



SERVICES OFFERED

If you are interested in any of these, please ring or email our friendly office team to get booked in!

Phone: 01666 823035 Option 1 - Email: smallholders@georgevetgroup.co.uk



Smallholder visit

We will happily book you in for a smallholder visit. This involves a vet visiting your holding to assess and discuss key management areas. This discussion would include housing, nutrition, body condition scoring, vaccination planning, parasite control and other important things!

Afterwards, a Health Plan will be made specifically for your farm in the form of a calendar including month-specific reminders.

Cost: **£185 plus VAT**

Included:

- Visit Fee
- One hour of vet time
- Tailor made Health Plan Calendar
- One Worm Egg Count

Even if you have had a Health Plan done in the past, it is still very useful to review this and chat about any changes or questions you might have. If you've been lucky enough not to have had us out in the past year, this visit will guarantee we've seen your animals and you are able to get medicines without having an "Animal Under Our Care Visit" first.

Sheep shearing



This is a service carried out by Toby, one of our Vet Techs. He can be booked on Wednesdays in both May and June to shear your sheep.

Costs: **Visit Fee + £10 per animal** (minimum of £30)

If you have over 20 sheep to be shorn, the price reduces to **£8** per animal.

Pregnancy scanning (goats and sheep)



We offer a scanning service for small ruminants. This will be carried out by vets Joe Pescod and Keir Hamilton, who will come to your farm with their scanner and will be able to tell whether your ewe/doe is pregnant.

Costs: **Visit Fee + Vet time spent on farm**



Worming + vaccination assistance

Our lovely vet techs can assist with worming and the vaccination of your animals. If you would like to have some help doing these husbandry tasks, please get in touch.

Timeline Pre-Lambing/Kidding



From 60 days after removing the ram/billy(s)

- **Scanning** - To help identify any ewes/does which are not pregnant (won't require extra feeding) and ewes/ does due to have multiples (will need extra feeding)

If you're interested in having your ewes/does scanned, please get in contact and we can organise this.

- **Body condition scoring (BCS)** - The earlier we can identify thin ewes, the earlier we can improve their body condition score before lambing, as we want to avoid diet changes or gaining of condition in late pregnancy

6-8 weeks pre-lambing

- **Plan grazing/ feed supplementation of ewes/does** - The last 6 weeks of pregnancy is a key time for meeting the nutrient requirements of ewes/does. Plus, ewes/does will have reduced appetites as their stomachs will have less space in their abdomens due to the increasing size of the foetuses

Ensure you have enough good quality grass or high-quality forage and consider feeding ewe nuts/goat feed mix

- **Give booster vaccines for Clostridial disease and Pasteurellosis cover (See: Clostridial disease by Joe Reskelly)** - This should be given 4-6 weeks pre-lambing/kidding

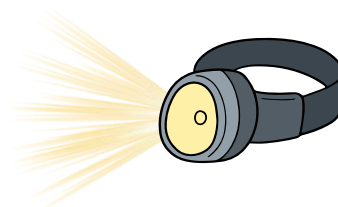
Preparing housing for Lambing/Kidding

- **Thoroughly clean out and disinfect housing before ewes/does are brought inside**
- **Check ventilation in the housing** - Ensure it isn't too cold or draughty
- **Plenty of dry bedding (i.e. straw) available for pens** - Well bedded and dry pens help reduce the risk of infectious disease spread
- **Check water supply in each pen**
- **Feed troughs and hayrack/ring feeders** - Ewes in particular need constant 24hr access to forage, so ensure they have enough feeders/racks to allow the group to eat and that individual pens have forage access



Pregnant ewes/does ideally need around 45-50cm trough space each to minimize competition during feeding time

- **Check your pen sizes and numbers** – prepare some smaller pens to allow for individual ewes/does to be put into during/after lambing - This gives time for the bond to form between ewes/does and lambs/kids, and to avoid any mismothering
- **Lighting in buildings** - Similarly, a good head torch may do the job



