



# Farm Veterinary Solutions

Autumn Update

2023

## A Message from Max...

"Welcome to the autumn edition of the FVS newsletter. We hope you are all well and have replenished feed and forage stocks after a fantastic grazing summer. In complete contrast to 2022, livestock generally look in good condition and seem well set to go in to the winter months. For spring calvers and lambers now is the time to assess your animals body condition and make any alteration if required. At this stage of pregnancy it is possible to alter the dams condition safely without dramatically affecting foetal size. For example, weaning calves off early before housing, allowing any poor cows to gain condition if grazing conditions remain good.

"One benefit of covering a large area across the FVS team, is that we are always monitoring lab results and clinical cases from a wide range of clients to assess new disease patterns and response to treatments. The extremes of weather we now experience with prolonged wet/dry spells, directly affect both our animals immune status and the pathogen and parasite picture. For example, the rapidly increasing prevalence of resistant Haemonchus worm. When you add in the frequent changes in medicines and regulation updates from Red Tractor, APHA, VMD etc. it becomes clear that your flock/herd health plan also has to constantly evolve. The autumn months are a great time to collate your figures properly, review your farms performance with our vets and make any required changes for the next year. So please get in touch if you have any concerns."

**Max Hardy**  
BVSc MRCVS

Director of Farm Veterinary Solutions



## Meet the Team - The Newest Additions to FVS...

### Sonny

#### Introduce yourself:

"Hi, I am Sonny and I am very excited to be joining the FVS team as a farm veterinary surgeon! I grew up in Northamptonshire and then attended the University of Surrey—School of Medicine. After a very exciting placement at FVS over a busy easter period, I decided that farm veterinary was the career for me. I can't wait to experience the spring season again, this time as a qualified vet!"

#### What do you do in your spare time?

"I like to watch the F1 and enjoy DIY, carrying out maintenance and modifications on my car, walking, camping and spending time with my cat. Technology is another passion of mine, having built my own computer which I like to play games on when I get the time."

#### Where in the world have you been?

"I have been to France, Guernsey, Lanzarote, Fuerteventura and Florida."



#### Interesting fact about yourself:

"I have an identical twin brother! Technically we are mirror twins as we split later than usual so I am right handed and Jack is left handed. Bonus fact: I have a black belt in karate—although I haven't trained in martial arts for a few years."

**Sonny Vinton**  
BVMSci MRCVS

### Jim

#### Introduce yourself:

"Hi, I am Jim and I am one of the new farm vets at FVS. I grew up in the Cotswolds and although not from a family farming background, I worked at a dairy farm whilst at secondary school. I have recently graduated from Nottingham Vet School where I gained a further interest in farm animal medicine. I am really looking forward to developing as part of such a great, experienced team."

#### What do you do in your spare time?

"Outside of work, I have played in a local rugby team for last five years. But since moving to Leicestershire, I have recently taken up boxing at a club in Loughborough"

#### Where have you been in the world?

"Hungary, Italy, Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland. I hope to get a chance to take a trip to Scotland next."

#### Interesting fact about yourself:

"I played the dame in a local performance of Sleeping Beauty (a pantomime) last Christmas"



**Jim Bennett**  
BVM BVS MRCVS

# Vet Tech Update



**An Exciting Change for Robyn** - Robyn has recently started her training to become an Approved Tuberculin Tester! Upon completion of her training, Robyn will be fully qualified to carry out Bovine TB Testing. She will be reducing her hours spent in the office to further support the TB Team alongside Vet Tech services. The two roles go hand in hand and Robyn is excited to be spending more time out and about visiting more of you on farm. Join us with wishing Robyn the best of luck with her training!

**MV Monitored-Free Scheme** - A really great scheme on offer from an external lab for commercial sheep farmers. The scheme provides reduced price testing for Maedi Visna to screen and monitor flocks for potential infection. Robyn and Emily have both recently been on farms, under veterinary direction taking samples for the MV scheme. Some farms opt to test a large proportion of their flock and others a small sample group. Both options have great benefits! Cull ewes are of great value to identify disease—we highly recommend screening these to check for presence of MV.

**Calf Disbudding** - Following a successful disbudding session last year, Emily and Jess were requested to return to a farm for the second year to disbud calves using the knock-down disbud method. The team have worked hard to create a protocol and pricing structure to make the process as efficient as possible whilst keeping costs down for you. We recognise disbudding is a time-consuming husbandry task for you so our aim is to take the stress away for you and the calves. Speak to Emily or Robyn if you would like further details or to book in.

**Parasite Control Advice** - It's been a busy year for parasite control advice! We are really pleased that more farms have been proactive and getting on board with regular faecal egg counting which will prove to have greater success with future worm control and help to slow the development of anthelmintic resistance. We highly recommend performing faecal egg counts on a regular basis for both sheep and calves. At a very minimum you should perform a faecal egg count if you suspect treatment may be necessary.

