

Health

At times health problems do arise and a vet is required.
A lamb that is refusing to feed is unwell.

Common diseases/conditions include:

Scours/Diarrhoea - this is the most common problem we see and can broadly be divided into nutritional vs. infectious. The vast majority are nutritional and are generally easily fixed. You need to consult a vet to get the best advice.

Navel and Joint Ill - bacteria can enter the bloodstream via a wet navel and commonly ends up creating a navel infection or a joint ill/infection. If the lamb looks lame and is slow moving or holding a limb up it may have joint ill. Both are treated with a course of antibiotics and it is important to address promptly.

Eyes - eyes should be clear and clean. If there is a discharge, squint or discolouring see your vet. Problems include entropion (eyelids turned into eye and lashes scratch the cornea), pink eye or conjunctivitis.

Abomasal Bloat - This has been the biggest cause of death amongst hand reared lambs, usually from about 3-4 weeks of age onwards. Lambs become acutely bloated about 1-2 hours after large amounts (>500mls) of milk replacer and is due to the sudden gorging and uneven intake. The signs of this are acute depression, a swollen tense abdomen, pain (colic) & death is rapid if lambs are not treated. This can be a life threatening condition and warrants immediate veterinary involvement. Prevention is best achieved by feeding little and often, using a whey based milk replacer or feeding yoghurtised milk replacer.

For the yoghurtising milk recipe to use with Anlamb milk powder go to our website:

[www.cambridgevets.co.nz/Farm Animals/Sheep](http://www.cambridgevets.co.nz/Farm%20Animals/Sheep)

Hygiene

Always clean around the lamb's mouth with a warm damp cloth after feeding to prevent milk scald. Ensure teats and bottles are washed after every feed with warm soapy water and remove any soiled bedding from its shelter.

Poisoning/Toxicity

Lambs are inquisitive feeders and if given the opportunity will consume toxic plants frequently found in home gardens. Toxic plants include: yew, rhododendron, rhubarb, lilies, daffodil bulbs, daphne, irises, foxglove, goats rue, oleander, azalea, lily-of-the valley, box hedging and acorns. This is not a complete list of toxic plants but merely includes the more common garden plants found in New Zealand. Ring us immediately if plant poisoning is suspected.

On the Day

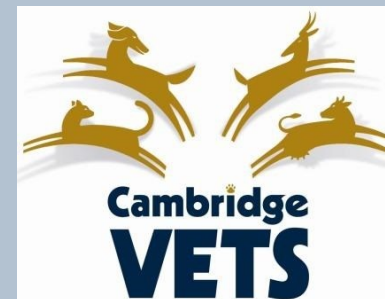
Lambs are assessed for leading, call and follow and rearing which consists of the child's knowledge, bond and the preparation and care of their lamb. Ensure your lamb is happy to wear a collar and lead prior to the day. The day before Ag Day use a warm damp cloth to wipe around their nose, eyes, ears, arm pits, groin and also around their bottom area. Do not wash your lamb as this will strip the natural lanolin from their coats. Use a soft brush to groom them but don't over do it, they should still have some 'crimp' to their wool. Make sure you feed them early on the day of the show and take a prepared bottle to be given after the call and follow section. Don't over walk or drag them around on the day as they are only babies and still need to rest.

We hope the experience of caring for a lamb is rewarding and one that your child will happily remember. This commitment will have helped them grow and develop empathy and an awareness of the time and care needed for a pet.

Cambridge Vets is located at 41 Empire St

www.cambridgevets.co.nz

(07) 827 7099 or 0800 226 838



Ag Day Lamb Rearing Guide





Introduction

Congratulations on your new addition!

Rearing and caring for an Ag day lamb can be incredibly rewarding and a joy for the entire family.

Please use the following information as a guide and if you need further assistance please call Cambridge Vets.

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Caring for your animals since 1944!



Feeding

Correct feeding technique and good hygiene are crucial to get good growth, avoid scours and limit other problems.

Bottle feeding has to be learned by the lamb. Place the teat in the lamb's mouth and move the jaw by hand to stimulate sucking. Successful lamb feeding is achieved with small volumes frequently. A lamb left and reared on mum would often feed 20x times a day taking much smaller volumes e.g. 50mls.

Not all milk replacers are created equal. We recommend and stock Anlamb. Feeding instructions are clearly written on the bag of milk powder but this is a **general guideline and any feeding regime should be altered depending on the size and development of your lamb.**

Cambridge Vets general recommendation is:

Day 2-7	6 x 150ml feeds
Day 8-14	5-6 x 200-250ml feeds
Day 15-21	4 x 350ml feeds
Day 21+	3 x 350-400ml feeds

Your lamb will not thrive with twice a day feeding regime and this can also result in Abomasal Bloat (see health section)

You can gradually decrease milk feeds as their grass intake increases. They should be weaned around 2-3 months of age if well grown (or gradually after AG-day). The weaning process should be gradual over several days not overnight!

Water

Water should be available to lambs at all times and must be clean and fresh.

Do not bottle feed water!

Grass/Hay/Pellets and Meal

These must be made available from one week of age to assist in the transition from a milk fed animal to a ruminant. It may take a bit of time for your lamb to get accustomed to the supplementary feeds but these are critical in backyard lambs where grass length is minimal.

Vaccination

A clostridial vaccination is important to protect lambs from tetanus and pulpy kidney (a bacterial disease causing death). It is a simple injection that can be purchased from any vet clinic for you to administer under the skin at home or given by a vet. A booster dose is advised 3-4 weeks later. If the ewe hasn't been vaccinated, the lamb may need an initial LambVax.

Docking

Docking involves a rubber ring being placed around the tail at the level of the vulva or below the bottom. The tail subsequently falls off. It is normally done between 7-21 days of age (earlier is better) to protect the animal in later life from flystrike. Rubber rings can also be used to castrate male lambs at the same time. Ask for help from a farmer or we can do this at the clinic. The lambs should be vaccinated before or at the time of rubber ringing.

Drenching

It is important to protect the lamb from worms. Drenches are given orally and the first is usually done at weaning and then every 4-6 weeks depending on the product.

Shelter/Housing

We recommend all newborn orphan lambs be fitted with a **Woolover** or lamb cover for the first 2 weeks of life. Housing should be draft free, provide protection from the elements and allow access to pasture. If using a collar + tether a swivel is essential to prevent strangulation. Any collar must not be too tight or cause rubbing.