



## HALE VETERINARY GROUP

### FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER APRIL 2010



We are pleased to announce that we have two new vets joining our farm animal team. Jenny Grewal is joining us in May after completing a farm animal internship at Bristol Vet School and Steve Shiles is joining us in July after spending 5 years in farm animal practice in Salisbury. Both of them are extremely enthusiastic about all aspects of farm animal work and we are greatly looking forward to them joining our team.

#### TRANSITION COW MANAGEMENT

Good transition cow management is the key to optimising dairy cow health, welfare and productivity in the next lactation. Transition cow management is frequently neglected on farms and for that reason we are holding a transition cow management meeting on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2010 between 10am and 2pm. If you are interested in attending please call Lucy at the practice on 01249 653561 or contact her by e-mail at [halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk).

#### NEW SHEEP WORMER

On 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010 Novartis launched a new sheep wormer, Zolvix. The active ingredient present in Zolvix, monepantel, belongs to a class of wormers that is not currently used in farm animals and therefore is active against worms that are resistant to the other three classes of wormers traditionally used. The Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep (SCOPS) panel has advised that Zolvix should be used responsibly as part of a worm control programme to minimise the risk of development of resistance. For more information on Zolvix and the responsible use of wormers in sheep speak to one of our farm animal vets.

#### TB TESTING ALPACAS

Bovine TB is a notifiable disease (if it is suspected or diagnosed DEFRA must be notified immediately) that affects a wide range of species, including alpacas. Currently there are regulations for testing cattle but no regulations for other species, although these species may still be infected and spreading the disease. TB can be present in a herd without animals actually showing clinical signs of it, which makes control of the disease difficult. Recently we have had several enquiries about TB testing in alpacas, especially in animals that are being sold, so we thought it would be a useful subject to include in our newsletter. TB testing alpacas is controlled by DEFRA and carried out by DEFRA-registered local veterinary inspectors (our farm animal vets are all DEFRA-registered LVIs). The test used is the same as the main test used in cattle, the comparative intra-dermal skin test, which gives an indication whether an animal has been exposed to TB infection. The test involves injecting avian and bovine tuberculin into the skin and then assessing the reaction to the injections 72 hours later. If the reaction to the bovine tuberculin is greater it indicates that the animals may have been exposed to TB. Speak to one of our farm animal vets if you would like more information on TB testing in alpacas.

#### HVG HEALTH WATCH

We continued to see a high incidence of displaced abomasums, including right-sided ones, in April. Abomasal displacement arises from various causes, including poor transition cow management. We will be covering some of these causes and how they can be managed in next month's newsletter.

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER/OTHER UPDATES BY E-MAIL PLEASE E-MAIL US AT: [halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:halehealthyherdinitiative@hotmail.co.uk)**