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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm Closed Sunday

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm Closed Sunday

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

Family Day: February 17th, 2025: There will be no delivery service on Family Day. Both the St. Clements and Hwy 89 clinics will be open only in the morning. The on-call vet will be available for emergencies.

Lambing Emergency Toolbox: *What you need to know this lambing season.*

With lambing season upon us, we thought a nice reminder of some common pre/post-partum sheep and goat diseases and the things you will need to have on farm would be helpful for this month's newsletter. When it comes to delivering lambs or kids, cleanliness is key! (*this information also is excellent advice for our dairy cow and beef clients*) Making sure you are cleaning the back end of the animal with warm soapy water and then being clean yourself is essential to reduce infection. Using rectal sleeves, lube and having lambing chains and ropes within reach is extremely helpful. Being patient and knowing the amount of force to use to get the lamb out comes with practice and time, so don't hesitate to call us at LVS to ask any questions or if it's time for a veterinarian's assistance. Calling earlier rather than later is always the better option.

(Goat producers - all of these diseases affect goats too so please feel free to mentally substitute "goats" and "does" for "sheep" and "ewes" while reading!)

Medications/Supplements

- 100% Propylene Glycol (PG)
- 50% Dextrose
- Dexamethasone (Dex-5)
- Depocillin
- Metacam (or other NSAID)
- Injectable multivitamin
- Selenium/Vitamin E (Selon-E)

Tools/Supplies

- Antibacterial soap (Chlorhexidine or iodine based)
- LUBE (lots of it)
- Clean lambing gloves (aka rectal sleeves)
- Lambing ropes/chains
- Navel dip (iodine-based)
- Clean towels
- Ewe spoon
- Needles (18Gx1.5" and 16Gx1")
- Syringes (6mL, 20mL, 35mL)

Disease	Clinical Signs	Cause	Treatment	Prevention
Pregnancy Toxaemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -late gestation ewes that are off feed, may be down -severe animals will present dull and depressed, circling or have tremors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> not enough energy in the diet to meet the demand of the developing lambs (much more common in ewes carrying multiples!) 	<p><u>Mild cases:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -60mL PG orally, twice a day for 3 days - +/- 50mL IV dextrose once -mineral supplements -consider inducing labour if very thin or fat (4mL Dex-5 IM, plus 1mL Estrumate IM in goats) <p><u>Severe cases</u> (down, depressed, tremors): call vet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -work with a nutritionist to make a close up ration that meets your flock's energy needs -make sure there is enough feeding space for all pregnant sheep -ensure sheep are going into breeding and lambing with a good body condition score
Vaginal Prolapse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> intermittent or constant prolapse of the vagina 2-3 weeks prior to lambing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -poor quality forage -not enough space at feeder -too high body condition -multiple fetuses -very short tail dock -genetics 	<p><u>Mild/small/early prolapse:</u> farmer can replace themselves with ewe spoon or harness</p> <p><u>Severe:</u> seek vet help to place the vagina back in safely</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -cull animals that have vaginal prolapses and their offspring (genetic role)*** -do not overcrowd pens -monitor body condition score before breeding -work with a nutritionist
Mastitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -fevered, depressed, off feed -lame or down -udder firm, hot/cold, discolored -off-colored milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -bacteria enters the teat canal via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dirty pen • nursing lambs • contagious and can transfer via milking equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -get a milk sample for testing*** -treat sheep with Metacam ASAP and contact the vet -individual cases of mastitis are typically treated differently based on severity and the animal can take a turn for the worse quickly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -always check the udder of your down sheep*** -control stocking density (>2m² per ewe) -clean lambing pen -monitor for Orf -dairies: good milking hygiene
Dystocia (lambing difficulty)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -ewe does not produce a lamb within 1 hour of starting active labour (fetal membranes may or may not be visible) -lamb appears to be wedged in the birth canal -abnormal presentation of lamb (head back, leg back, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -most common cause is the lamb(s) not being in the right position or getting tangled with each other -other less common causes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cervix not dilating properly • fetus is too large for birth canal • uterine inertia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -many less complicated dystocias can be resolved by the farmer (use lots of lube and be gentle!) -if at all in doubt, call the vet! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unfortunately there aren't many things you can do to prevent dystocias. Choosing an appropriately sized ram for your ewes and having strict culling policies on difficult lambers can help reduce some problems, but dystocia is not an issue that can be totally avoided.
Abortions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition: Early expulsion of a dead fetus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -bacterial causes -viral causes -toxins -stress -genetic factors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *SEEK VETERINARY HELP* If experiencing increased number of abortions on farm, try to keep fetus and as much as placenta intact, clean and cold to send samples to lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *SEEK VETERINARY HELP* Many causes of abortion are zoonotic (affect humans too!) so always wear gloves and a mask when handling aborted fetuses and placenta! Pregnant folks should not handle aborted material.