



# JANUARY 2025 Newsletter

[www.penbodevets.co.uk/farm](http://www.penbodevets.co.uk/farm)



**Penbode**  
Farm Vets Since 1840



# Thank you

## Can you believe another year has flown by?

A huge thank you to all of our clients for all the hard work you do to put food on our table. It's certainly something we do not take for granted! And thank you for working with us in 2024 to ensure the health, welfare and productivity of your livestock.

New this year has been our partnership with Bristol Veterinary school, where we welcome final year students on their rotations and electives. Coupled with our "Farm vet Taster Day" for students aged 15 to 18, which we are sure to repeat in 2025, we are doing all we can to educate and inspire the next generation of farm vets.

It can be an extremely fulfilling and rewarding career with the right support when starting out, and it is great to see how our younger vets have blossomed, gaining confidence and experience over the year. They have all had a busy year, and an enjoyable one, as you will see over the following pages.

Feedback on how we do things is always welcome. Should you have any suggestions for us then please feel free to get in touch with one of us as Farm Clinical Directors; Sally, Tamsin, Andy or Lesley.

From all of us, and on behalf of the whole team, we wish you a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

With best wishes from

*Sally, Tamsin, Andy and Lesley*



# RECAP OF SOME OF THE COURSES WE RAN IN 2024

Thanks to everyone who attended our **Flock Health Club Meeting** on iceberg diseases. What a terrific turnout we had! Sarah Phillpot and Amy Smyth discussed Maedi Visna, Johnes Disease, Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma, Border Disease and Caseous Lymphadenitis - The clinical signs, diagnosis and control.

Kathy from Virbac outlined the use of Gudair vaccination to control ovine Johnes disease.

After all the mental exertion a hearty meal was provided by the White Hart



We enjoyed a wonderful evening during our **calf postmortem** and discussion this year. In smaller groups, we delved into topics such as housing, calf nutrition, and conducted a respiratory postmortem. A heartfelt thank you to HIPRA and Feedco Ltd for their support and for covering the catering expenses, as well as to the staff at The White Hart Hotel for the excellent food and service.







### **Youngstock Farm Walk and Discussion:** Rearing Calves from Birth to Weaning

During one of our farm walks, we concentrated on the rearing of calves from birth to weaning. We covered essential topics such as calf nutrition, health, and husbandry, and also examined calf housing. Attendees had the opportunity to measure various factors, including wind speed and stocking density.

It's always beneficial to come together with others, sharing insights and observing practices from different farms. These events allow participants to return to their own farms and reflect on their strengths as well as areas for improvement.

Special thanks to Cathy from Virbac for her support at this event, and for providing us with the delicious pasties from Hoof to Block Butchery. We also appreciated David from Excel Agri joining us and addressing inquiries about milk powder and feed. A heartfelt thank you goes out to David, Sarah, and the entire team at Newlands Farm for graciously hosting this event.



Our next farm walk was aimed at the **autumn block calvers** amongst you with a focus on dry cow management and youngstock. Held at Trillacott Farm by Kind Permission of Richard Sainsbury.

Thank you to Zoetis for kindly supporting the event and for providing us all with lunch.



# 31ST JULY 2024 OUR FARM VET TASTER DAY



We welcomed students to our **Farm Vet Taster Day**. It's difficult for us to accommodate young students for farm vet work experience due to rules and regulations, so in light of this we are delighted to be able to offer this free to attend farm vet taster day for those aged between 15 and 18. It included a mix of practical and theory sessions. It gave those interested in a career as a farm vet an insight into what it entails. We finished the day with a farm walk at a local dairy farm, by kind permission of Mr P Allin. We look forward to repeating this event in 2025





# NOVEMBER 19TH 2024 HOLSWORTHY MARKET RALLY

We were honored to stand alongside our local farming community in 2024, showing our support for **British Farming at the Holsworthy rally**. This event was organized for those unable to travel to London but who still wished to express their support, providing a platform for voices to be heard regarding the changes in agricultural inheritance tax. We had an incredible turnout, with over 400 attendees at Kivells Market.

