

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

The Bull MOT

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Planning on breeding this summer? Bought a new boy to settle the cows? Or simply just looking to check things are firing on all cylinders, then a Bull MOT package may be for you! This month CVG vets have been busy carrying out pre-breeding soundness exams on bulls on various different types of farms which in general involves semen testing, checking and trimming feet as well as a general health check before the bull embarks on his most physically demanding time of the year. Here's why these checks are important:

To Ensure Good Fertility

The semen testing aspect of the bull MOT aims to answer one key question: Is this bull capable of getting cows pregnant? The impacts of a sub-fertile or infertile bull are numerous but ultimately result in empty cows.

When your vet examines a semen sample, we are not only checking if the bull is physically capable and anatomically correct by looking at his body condition, his ability to extrude properly and scrotal circumference (free from any lumps or bumps), but is his semen of good quality?

The way to check this is by assessing measurable aspects such as:

- Concentration (how many cells are there)- the more cells the better!
- Motility (ability for sperm cells to swim)- ideally we would like a sample to swirl properly under the microscope.
- Morphology (how good the individual cells are)- of every 100 cells we look at under the microscope we hope to see >90% normal.

To Prevent Lameness

This part of the MOT ensures the bull is sound enough to mount and breed cows effectively. Lameness can render an otherwise fertile bull, ineffective, a lame bull will simply have less drive to go ahead and work, and this time of year it is very surprising to note that very few bulls feet are without defects caused by the dry, hard ground. During the MOT feet will be inspected for cracks, toe overgrowth, infections such as digital dermatitis or white line defects such as stones, tracking lines or abscesses. If any of these defects are severe enough to have an effect on the bulls ability to walk after the MOT, then measures such as pain relief antibiotic therapy and toe blocks are available to help support movement and give these things a chance to heal!



Note: A bull with a block is still able to go and work with cows; the block does not pose any hindrance to his ability to mount and is always recommended to let foot defects heal faster!

On the fence whether to MOT?

It is worth remembering that your bull is 50% of your herd's reproductive success, especially if you completely rely on natural service. As long as the bull is seen to mount and serve cows the MOT is there to try and keep pregnancy rates high, increase bull longevity and productivity, shorten calving periods and save time that may be lost diagnosing potential fertility issues at scanning time when it might be too late!



NOW IN LESMAHAGOW!

We're so excited to announce that from Monday 2nd June... we'll be launching a BRAND NEW farm branch operating out of our existing Lesmahagow small animal practice.

This new set up will give our local farm clients a convenient space to drop in for health planning, sample drop-offs, drug collections, and more.

Farm vets will now be working from the site regularly, helping to improve accessibility and flexibility for the surrounding farming community.

Drug Ordering

To help us process orders efficiently, particularly larger requests, we encourage you to place your orders in advance. Here's how:

☎ Call the Farm Team at Lanark on 01555 660000

✉ Email: lanarkfarmorders@clydevetgroup.co.uk

The team at Lanark will coordinate with the Lesmahagow branch to put your order together. Once it's ready for collection, a member of the Lesmahagow team will give you a call.



BLUETONGUE Update Meeting

Join us for an industry update on Bluetongue and how this affects your farm.

We'll be joined by:

- Amy Jennings (**APHA**) – Expert advisor explaining up-to-date nationwide control measures
- Kate Ingram (**Virbac**) – Manufacturers of the Bluetongue vaccine on hand to answer your questions on vaccine use within the control strategy



**LAWRIE
SYMINGTON**

Wednesday 11th June | 7pm

Lawrie & Symington, Lanark Agricultural Centre, Hyndford Rd, Lanark ML11 9AX



Tea & coffee provided



Contact Clyde Vets on 01555 660000, or Lawrie & Symington on 01555 662281 to book



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