1st week of lambing

Monitor ewes/does for any of the following signs of lambing/kidding -

- Isolating themselves from the group
- Inappetence
- Pawing and sniffing at the ground
- Restlessness
- Thick string of mucus hanging from vulva
- Abdominal contraction
- Waterbag presenting at vulva
- **When to call the vet**
 - If a ewe/doe is having strong abdominal contractions for 30 minutes without progress of lambs/kids being delivered
 - If there is more than 30 minutes between lambs/kids being born
 - If you can see that the lamb/kid isn't presenting with two front feet and a head at the vulva
 - If a ewe/does doesn't pass the "after-birth" within 24 hours of giving birth

Monitor ewes/does for any signs of ill health -

Signs to look out for: inappetence, dullness/depression, isolation from others, disorientation, hungry lambs/kids, showing little interest in mothering.

Abortion: be aware that many infectious causes of abortion can spread to humans, so ensure you wear appropriate PPE when handling any aborted material or ewes/does.

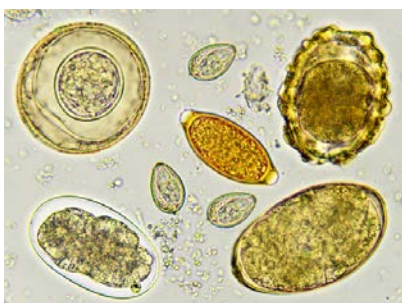
If you want to investigate the cause of abortion, keep the aborted lamb/kid and placenta for the vet to take the necessary samples

First 24 hours of lamb/kid's life - Ensure they suckle from mum so that they have plenty of colostrum - Lambs/Kids need 50ml/kg colostrum within 6 hours of being born. In total, they need 200ml/kg colostrum within 24 hours

Apply iodine to their navel to prevent any navel infection

Ideally, place the ewe/doe with her lamb/kids into a clean individual pen away from the other pregnant/ewes to ensure they form a strong bond

Consider your plan for worming ewes/does -



Around lambing/kidding times ewes/does' immunity can wane causing a rise in the number of worms they are shedding.

Speak to your vet about doing worm egg counts and which ewes/does you should be treating, with what product and when.

Lambing/Kidding Checklist

- Lambing ropes
- Milk powder and colostrum
 - Requirement of 200ml/kg in 24hrs (50ml/kg per feed and in first 6hrs)
- Measuring jug and whisk
 - To accurately mix up milk powder
- Iodine spray bottle
 - To be applied to the lambs' navels asap to allow them to dry and prevent infection
- Infrared bulbs
 - Warming up cold lambs/kids and help dry lambs/kids after birth
- Disinfectant for pens
- Lubricant
- Gloves
- Feeding bottles, teats and tubes
- Thermometer
 - For monitoring sick lambs/ewes
- Vet's phone number:
01666 823035

What are Clostridial diseases?

Clostridial diseases are the oldest known disease-causing agent in livestock. The bacteria aren't contagious but are very infectious. Most of these syndromes caused by these bacterial infections are fatal and can be one of the causes in sudden death.

Below are several of the most common types of clostridial disease that you may have heard about and covered for in most routine clostridial vaccinations.

- Blackleg
- Lamb dysentery
- Pulpy kidney
- Braxy
- Tetanus
- Blacks disease
- Struck



Where does it come from if they can't be infected by other animals?

The bacteria are often found in soil and can be present normally in healthy animals organs, but can become infectious following a primary reason such as accidental injury, liver fluke infections, wounds etc. The signs are specific to each of the syndromes and affect them at different ages. Tetanus, black leg and pulpy kidney can be at any age of animal, Blacks disease, Braxy and Struck are in adults and Lamb dysentery is in young lambs.

Sadly, the only definitive diagnostic is through post-mortem investigations once an animal has died, so it's all about preventing this seemingly awful disease.

What can we do?

