FriarsMoor Livestock Health

JULY NEWSLETTER

FARMING COMMUNITY EXCLUSIVE

DEREK VS DEREK FILM SCREENING

THURSDAY 23 JULY / 7:15PM / £10PP +VAT

INC. BBQ AFTER SCREENING / MARNHULL VILLAGE HALL

Book tickets online

Making timely welfare decisions for injured livestock

Article written by Martha Twist, BVSc MRCVS

"When you've got livestock, you've got deadstock" is a phrase that farmers and vets hear all too often. While it may sound blunt, it reflects an unfortunate reality of livestock farming. Despite everyone's best efforts, accidents happen, injuries occur, and sometimes sick animals simply don't recover.

In these situations, one of the most important responsibilities of livestock ownership is ensuring that animals do not suffer unnecessarily. By law, farmers have a duty of care to protect the welfare of animals under their management. Where an animal is suffering and treatment is unlikely to be successful, humane killing is not only permitted but may be the most appropriate and legally required course of action.

When faced with a severely injured or unwell animal, it can be helpful to ask four simple questions:

- Can the animal recover?
- Can it recover without prolonged suffering?
- Is treatment practical and humane?
- Is transport to the abattoir legal and humane?

If the answer to these questions is *no*, then prompt dispatch is often the kindest option. Our on-call vets are always available to provide advice and emergency assistance, and we aim to respond rapidly when urgent situations arise. However, there are circumstances where waiting for a vet may not be the most practical solution. Emergencies rarely happen at convenient times, and some situations require immediate action to prevent unnecessary suffering.

For this reason, we believe livestock farmers should be equipped with the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to carry out humane emergency dispatch when necessary. Appropriate training ensures that decisions can be made promptly and that equipment is used safely, legally and effectively.

To help farmers prepare for these difficult situations, we offer practical emergency dispatch and captive bolt training courses. These sessions cover welfare considerations, legal responsibilities, equipment selection and maintenance, and the safe and effective use of captive bolt equipment across different livestock species.

Captive bolts are the only humane euthanasia method that can be used on all livestock species at all ages without the need for a firearms license.

No farmer wants to be faced with the decision to euthanise an animal. However, being prepared before an emergency occurs can make all the difference to animal welfare when difficult situations arise.

If you would like to find out more about our upcoming emergency dispatch and captive bolt training courses, please contact the practice for further details.

Feedback from the last course:

"Helpful to learn how to dismantle and maintain the captive bolt gun"

"Felt confident to use the captive bolt after instruction"

"A thorough overview on the legalities and ethics of on-farm slaughter"

CALVING COURSE — £105 +VAT

DUAL LANGUAGE AVAILABLE IN ROMANIAN

Friday 24th July | 10:30am – 3:30pm
Friars Moor Livestock Health, Shaftesbury Road, West Stour, Dorset SP8 5SF

This is a popular, one-day, practical course, held on a host farm. It is aimed at anyone who works with cattle or owns cattle and wishes to gain experience or requires a refresher in this area.

OPTIMISING SUCCESS FOR SEXED SEMEN IN HEIFERS — £15 +VAT

Wednesday 5th August | 11am – 1pm
Friars Moor Livestock Health, Shaftesbury Road, West Stour, Dorset SP8 5SF

Join us for coffee, a bacon roll and morning discussion as we analyse recent data in your herds and compare to what we now know about how to get the most out of using sexed semen in heifers.

Book courses and events online: fmlh.co.uk/events or contact the Farm Office for more details.

AHWP FUNDING

The Animal Health and Welfare Pathway (AHWP) offers various funding opportunities to support livestock farmers in improving the health and welfare of their animals. Here are some key points about the AHWP funding:

- **Annual Vet Visits:** Farmers can apply for funding for annual vet visits to check the health and welfare of their livestock. These visits include disease testing and biosecurity assessments
- **Endemic Disease Follow-Up:** After completing a review, farmers can choose to have an endemic disease follow-up. This involves further assessments and sampling for specific diseases or conditions
- **Capital Grants:** Farmers can apply for capital grants to co-fund investments that support the delivery of health and welfare priorities
- **Funding for Multiple Species:** The review and follow-up can now be applied for for more than one species, providing greater flexibility for farmers managing multiple groups of animals
- **Increased Payments:** Since February 2023, there has been an average 16% increase in payments across all species to ensure vets can deliver a high-quality service

Farmers interested in applying for AHWP funding should ensure they have an Improve Animal Health and Welfare (IAHW) agreement in place before starting any actions from reviews or follow-ups. The service ends on 19 June 2027, and claims must be submitted by 19 September 2027.

For more detailed information and to apply for funding, farmers can visit the official AHWP website or consult with their vet for guidance on the best items to improve their livestock's health and welfare.

Scan for more information

Can I just give Off-Feed to everything?!

A recap on the Selekt sachets and what they should be used for:

OFF FEED

For cows that are not eating, more than 3 days post-calving. Sachet should be diluted in 20L warm water (if giving more than 20L, should give Restore sachet in the next 20L).

- **SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TO FRESH COWS (FIRST 3 DAYS).**
- **SHOULD NOT GIVE 2 X OFF FEED AT THE SAME TIME.**
- **SHOULD NOT GIVE OFF FEED & FRESH COW TOGETHER.**

ANTACID

For cows suffering from acidosis. Diluted in 20L warm water for an adult cow, proportionately less for younger cows.

FRESH COW

For all cows in the 3 days following calving, specifically to cows at risk of milk fever, ketosis and LDAs. One sachet should be diluted in 20-40L of warm water.

- **SHOULD NOT GIVE 2 X FRESH COW AT THE SAME TIME.**
- **SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN TOGETHER WITH OFF FEED.**

GLYCEROL PLUS

For all cows at risk of, or for the treatment of ketosis and LDAs. Ideally given twice, 24 hours apart.

- **MUST BE DILUTED WITH AT LEAST 1L WARM WATER, IDEALLY 10L**

RESTORE

Should be given to any dehydrated cow – sunken eyed, skin that remains folded when pinched over the neck. This can be given alongside off feed, or by itself. Each sachet should be diluted in 20L warm water.

SELEKT CALCIVIT

For cows at risk of milk fever if not being pumped with Selekt fresh cow + water. Does not need to be diluted, can be given every 12 hours.

Gillingham & Shaftesbury Show | 19th & 20th August | TICKET DISCOUNT CODE FMLHG29 Valid until 31st July

CALF REARER ROADSHOW £10 +VAT

Thursday 16th July | 10:30am – 2:30pm
Location: Higher Farm, Margaret Marsh, SP7 0AZ
By kind permission of the Roberts family

We have a line-up of speakers joining us to discuss recent research into successful calf rearing.

fmlh.co.uk/events

Chloe Rodriguez
Animal Welfare Specialist

Hannah Padfield
Calf & Youngstock Specialist

Louise Hall
Virbac