



Welcome Mike!

We are pleased to welcome Mike Christian to head up the Westpoint Penrith Practice.

Mike has lived and worked in Cumbria for many years, and has a wealth of Cumbrian farming experience having been a partner at a practice in Wigton for several years. He led one of the Carlisle Defra teams during FMD 2001, and was involved in disputing within Defra for a better government response. After FMD and restocking he resigned from the partnership and spent time developing diagnostic tests for the cattle industry.



Mike

Mike then headed back in to farm animal practice doing locums and working in Longtown. He was recruited by Elanco Animal Health, to launch their innovative

Kexxtone bolus, as their Ruminant Technical Consultant. He has given webinars, seminars and farm walks for vets, students and farmers on a wide range of subjects including transition cow management, coccidiosis, mastitis and production medicine.

He helped write and lead the 2014 BCVA/Sheep Vet Society fluke roadshow and is one of the driving forces behind the Total Dairy Expo. This farmers' seminar takes place each spring in conjunction with the Dairy Expo at H&H.

When not working amongst the Cumbrian cattle and sheep, Mike likes to be out on the Cumbrian fells, walking or cycling.

We are looking forward to having Mike's practical experience and knowledge on farm in the north west as he leads the Penrith practice.

Amazing Deals Wormers and Parasite Control

We have some amazing deals on wormers and parasite control at the moment. You can order these products through your local Westpoint practice, or from Farmacy.

Visit www.farmacy.co.uk or call **01306 628215**.

Adrenacaine	100ML	£3.98
Autoworm Finisher	Each	£14.00
Autoworm First Grazer	Each	£15.50
Clík Pour On	5L	£158.00
Clíkzin Pour On	5L	£127.00
Closamectin Pour On	5L	£385.00
Crovect Pour On	0.8L	£29.90
Cydectin 10% L/A Inj Cattle	50ML	£109.99
Cydectin 10% L/A Inj Cattle	200ML	£352.00
Cydectin Sheep Drench	5L	£103.50
Dectomax Inj	500ML	£153.00
Dysect Pour On (Sheep)	5L	£54.20
Ectofly Pour On (Sheep)	2.5L	£39.00

Enovex Pour On	2.5L	£19.75
Eprinex Pour On Cattle	5L	£310.00
Electron Fly Tags	20 PK	£45.46
Flypor	4 x 3L	£294.00
Noromectin Inj	50ML	£11.16
Oramec Drench	5L	£41.90
Rumbul Cattle Bullets	10 PK	£30.00
Spot On	1L	£70.18
Spotinor	1L	£75.00
Spotinor	2.5L	£165.00
Vecoxan Oral Suspension	1L	£98.00
Vecoxan Oral Suspension	2.5L	£217.00
Vecoxan Oral Suspension	5L	£435.00

If you have any questions regarding any of these prices, or require help deciding which product to purchase, please contact your local Westpoint vet. Westpoint fully supports the correct and proper use of all farm medicines.

Coccidiosis in Cattle and Sheep

Coccidiosis is a protozoal parasite that invades the lining of the guts in many species after they ingest infective oocysts (eggs) and is of particular economic importance in cattle and sheep. It causes clinical signs such as passing blood, diarrhoea, fever, inappetence, weight loss/poor growth and in extreme cases, death. However many cases are subclinical and show as poor growth rates.

It is most common in young animals that are housed or confined in small areas that are contaminated. Older animals are a source of infection and oocysts can survive well in the environment, so a burden can easily build up. Coccidia are opportunistic pathogens which are most likely to cause clinical signs when an animal has a compromised immune system. This can be related to poor nutrition, hygiene, overcrowding, stress of weaning, movement, and sudden changes in feed or severe weather.

Coccidia are host-specific with certain types causing disease in each species, 3 out of 12 types generally cause disease in cattle and 2 out of 15 tend to cause disease

in sheep in the UK. There is no cross immunity between types of coccidia, but cattle and sheep do tend to develop immunity to the specific types if they are exposed to low levels.

Many calves and lambs will acquire infections of varying severity between the age of 1 month and 1 year. In lambs it is not common after 3 months of age to have obvious clinical signs, but poor growth rates associated with subclinical infection can occur. The infection rate for coccidiosis is high with commonly minimal clinical signs seen but in a group that are under stress and exposed to large amounts of coccidia up to 80% of animals may show obvious signs.

Clinical signs of straining with the passing of blood or tissue and dehydration are due to the invasion and destruction of the lining of the intestine. Oocysts are



shed in the faeces so can be identified in samples, high numbers are usually indicative of disease. However there can be a delay between diarrhoea and output of oocysts, so sometimes multiple samples need to be taken from a group to confirm a diagnosis. These samples can be analysed by the Biobest lab team. The type of coccidia should be identified as pathogenic, however careful interpretation of farm history, clinical signs and faecal analysis, along with if any post mortems are performed can lead to a diagnosis.

Coccidiostats such as diclazuril (Vecoxan) can be used for treatment of individuals showing clinical signs, along with supportive fluid therapy. It is also sensible to isolate affected animals, if possible to reduce exposure to others. Treatment is most effective when given soon after infection, hence it is important to consider treating at risk animals to reduce effects and to limit further shedding in to the environment. This can be discussed with your vet to decide when it is most suitable as there are in feed products available for use on larger scales (decoquinate), as well as oral products that are generally more suitable in the face of an outbreak and in animals that are too young to be eating solid food. Prevention is based on good management of young animals and their environment, to minimise exposure to coccidia so that immunity can build up but not cause problems. Ensuring young animals are well nourished and in clean and dry environments will make them less likely to succumb to coccidiosis or in fact many other infections. Weight loss and a long recovery process may

lead to lower weaning weights of calves and lambs, reducing profits along with higher costs associated with treating groups of animals. Therefore it is important to be in control of coccidiosis from a welfare and economic perspective.



For further information on Biobest and the tests available, please visit www.biobest.co.uk.



Westpoint Farm Vets

Westpoint - Penrith

Unit C, Skirsgill Business Park,
Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0FA
Tel: 01768 866166

Westpoint - Wigton

Hetherington House, Station Road,
Wigton, Cumbria, CA7 9BA
Tel: 01697 325888