**Robyn Oram** (left) **K-SQP**  
**Emily Cox** (right) **L-SQP**



## Are you signed up to our email newsletters?

As well as our quarterly updates, such as this one, we also send out more frequent email newsletters.

Be the first to know about upcoming meetings, events and promotions.

Keep up to date with any high risk diseases to be cautious of and receive information and guidance on topics we think will be useful to you.

Contact Emily at our Lutterworth branch if you would like to sign up by calling 01455 248500.

## Dates for the Diary

We have some exciting meetings coming up for you over the next few months!

Those signed up to our email newsletters will be the first to know, or keep your eyes peeled on our Facebook pages for more information.

## Managing Leptospirosis: Protecting Cattle and Humans from a Zoonotic Threat

**Leptospirosis is a zoonotic disease meaning it can spread from animals to humans.**

Lepto is highly infectious and leads to important economic losses in cattle. It causes a drop in milk production, infertility and abortions or premature/weak calves. The udder may become soft with colostrum like secretions or blood tinged milk in all quarters. Cows can become lethargic and stiff with a fever and reduced appetite. Signs may be mild and go undetected.

### Transmission

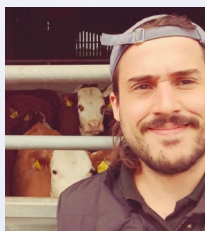
Transmission occurs through direct contact with infected or recovered animals or indirectly through contaminated material. Bacterium is spread through the urine, milk, semen, foetal fluids or abortive material. Water and other species such as sheep and rodents can also carry and spread infection.

### Prevention and Management

- Vaccination to increase resistance to infection and prevent shedding.
- Effective rat control in place as well as separation from other carrier species.
- Fencing cattle from potentially infected streams or water and neighbouring cattle.
- Strengthened biosecurity to prevent introduction from external sources.
- Only purchase replacements from Lepto free herds and keep in quarantine.

### Treatment and Diagnosis

Antibodies can be detected in non-vaccinated herds through bulk milk or blood testing. Bacterium can be isolated from aborted fetuses. In positive cases, antibiotic therapy can be given to reduce excretion of leptospirosis and zoonotic risk. Although treatment for individual animals is possible... Prevention is key and a vaccination protocol is the best approach.



**David Mendez**  
**MRCVS**



“ Do you know the leptospirosis infection status of your herd? ”

Chat to your vet about testing your herd and the vaccine options available to protect your cattle



# Alpaca Care Guide



Alpacas require extra consideration to help them thrive and live a healthy life - especially those with chronic health conditions. Regular health checks, faecal exams and weigh-ins may uncover disease before they become a bigger problem.

## Condition and Nutrition

Regular body condition scoring (BCS) helps to assess any losses or gains in condition. Changes may suggest health problems such as parasitism or the need to alter nutritional management.

Obesity may be due to overfeeding of supplements or feeding too high quality forages. Obese alpacas are more susceptible to heat stress, metabolic problems, infertility and locomotive problems.

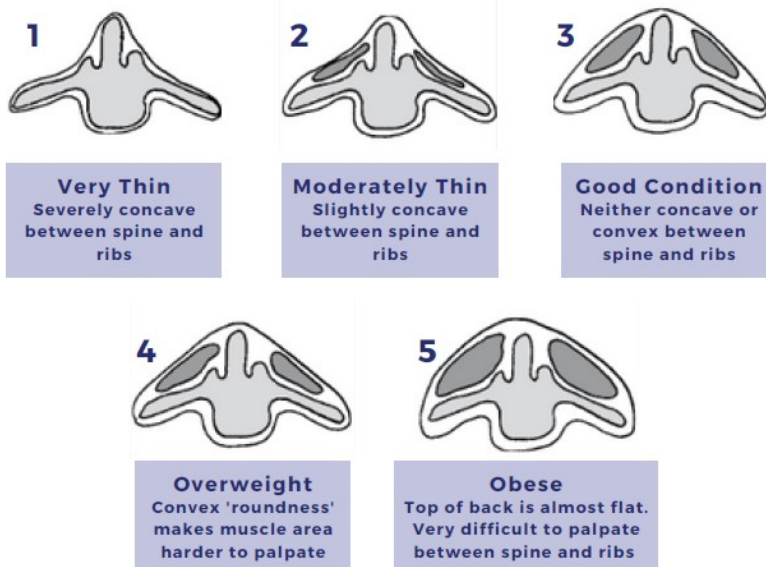
Camelids need long-stemmed roughage: pasture, hay, silage (greater than 4cm in length), to keep the forestomachs functioning normally. A diet based on very short (or non-existent) pasture, chaff and grains/pellets or very lush spring pasture is not adequate to maintain ideal conditions for gut fermentation.

Camelids are generally susceptible to nutritional disease associated with imbalances in energy, protein, micro-minerals and trace elements. Forages will vary greatly but lab analysis can show what is missing and needs to be added to complement the diet.