A heartfelt thank you to Kivells Agriculture for collaborating with us to host the event. We appreciated everyone's support and the generous food bank donations, which were delivered to Holsworthy food bank.

Additionally, we **sponsored numerous events** at the market throughout 2024 and are present every Wednesday. We look forward to seeing you in 2025!





# WELCOME

## Lewis and Kai

This year we welcomed our two local new graduates Lewis and Kai to the farm vet team. Both of whom have seen practice with us during their studies.



### Lewis Wosnitzka BVetMed MRCVS

Lewis graduated in 2024 from the Royal Veterinary College. From the Cornwall-Devon border, Lewis decided to return to his roots where he is looking forward to treating everything from cows and sheep to alpacas and deer. Lewis is excited to continue playing rugby for a local team and explore more of the southwest in his Landrover.

### Kai Sainsbury BVSc MRCVS

Kai graduated from Liverpool in 2024 and decided to start his career in the south west having called Cornwall home for the last 4 years. He is looking forward to getting stuck into all aspects of farm vetting.





# 2024 SHOWS RECAP

What a fabulous day we all had at **Woolsery & District Agricultural Show** in 2024, it was a scorcher, but great to see so many people enjoying the show.

Well done to all of the event organisers for putting on such a wonderful show! And we were proud to be the official farm vets for the show.

It was fantastic to see so many of you pop in for a cream tea, Pimm's and a chat.



We also had a great day at **Okehampton show**. It was great to see so many clients and many of you still enjoyed a glass of Pimm's despite the rain!

Congratulations to our clients, the Rockett family on their Champion win and the Walters family for their Reserve Champion Ayrshire.





We had an amazing experience at the **Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural Show** in 2024, where we were honoured to be the official show vet for both farm animals and equine.

It was wonderful to connect with so many of you, and the cream teas and Pimm's were in high demand!

This marked a fantastic conclusion to our 2024 show season. Congratulations to all the organizers for putting together another incredible event!







It was truly a delight to support the **World Ayrshire Conference** in 2024, hosted by the Walters family. Our Stratton Farm Vets, Tom and Leah, thoroughly enjoyed meeting with everyone.



It was our pleasure to sponsor **Devon's Strongest Hands** 2024, who raised £280 for Children's Hospice Southwest.

Here is Edward, one of our Stratton Farm Vets, in action. He had a great day, winning the men's under 120kg class. Well done Edward!

We were delighted to welcome all our clients to the annual rugby event which we sponsored at **Bude Rugby Club** last January. It was nice to catch up and watch the game with you all.

We look forward to supporting the club again this year and welcoming you to join us on the **5th April 2025**.

Keep an eye out closer to the time for more information.





# STAFF NEWS

Time flies! Can you believe it's been well over a year with these three incredible women?

Congratulations to **Victoria, Matilda, and Leah** on completing your first year in practice. You have all been amazing, and we are incredibly proud to have you as part of Team Penbode!



In 2024 we celebrated **20 years of Juliet and Helen** at Penbode Vets. From all of us at Penbode, and on behalf of all the clients you've looked after over the last 20 years, a huge **THANK YOU!**







# Upcoming Courses 2025

## **Friday 17th January 2025 – MilkSure course:**

11:15am – 2:15pm, At the White Hart. £45pp ex VAT. Includes lunch.

## **Monday 20th January 2025 – Meds Course:**

10:00am - 12:00pm, Penbode Hut at Holsworthy Market  
£30pp ex VAT.

## **Thursday 30th January 2025 – Lambing Course:**

9:30am – 3:30pm, At the Holsworthy Practice - £85pp ex VAT  
includes lunch

## **Friday 31st January 2025 – Young Persons Lambing Course:**

5:30pm – 7:00pm, At the Holsworthy Practice - £25pp ex VAT  
includes luxury hot chocolate

The Young Persons Course focuses more on the practical aspects of lambing and lamb care and is open to all those aged 14-18 years old.

**Contact your nearest Penbode Farm Vets branch to book your space**