



Daleside
Veterinary Group

FARM NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Coronavirus Outbreak

Having spent the last 3 decades formulating herd health plans farmers understand more than most people the risks of transmitting disease and the need for biosecurity and quarantine.

Whether it be TB in cattle or coronavirus in humans, the basic principles of prevention are exactly the same. We are asking our clients to please read and act on the following important information as part of our "herd health plan": As everyone is aware, the Coronavirus outbreak is a fast moving and rapidly changing situation which is affecting us all.

We are putting a huge amount of time and effort into planning contingencies to ensure we can continue to provide you with the best possible service in these troubling times while maintaining the safety of our practice team.

Many of our team will be spending more time working from home to reduce direct contact with others. So if you need any veterinary medicines please can you contact us by phone before 12pm, to enable us to prepare your order ready for you to collect it later that afternoon from the secure collection box outside the practice. This minimises the time you will need to spend at the surgery, and reduces direct contact with the team.

The delivery service will be continuing, but can we ask that you phone us before 12pm the day before to enable us to prepare your order and get it delivered to you.

If you, any members of your household, or any workers on farm have Coronavirus symptoms or are in isolation, please ensure you don't come

into the practice. Also please contact us to let us know before any visit on farm (including drug deliveries), so we can find a way to minimize the risk to the vets out on farm.

As you can appreciate, if at some point isolation regulations or government advice limits the number of vets available at the practice, we may need to postpone certain routine or non urgent work to be able to prioritise urgent visits. In this situation we will discuss this with you as soon as possible.

We are an independent local business with the most dedicated team, doing our best to continue to do the job we love in extremely difficult circumstances.

Opening Times And Delivery Service Around Easter:

The practice will be closed on Good Friday 10th April, and Easter Monday 13th April, but as always we will be available for emergencies, just phone the usual number 01978 311444. We will be open as usual on Saturday morning 11th April from 8.30am-1pm.

To help manage the coronavirus risk, and reduce the need to come to the practice around Easter time, we have re arranged our Friday delivery from Good Friday 10th April, to Thursday 9th April.

If you need any medicines delivering before Easter, please place your order before 12pm on Wednesday 8th April. For deliveries on Tuesday 14th April, please can you place your order before 12pm on Thursday 9th April to ensure we have enough time to prepare your order ready for delivery.





Gwaredu BVD Funding Ending Soon

Most of our Welsh cattle farming clients have taken advantage of the Welsh Government funded scheme to eradicate BVD from the national herd.

It is now in its third and final year, and many farms have received bronze, silver or gold certificates as recognition of 1, 2 or 3 years of clear tests. The scheme has also funded the search for BVD infected carrier animals in herds where tests have not been clear. This has been an extremely worthwhile project trying to eradicate a hidden disease that costs the Welsh farming sector millions of pounds a year. It has been proposed that a BVD eradication scheme continues but funded by the farmer in future. As herds not yet BVD free would then have to test animals before sale incurring extra laboratory charges, we strongly recommend all our clients become BVD free before the Gwaredu BVD funding scheme finishes at the end of August. The laboratory results for any BVD eartags, blood samples or milk samples must be submitted before then to receive any government money. If you have not got a BVD free certificate yet please talk to one of our vets now on 01978 311444 about the best way to use funding to achieve BVD free status.

Bull Testing

Infertile bulls are rare but sub-fertile bulls are common. A fully fertile stock bull running with fifty healthy cows can achieve a 90% pregnancy rate after a nine week serving period. But almost one in three stock bulls currently fail to achieve this target. So fewer cows get pregnant in time and profitability is greatly reduced. We are able to carry out bull breeding soundness examinations to identify infertile and sub-fertile bulls before the breeding season to tighten

Team News

Lauren Arndt, who provides our farm technician services, and admin support for the farm team, is going to be moving to South Wales to pursue an exciting opportunity for both her career and life outside work. She has been offered a role working for AHDB Dairy based in Carmarthen. Lauren has been involved at the practice for many years, from working on reception on a Saturday morning while she was at school and college, to developing and growing her current role at the practice after graduating from Aberystwyth University. We are extremely proud to see her grow and develop her career over this time, and we are sure everyone will want to wish her well in her new role. We will be looking to recruit someone to continue growing and developing Laurens role in the practice over the summer.

Locum Vet

To provide some additional cover during this busy and uncertain time we have an experienced locum vet joining us. Jasmine Smith has worked in farm practice for many years across the UK. She is looking forward to working with us, and we are sure you will join us in welcoming her to the team at Daleside.

Medicines Course

Anyone who has not been on any of the XL Vets Mastering Medicines courses we have put on over the last 18 months but would like to go on one – either for Red Tractor certification or just as a general refresher – please contact the office on 01978 311444 to register your interest. We are aiming to run our next course in the summer but, understandably, we are not able to fix a date as yet. We will contact all registered names as soon as we have a course date arranged.

calving patterns and maximise the pregnancy rates of your herds.

The testing is ideally performed 4-6 weeks prior to the service period so Spring Calving Herds need to act now. Ideally all stock bulls should be tested including new arrivals. This examination should form part of the annual health checks of a beef herd.

Please contact the office on 01978 311444 to discuss how testing your bull can help your herd and to book an examination.

