

Please consider where in the cycle of vaccination you are and if you have any older stock that need a booster vaccine as we often find people are caught out by this. Also be very aware of bought in stock, try to buy maiden sheep and vaccinate with any other replacements.

Toxovax in particular is a tricky vaccine to produce and therefore can only be ordered at certain times, please get in touch well ahead of when you plan to use it so that we can source it at the right time for you.

Trace elements

There are several trace elements that are important for good health in ewes, rams and particularly lambs where growth rates can be dramatically affected. If you are planning to take us up on the subsidised testing for abortion investigation, then this could be an ideal time to take some samples to test for trace element deficiencies or even toxicities. The common trace element issues are listed below.

- Cobalt deficiency symptoms:
 - Lethargic, poor growing lambs
 - Poor response to vaccines and more prone to diseases
 - Chronic worms can be a cause of deficiency as well as make the effects of worms worse
- Selenium deficiency symptoms:
 - “white muscle disease” – sudden onset stiffness in rapidly growing lambs
 - Early embryonic loss/failure to implant – more barren ewes
- Copper deficiency symptoms:
 - “swayback” in lambs – unable to coordinate limbs
 - Poor growth of lambs

BEWARE – copper toxicity is fatal DO NOT supplement without testing beforehand.

If sampling identifies issues, then we can advise on correction including the use of appropriate boluses as a preventative measure. Prevention has become more relevant with the inconsistent availability of several vitamin/mineral products that we have used in the past to help treat related diseases.

Please call us to discuss if you have any concerns.