

BVD Testing

A reminder that farms in Wales are able to get **funding** to blood test for BVD during their annual TB test.

Gwaredu BVD is a national BVD eradication programme aiming to eliminate BVD in Welsh herds. Testing will be carried out at the annual TB test on the farm and will require **5 animals** between **9 and 18 months** to be blood sampled and these will be tested for BVD antibodies. If there are BVD antibodies present on the farm then finding and removing PI animals is recommended. Please enquire about this testing when booking your annual herd test.



Mud Fever

Mud fever can be a **difficult** issue to treat, and the wet, muddy weather at the moment really doesn't help at all. Mud fever classically causes lesions on the back of the **pasterns** of horses, predominantly on the hindlimbs. There is some hair loss, scabs and redness in the affected areas. In more severe cases, the infection can progress up the limb to the knee or hock and cause a generalised cellulitis (inflammation of the skin layers). The disease used to be associated with just one bacteria, but actually has a **number of causes** including bacteria, mites and fungi as well. Treatment can be frustrating but includes; **clipping** of feathered legs, removal of scabs, **washing** of legs using dilute hibiscrub (0.1%) followed by **thorough** drying. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories are used in more advanced cases. Leg bandages can be used to 'wick' the moisture away from the legs. Leaving mud to **dry naturally** rather than brushing off, rather than cold hosing when horses come in has shown to help a lot. The constant change in temperature and moisture on the legs is a contributing factor. We are happy to discuss this further so please enquire.

CROWGATE
Veterinary Surgery
Bishop's Castle

A reminder of Christmas Opening Times

Saturday 23rd December—Open 8.30 to 1pm
Monday 25th December—CLOSED
Tuesday 26th December—CLOSED
Wednesday 27th December—Open 8.30 to 6pm.
Thursday 28th December—Open 8.30 to 6pm
Friday 29th December—Open 8.30 to 6pm
Saturday 30th December 8.30 to 1pm
Monday 1st January—CLOSED
Tuesday 2nd January—Open as normal from now.



New Email Address

Please note that we have a new email address which is

reception@bishopscastlelevets.co.uk

Allwood and Jones,
Crowgate Veterinary Surgery,
Bishops Castle Business Park,
Bishops Castle,
Shropshire,
SY9 5BX

01588638356 (24 hour)

CROWGATE
Veterinary Surgery
Bishop's Castle

Winter Newsletter 2017

Merry Christmas

All of us here would like to wish all our clients a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As always, we provide a **24 hour emergency service** out of working hours over the entire Christmas and New year period. Open as normal : Wednesday 27th December to Saturday 30th December
Closed Sunday 31st, January 1st. Open as normal from Tuesday 2nd January.



Long-term Medication and Prescriptions

As our animals get older, they often require long-term medication for a number of different reasons. There are a variety of different medications and circumstances as to which this applies. What is important for our clients to understand is that regular check ups (i.e at least every 6 months) are required, in order for us to **monitor** treatment, **check up** on overall health and enable us to supply **prescriptions**. Some medications can have effects on various organs within the body, particularly the liver and kidneys, and therefore blood samples are often advised for us to check the function of these organs and alter the dose accordingly.



The Dangers of the Festive Period

Everyone likes to enjoy the festive period with plenty of good food, drink and gifts but it's important to consider the dangers of some of these items for our pets.

The main ones being:

- **Grapes and raisins**—the amount consumed to cause toxicity varies between individuals but can only take one or two grapes to cause problems. The kidneys are particularly severely affected.
- **Chocolate**—most people know about the dangers of chocolate but it's easy to forget about chocolate coins, decorations or even chocolate gifts wrapped up under the Christmas tree.
- **Mince pies**—full of raisins, currants and sultanas, all of which are potentially toxic. Not only that, the high fat/suet content can really upset a dog/cats stomach.
- **Bones**—there's a lot of meat cooked at this time and cooked bones are particularly dangerous for our animals because they are brittle and break into fragments easily which can cause obstructions or damage to the internal organs.
- **Toys and presents**—balls, decorations, little toys can all be swallowed and potentially cause an intestinal obstruction. Keep them out of reach.
- **Onions, garlic and leeks**—all great ingredients for our cooking, but all have potentially toxic effects in our pets.
- **Nuts**—not all nuts are poisonous for dogs but some are, especially macadamia nuts which can cause some severe health problems in our dogs.
- **Alcohol**—the same applies to our pets as it does with us, too much is still toxic!!

If you believe your pet to have consumed something which it shouldn't or that could be potentially toxic, please contact us immediately. In many cases, if ingestion has occurred **within 3 hours** then the animal can be made to vomit, bringing up the offending material. Obviously this doesn't always apply and each case is assessed individually. Please don't wait for symptoms to develop and adopt a 'wait and see' approach, delaying could be fatal.

Sedentary Pets

Recent estimates suggest that almost 50% of our dog and cats are **obese**. We all know in us, that if we live a sedentary lifestyle that it leads us to be more susceptible to developing chronic diseases, and the same applies to our pets. By managing their food intake more closely and increasing exercise, the risk of long term health problems can be significantly reduced. can be reduced.



Neutering Help

A reminder that the local charity for dogs, Dog Samaritans, can offer financial help for neutering dogs in the area. If you are interested in finding out more about this, then please contact Janet on 01588640932.



Getting Ready for Lambing

Lambing is fast approaching for many of you and there's a lot to think about before this busy time of you. Managing your ewes in the last 8 weeks before lambing is the crucial period for both ewe and lamb health.

- **Disease prevention**—if you are using clostridial vaccines, make sure that you are boosting your ewes **4 to 6 weeks** prior to lambing to ensure protection for the lambs and increase survival rates. Housing ewes during lambing is a significant risk factor for spread of disease so keeping sheds and pens clean and cleared out between individuals helps minimise spread.

Getting Ready for Lambing cont'd

- **Body Condition Score**—checking BCS in your ewes is hugely important to monitor their condition status. Overconditioned ewes are more likely to suffer with prolapses (reed/bed out) and thin ewes will have little milk and potentially poor lambs. For hill farms BCS should be 2.0 to 2.5 and lowland farms 2.5 to 3.0, and ideally this condition should be achieved at least **8 weeks** prior to lambing and maintained through to lambing and turnout.
- **Nutrition**—a vital ingredient in the making of a good lambing. Good quality forage (ideally analysed) should provide adequate nutrition until up to 2 weeks prior to lambing. Poorer quality forage will need supplementation with concentrates a lot earlier than this. Trace elements such a **selenium** and **iodine** are very important and checking these levels through a blood testing a handful of ewes is a useful exercise. Both these elements are hugely important for good brown fat reserves, reducing retained placentas, improving reproductive performance and aiding lamb vitality and overall health.
- **Worms**—during late gestation, the lambs requirements for glucose and protein increase dramatically, which puts pressure on the ewe leading to what is called the '**periparturient rise**' in worm eggs around lambing. This is therefore a significant risk for the newborns. Depending on individual systems, it is normally advised to worm thin and triplet ewes around lambing to reduce this burden.
- **Supplies**—have all your lambing supplies **ready**; ropes, lubricant, iodine, lamps, calcium, lamb feeding tube, colostrum supplement, lamb milk, disinfectants and many more..