It's not all doom and gloom. We are able to help protect our animals against many of the strains of clostridial disease through vaccination. There are a range of products available to cover cattle, sheep, goats (off license use) and camelids (off license use). Our most commonly used clostridial vaccines are Heptavac P, Bravoxin10 and Corvexin10. When vaccinating ewes or does it is advised to do so 4-6 weeks prior to lambing. Please speak to one of our vets to obtain advice on vaccination frequency.

Vitamin D deficiency in alpacas – by Georgia Flaxman

An introduction to Vitamin D deficiency / Rickets



Vitamin D controls the balance of calcium and phosphorous in the body and so is vital for growing and maintaining healthy bones. Therefore, vitamin D deficiencies can cause bone problems. This is common in crias, especially dark coated ones born in late summer when there is less sunlight.

The most common cause of rickets is a lack of sunlight exposure as British UV levels are a lot lower than in South America. These levels are too low for alpacas to make enough vitamin D in their skin, especially in the winter, so bone can take longer to grow and have a lower density.

It is essential to supplement vitamin D, especially for growing crias.

Source: <http://alpacapower.co.uk>

Symptoms

Affected crias appear unwell and smaller than the rest of their age group as they have poor weight gain. They can have lameness which shifts between different legs as well as swollen painful joints. They may have a hunched back and be reluctant to move. It can also lead to angular limb deformities, where the legs appear bent outwards.

Treatment

Rickets can be treated with vitamin D supplementation. Injectable products, such as Vitamin AD3E or bioveta ADE-vit, can be bought through the vets and treatment is given as a subcutaneous injection which can maintain normal levels for up to 3 months. Speak to your vet to find out the correct dosage for your cria.

If the animals are housed, ideally, they should be put outside more often and exposed to sunlight/ UV radiation to increase Vitamin D levels. Providing a high-quality diet will also help with any deficiencies.

Prevention

For prevention in growing camelids, vitamin D supplementation can be injected into the skin every 2 months. Darker animals which have less sunlight are more at risk so may need a higher dose or for it to be repeated more often. The injections can be started in October and continued until March/April to supplement the alpacas when there is less sunlight in the winter months.

Dosing plans can be changed but this should be sorted with your vet as overdosing vitamin D can be fatal. It is important to give each cria their own individual dose using accurate body weights as these can vary.

Oral pastes of vitamin D are available, however absorption is not as reliable as the injectable forms so may not be as effective. Vitamin D injections are available to order and we would advise against oral pastes if possible.

Chicken worming – by Joe Pescod MRCVS

Poultry can pick up all sorts of internal parasites in their daily foraging – both earthworms and insects carry them. These gut worms can lead to **weight loss, ill thrift and possibly death**. There is also the particularly unpleasant 'gapeworm' which leads to the birds gasping for breath.

Worming your birds regularly helps keep their worm burden down and prevents an impaction forming. They are at increased risk if they are exposed to any stressful event (this alters their gut biome!) or if they graze the same areas repeatedly (rotating the grazing can help reduce this risk). **We recommend worming every quarter**, however, if worms have been a problem in the past, treatment can be given as often as once a month. The sheep and cattle keepers among you will be relieved to know there is no need to do worm egg counts to check for resistance! The pharmaceutical company tried to make and find resistance to the product but with no success. Happy days!

Flubenvet is the only licensed product for poultry and is a medicated powder. Weigh out how much food they normally get and add the appropriate quantity of powder. Use a small amount of vegetable oil to help stick the powder to the food and make sure it is thoroughly mixed!

As an aside, unpasteurized cider vinegar in the water at 10ml:500ml for one week a month aids a healthy poultry gut! As always, any queries or doubts about this, let us know!



MERRY CHRISTMAS

If you have any queries, please contact our friendly office team. We look forward to meeting you!

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COMPASSION RESPECT INTEGRITY SUSTAINABILITY PROGRESSION CARE

T: 01666 823035 Option "1" for visits or enquiries, "2" for medicines or shop, "3" for TB testing