

Bovigen Scour

There are currently supply issues with Rotavec Corona vaccine, we have been using Bovigen Scour (an equivalent product) for over a year now with very good results.

Cows are vaccinated just once in the last 12 – 3 weeks of pregnancy. Antibodies against Rota Virus, Corona Virus and E-Coli scours are then delivered to the calf via the cows colostrum.

These are major causes of scour in calves and often controlling these 3 bugs makes other bugs such as Cryptosporidium less likely to take hold.

We have handy tests that can be done on farm to identify these causes of scour – results in just 10 minutes.

Anna Patch



Vet Tech Service

Our Vet Tech Jess is here to help clients with support services on farm, helping you save time and money.

- Stress-free disbudding
- Vaccinations– for vaccines purchased from us, Jess can vaccinate your herd free of charge
- Udder Singeing—this can be done at milking , can help prevent the chance of infectious diseases and can improve robot efficiency
- Mobility scoring—identify cows for treatments and the level of lameness in your herd. Supporting advisory work and helping you progress in reducing lameness
- BVD tagging
- Body condition scoring
- Teat scoring
- Youngstock service—Ask how our Youngstock service can help you monitor nutrition, growth rates and disease

For more details on the Vet Tech service or to book an appointment please contact the office.



April 2019 Edition

Farm Newsletter



Directors Focus

Congratulations to our Bath Half Marathon runners

The Directors are delighted that Anna and Charlie will be joining the business from July. Anna and Charlie have shown real passion and commitment in their client care, as well as being dedicated professionals. We believe this change will both ensure long term continuity and bring in further fresh ideas as Shepton Vets approaches its centenary in 2022. The decision also reflects the practice wish to remain

independent, which means we can be more responsive to your needs such as developing new services. We are also fully committed to being part of the XLVets network, which gives us access to additional support and buying power. The practice has grown substantially in the last 15 years, with more than twice the number of staff, and recently a new small animal premises in Wells.

This means that in addition, Sharon, our practice manager, who has a key role to play in staff and business management, and Greg, one of the small animal team, will also be joining the business. We believe these changes are right for the future of Shepton Vets and our desire to ensure you are 'in the best hands'.

The Directors

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Office opening hours

Monday – Friday: 8am—5.30pm
Saturday: 8.30am—12pm

Emergency Service

We provide a 24 hour emergency service.
If you need assistance out of our normal working hours, please telephone
01749 341 761

If you would like to receive your farm account and this newsletter by email please advise the farm office.



Community Focus

Congratulation to our Bath Half Marathon runners

Anna, Louisa, Lynn and Paddy completed the Bath Half Marathon on Sunday 17th March—running in aid of Send a Cow.

With great running conditions the team had a fantastic morning, clocking up the following times:

Paddy 1:38:22
Louisa 1:41:06
Lynn 1:56:51
Anna 2:00:49

Thanks to everyone who supported the runners through sponsorship money.

We are delighted to announce the team have raised over £1000 for Send a Cow.



Pro-active Fresh Cow Care: 15th May

Join Andy & Paddy for our next 'lunch & Learn' session on how to develop a fresh cow monitoring system that allows you to detect, monitor and treat the most common fresh cow conditions as quickly as possible, allowing a swift return to optimal production.

Key learning outcomes include:

- How to diagnose an LDA
- Using milk ketone tests to allow early diagnosis and treatment of any issues

before they are likely to require more serious intervention

- How to perform a simple veterinary examination of fresh cows, again to allow the earliest possible detection of potential problems

£45 + vat pp & £10 + vat for 2nd team member.

Book your place with Tom in the office by the 8th May.

Ubroseal

There have been a number of issues securing reliable supplies of some medicines over the last 18 months. One particularly challenging area has been ensuring a consistent supply of teat sealant.

Shepton Vets has been in discussion with Boehringer-Ingelheim, manufacturers of products such as Metacam, Ubro Red, Ubro Yellow and Bovela BVD vaccine, and we have successfully secured a long-term arrangement for their teat sealant Ubroseal.

This will enable us to have a consistent supply of high quality teat sealant that is identical to our previous product.



Farmer Focus:

Graham Weeks has a very special herd of pedigree Holstein cows. The Hensbridge herd consists of 140 of some of the largest dairy cattle in the practice. Beautiful, powerful animals that really look like a herd of cows, these animals are a pleasure to work with. But what is so special about this herd? Cows are milked twice a day, fed a full TMR (no parlour cake) and at the last recording cows averaged 37.95 litres of milk, fairly spectacular yields for twice a day milking.

Performance within the Hensbridge herd has gone from strength to strength over the years but this winter it has been the addition of a new mastitis vaccine that has had a number of benefits.

The decision to use this vaccine was entirely farmer led. Graham was at the Dairy Show last October and stumbled across UBAC, a Strep. uberis vaccine that Hipra were just about to launch. We had not done any recent milk sampling to determine the cause of mastitis in this herd but we presumed Strep. uberis would be prevalent as the cows are on straw yards. Keen to avoid the hassle and cost associated with mastitis Graham wanted to give this vaccine a try. Mastitis rates on this farm had always been higher than we would like in the winter months. The straw used for bedding cannot always be stored inside meaning often damp straw is used – perfect bug food! Graham didn't want to waste any time and was keen to get the 3 doses in before the main mastitis

risk period (December – March). The initial course was completed by mid December and already things were starting to look good. We treated 1 case of mastitis in December compared to 11 the previous



year. There have been 10 cases of mastitis from December to the end of March. During the same period last year 43 cows were treated.

These results have far exceeded all expectations including those of Hirpa that claim you will see a 50% reduction in clinical Strep. uberis mastitis rate.

As for the increased milk yields there has been a new nutritionist on farm, excellent quality forage was made last summer and I think less disease has played a big part. Graham says 'The best bit about all of this extra milk is that it is going into the tank and being sold'.

Well done to the whole team at Manor Farm.

Anna Patch

Events & Training Calendar

BVD Stamp it Out
26th April

Advanced Hoof Trimming
29th April

Fresh Cow Care
Lunch & Learn
15th May

BVD Stamp it Out
14th June

DIY AI Course—Somerset
22nd –25th July

Email: training@sheptonvets.com for more information or to book a space.

„Team Shepton: Lottie Mayo

It's been a busy year in the Mayo household. We had Alfie last February and got the keys to our new house a month later, so my maternity leave was spent juggling both children with lots of DIY and some chainsaw gardening too as the house had been empty for several years.

I've been back at work since the end of October, so progress on the house has slowed over the winter but the kids continue to grow like weeds. Alfie is already nearly the same size as his big sister and is now running around, regularly proving that he has none of Amelie's sense of self preservation!

Now spring seems to be in the air we are hoping to get a vegetable patch up and running and generally bring the garden back to life. Amelie is full of ideas of all the fruit and veg she wants to grow, and I live in hope that her keenness in growing them will lead to her actually eating some vegetables!



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