Overall, supplements will need to be energy rich, high in calcium, selenium, vitamins D and A and zinc.

Diet should be re-evaluated periodically and regular bloods sampling for trace elements is recommended.

## Cross Sections for Condition Scores in Alpacas



## Physical Examination

### Limbs and Locomotion

Arthritis is one of the most common health concerns in older alpacas. Untreated arthritis could eventually manifest as debilitating chronic pain and a general refusal to move around very much; especially in the cold. Regular toenail trimming may minimise the development of arthritis and conformational issues.

### Eyes

Checking mucous membrane colour and BCS simultaneously is recommended to screen for the presence of anaemia as a potential indicator of Haemonchus, Mycoplasma, stomach ulcers or copper deficiency. Camelids are very resilient and do not readily show signs of moderate anaemia. Routinely checking mucous membranes is important to detect changes before serious debilitation occurs.

### Teeth

Clinical signs of dental disease include weight loss, abnormal chewing, abrupt cessation of chewing as if a sudden pain has struck, partially chewed fibres in faecal pellets, swellings on the upper or lower jaws, odour or discharge from nostril, apparent sensitivity to drinking cold water, and visibly worn or deformed teeth. Overgrown incisors can be trimmed if necessary but not for cosmetic reasons.

## Veterinary Health Checks

Would you like one of our vets to complete health checks on your alpacas? All of our vets are trained to perform these vital checks with Maria taking a special interest in the camelid species. We do now have many clients whom keep alpacas so our aim is to better cater for you! We are now offering a new service which includes an annual health check for your alpacas which will also include a health report for you to keep for your records. Our vets will also be able to talk you through the process, show you tips and tricks of how to carry out health checks yourself as well as give you advice on the best way to care for the breed. During this visit, the vet may also wish to carry out further laboratory testing and so we are also offering a special package price for faecal worm egg counting following on from your veterinary health check visit!





Our priority is providing services that our clients want and need and so, as alpaca keepers, we would love to hear from you! What services would you be interested in and how can we better support you? Please do get in touch via phone or email so we can discuss your requests further!



**Maria Navas**  
MRCVS

**If you wish to discuss any of the topics raised in the Autumn Update, please call the office on 01664 567481 (option 2) to speak to one of our Receptionists, SQPs, Vet Techs or Vets.**

# VPS Products– Autumn Deals 2023

PRODUCT	USE	ADMINISTRATION	WITHDRAWAL	PRICE (ex VAT)
 <b>Enovex Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and sucking lice in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—28 days Milk— >60 days	2.5L—£29
 <b>Eprizero Pour-on</b>	Eprinomectin pour on for the control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworm, mange mites and lice in dairy cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—10 days Milk—0 hours	2.5L—£135 5L—£205
 <b>Tauradour Pour-on</b>	Doramectin pour-on for the control of roundworms, mange mites and lice in cattle for up to 5 weeks.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—35 days Milk—do not use	2.5L—£115 5L—£190
 <b>Closamectin Pour-on</b>	Ivermectin + Closantel pour-on for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Pour-on 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Milk—Do not use (>150 days)	2.5L—£245 5L—£440
 <b>Bimectin Plus Injection</b>	Ivermectin + clorsulon injection for control of adult and inhibited larval stage roundworms, mange mites and lice, late immature and adult liver fluke in cattle.	Injection 1ml per 50kg	Cattle Meat—60 days Milk—Do not use (>60 days)	250ml—£40 500ml—£65
 <b>Endofluke 10%</b>	Triclabendazole drench for control of early immature to adult liver fluke in sheep and cattle.	Oral drench 1ml per 10kg	Cattle Meat—56 days Sheep Meat—56 days	2.5L—£60 5L—£99
 <b>Endospec SC 2.5%</b>	Albendazole (white) drench for the control of roundworms, tapeworms and adult liver fluke in sheep.	Oral drench See pack info	Sheep Meat—4 days	2.5L—£35 10L—£70
 <b>Dectomax Injection</b>	Doramectin injection for the control of roundworms, mites and lice in cattle and sheep.	Cattle 1ml per 50kg Subcutaneous inj Sheep 1ml per 33kg Intramuscular inj	Cattle Meat—70 days Sheep Meat—70 days	200ml—£65
 <b>Noromectin Drench</b>	Ivermectin (clear) drench for the control of adult and inhibited larval roundworms in sheep.	Oral drench 2.5ml per 10kg	Sheep Meat—14 days	1L—£17 2.5L—£33 5L—£50
 <b>Solantel Drench</b>	Closantel drench for control of late immature and adult liver fluke and Haemonchus in sheep.	Oral drench 1ml/5kg	Sheep Meat—42 days	2.5L—£64 5L—£90

*To place an order or for more information, please call 01664 567481*

A member of



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