

## Case Study: Stitch the lucky lamb

Stitch the lamb had a bit of an eventful start to life! Moments after he was born he began to eviscerate his intestines through his navel. This as you can imagine is a true emergency.

Umbilical defects can be fairly common in ruminants, either as a result of a congenital condition resulting in failure of the body wall closing or as a result of trauma to the body wall, causing rupture of the abdominal muscle layers.

When I arrived Stitch was becoming uncomfortable, this was as a result of his intestines starting to swell, the tissues were filling with blood, which would have been painful. Initially the small intestine were cleaned with very dilute disinfectant to remove as much bacteria as possible, as when the intestine were introduced back into the abdomen, we wanted to minimise the risk of peritonitis. A very small amount of local anaesthetic was introduced to head and bottom end of his navel. This was to allow small incisions, making the navel bigger to allow the intestine to be replaced. With Stitch on his back, and gravity, to help all of his intestines were replaced into their correct position. Several stitches were placed with a strong and very slowly dissolving suture material along his muscle layers and skin, ensuring his intestines stayed in place this time!

Stitches successful recovery was down to quickly identify his problem, and probably more importantly, really good nursing. Because of the potential damage and trauma to Stitches intestine, it was

necessary to ensure he had regular feeds of colostrum for the first 24 hours. The colostrum was essential for providing antibodies to prevent secondary infections, nutrition to the intestine and provide stimulus to ensure gut motility. Stitch also had a course of antibiotics to cover for secondary infections as well as pain relief after his procedure.

Pictured below is Stitch as he continues to thrive nearly 2 weeks after his traumatic birth.



Bobby Thomas



June 2019 Edition

# Farm Newsletter



## Directors Focus

“

Peter retires from the practice at the end of June

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In May 1986 Peter Morley joined Shepton Vets (then Eddy, Williamson & Partners) and has been ever present for the past 33 and a bit years.

He has decided it is now time to hang up his boots and gloves and retire at the end of June.

On behalf of all the staff, past and present, we would like to thank Peter for his hard work and dedication. Peter has always stepped up whenever there has been work to do, and has always got the job done.

Most of you know Peter, with both a good working relationship

and for his routine clients in particular, a good friendship. We will strive to follow Peter's example, and for routine clients have spoken to you about ensuring a smooth handover to the next generation.

Peter started his career working with 300 dairy farms in the area. Now there are 120 dairy farms each carrying more cows. Visits were to carry out manual PDs and nail on hoof blocks for lame cows, where now we use ultrasound scanners and foot trimmers attend most foot issues.

During his career Peter has seen lameness and mastitis improve, and attending a milk fever is now a rare event. However, the situation with TB has deteriorated, and he has worked through the ups and downs of quotas, BSE and Foot and Mouth Disease.

We all wish Peter a long and happy retirement, and thank him for his time as vet, colleague, boss and friend.

Paddy Gordon

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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.





## Medicine Update

### Spasminum Comp



Buscopan is not licensed in lactating animals. We used to be able to use it on the prescribing cascade. However, now we have a licensed alternative – Spasminum. We will be stocking this from now on.

#### Uses

Treatment of spasms of the gut or urinary system  
Supportive therapy of acute diarrhoea

#### Dosage

Adult Cattle: 4ml per 50Kg intravenously  
Calves: 1ml per 10Kg intravenously  
Up to twice daily for 3 days

#### Withdrawal

Milk: 4 days  
Meat: 12 days

#### Storage

Do not store above 25°C  
Shelf life after first opening container: 28 days

Flies are a real nuisance every year. Never is this more evident in the milking parlour and collecting yards and your calf sheds. It's unpleasant for the animals and those that handle them. We've been using fly boards for a couple of years now and farmer find them very helpful in controlling fly numbers in high pressure areas.

We can offer a solution to reducing your fly population. We make the fly boards at the practice – they are large A1 boards that we spray a special fly insecticide onto.

It contains sex pheromones and attractants that lure flies to the bait which upon contact or ingestion kills them quickly.

Our vet techs can visit your farm and help identify the areas to locate the boards within the parlour, collecting yard, calf sheds etc. They will place them for you and return on a regular basis to assess progress and whether the boards need replacing.

For this complete service the cost is £20 per board on farm.

If you are interested in trying out the fly boards and ridding you and your cows of this nuisance, contact Jess or Tom at the surgery.



## Fly Boards

## Farmer Focus: Michael Stenner: Breeding Pedigree Goats

Michael has recently started breeding goats. 2019 has been his second breeding season. His herd of 29 is currently made up of 2 Bucks, 11 Does and their 16 Kids.

Michael decided to go for the South African Boer Goat, as he had always fancied some goat meat, but as a result of not being able to find a supplier, he looked into rearing his own. Once he saw the Boers he fell in love with the size and conformation of the breed.

Michael really values the importance of animals being "fit for purpose". After many years of breeding working/trialling spaniels, which are all fully health tested in excess of that required to be a Kennel Club accredited breeder. With that ethos in mind, the herd of Boer goats are accredited for CAE (Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis), Johnes and Scapie. To ensure any buyers, as far as possible are buying healthy goats. And likewise ensure the health of his own animals.

For Michael's second breeding season, he used Embryo Transfer. There are different classes of Boer goats. Many are cross breed. To ensure high quality pure breed genetics, Michael feels that using Embryo transfer is a really useful tool, especially when establishing the herd. He plans to have more full blood embryos implanted into the Does in September 2019

Michael weighs his Goat kids from birth to 5 weeks of age daily to monitor growth rates and as a tool for spotting problems in individual kids. Michael knows that his kids should achieve growth rates of around 250grams per day, similar to growth rates seen in lambs.

2020 will be the year Michael's third crop of kids are due; does he think he's made the right choice to venture into the world of pedigree goat breeding? "Yes. I get a great deal of satisfaction from breeding the goats and can't wait to deliver the next kids, even in temperatures of - 6.5°C, when even the valves on the gas bottles freeze!"

Bibby Thomas



## Goodbye to Peter Morley



After more than 33 years service, Peter retires at the end of June.

We have a retirement card in the farm reception for those of you who wish to pass on your best wishes to Peter for the future.

A letter from all the Directors, has been sent out with this month's invoices, thanking Peter for his service.

## Events & Training Calendar

**BVD Stamp it Out**  
14th June

**DIY AI Course—Somerset**  
22nd –25th July

**Hoof Trimming & Lameness**  
2nd September

**DIY AI Course—Somerset**  
16th –19th September

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

## TB; Some Good News

Figures relate to end February 2019 compared to the same period 2018, in the High Risk area that we are part of.

No. of OTFW (confirmed) breakdowns (Officially TB Free Withdrawn)	-14%
No. of cattle (reactors/IRs? Dangerous contacts) slaughtered	-9%
No. of herds not free of TB	-12%

If you would like advice on preventative measures you can take on reducing the risks of TB, Alex, Ralph and Rob can provide fee advice funded by the TB Advisory Service (TBAS).

We can either offer a farm visit or telephone advice at no charge to yourselves. The advice we will offer will be tailored to your farm and business. Please speak to Zoe in the office for more details.