



CARING FOR YOUNG LAMBS



Caring for young lambs is a rewarding, but also very responsible, job. Our carers have years of experience behind them so we ask that you only follow our guidelines. Although you may be in a situation where you are offered advice by a farmer, we ask that you not take it as they are raising lambs for a very different life to that of the lambs who have reached our organisation. If you do follow our guidelines, under normal circumstances, your time with the lambs will be straightforward and fulfilling.

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

Essential Items

Milk replacer

We recommend Max Care. Each foster carer will be supplied with 4kgs of powder to get them started. We recommend that you source a supplier close to you as one lamb will use at least 1 ½ 16kgs bags until weaned.

Baby bottles

These can be purchased at discount chemists. We recommend a medium flow type. Fast flow can cause the lambs to inhale milk by drinking too fast. If the flow is too slow the lambs can get tired and frustrated and not drink enough.

Jug

Used for making the milk so must have measurements in mls.

Kitchen scales

These are used for measuring milk powder.

Whisk

It is very important that the milk powder is mixed in completely to the water.

Bathroom scales

Feeding rates are based on the weight of your lamb. It is therefore essential that you keep an accurate track of their weight.

Soft soap

This is used when washing a lamb's bottom if they are particularly dirty, otherwise warm water can work. We do not recommend washing the entire lamb unless they are particularly dirty.

Towels

Used when you wash lamb bottoms. Smaller hand towels are ideal.

Rectal thermometer

If your lamb becomes unwell, one of the first things you will be asked to do by our critical care team is to take your lamb's temperature as this will indicate any sign of infection and give us a better idea of what the problem may be.

[Antiseptic \(such as Betadine\)](#)

This may be used to clean items such as the thermometer if used. It is sometimes used in a diluted form should there be an issue with the area where the umbilical cord was attached to the lamb.

[Nappies](#)

Usually start with 4kgs and up. Girl lambs will need one nappy and boys two due to the different location of their anatomy.

[Electrolytes](#)

Vitrate or Lectade can be obtained from vets or farm shops or ordered online. These are essential to have on hand. If your lamb is unwell we may ask you to replace one or two feeds of milk with electrolytes.

[D'Scour](#)

This is another essential item to have and can be bought online. Scours (diarrhoea) can be caused by, for example, a change in milk powder. If your lamb has scours we will ask you to give them some D'Scour which usually solves the problem. The other alternative, Scourban, contains an antibiotic so is vet prescribed and can help if the scours is caused by an infection. Please see our information sheet for more details about Scours.

[Recommended items](#)

Protexin (probiotic to add to their milk)

Playpen – Lambs are very curious and like to get into everything. If you don't have an area in your house where they can roam free if they need to be left unsupervised at certain times a playpen is suitable.

Some sort of bedding – this can even just be blankets for them to lay on.

FOOD GUIDELINES

Days 1 and 2: 2 – 3 hourly feeds of no more than 80ml (this will vary according to the weight - you will be advised at the time of taking in your lamb)

Days 3 – 13: feed at 6am, 10am, 2pm, 6pm and 10pm (every four hours) and gradually increase each feed until you reach 50 ml per kg body weight based on the 4 feeds per day total then divided by 5 (the current number of feeds per day). See feeding chart for feeding amounts.

Week 3: feed at 6am, 12am, 6pm, 11pm – 4 feeds per day at as close to 6 hourly intervals as you can manage at 50 ml per kg to a maximum of 500ml per feed.

Add some grass hay from week 2 on.

Please see the accompanying feed chart for a more detailed explanation of feed amounts. If you are at all unsure about anything to do with feeding, or your lamb is having issues drinking milk, please get in touch with us and we will guide you.

IMPORTANT: Feeding lambs appropriate amounts for their age and weight is extremely important. Never over feed and do not feed on demand. Excess milk sits in the gut and can cause bloat (see below for details on bloat).



CARING FOR YOUR LAMBS

Hygiene

Hygiene is essential to prevent illness and bloat – always wash bottles in soft soap, such as Earth choice, then soak in boiling water for at least 10 minutes. Keep all utensils as clean as possible. It is not necessary to wash a lamb, the lanolin on their wool is important. If you need to wash a messy bottom use a gentle soap and ensure the area is dried quickly especially in the winter.

Umbilical cord

It is important to keep an eye on the umbilical cord as it is easy for germs to gain access to the body especially in new lambs. The cord should be kept clean and where possible not contained within the nappy. It is very important if you find a lamb that needs rescuing to apply a disinfectant such as Betadine to the cord area. It is also advisable not to have newborn lambs out in the sun for long periods as flies can be very attracted to a wet umbilical cord. When the cord is fully dry it can be trimmed and then diluted Betadine applied.

Immunisation

At around six weeks of age you will need to take your lambs to your vet where they will receive their first vaccination (called a 5 in 1) then a 2nd round at about 12 weeks of age.

Please DO NOT vaccinate before 6 weeks of age as it can be dangerous for the lamb. Lamb Care Australia will cover the costs of vaccinations for foster carers so it is important you notify us BEFORE the vet appointment.



Desexing

For males desexing occurs at around 6-7 week of age at a minimum of two weeks following vaccination. This will usually require a vet visit. Your lamb will need to be desexed by a vet who will provide a light sedation (general anaesthetic is often harmful to young lambs).

Using a band is not an acceptable method of desexing for lambs that come through Lamb Care Australia.

Tail Docking

Lambs in the care of Lamb Care Australia do not require tail docking. Tail docking is a farming practice only. It can be a help sometimes in reducing the incidence of flystrike however keeping your lambs clean and monitoring them closely is a far more acceptable prevention method. Please see our information sheet on flystrike for a more detailed description.



Some older lambs who come into care may have bands around their tails. Eventually the tail will drop off. It's advisable in this situation to keep a close eye on the wound and apply Betadine if it looks red or raw. Please contact us if you have any concerns about a band wound.

Weaning

We recommend the lamb be at least 10kgs before weaning commences but this may vary a little. Provide a water supply for them to drink as the milk is cut down.

IMPORTANT: Feeding lambs appropriate amounts for their age and weight is extremely important. Never over feed and do not feed on demand. Excess milk sits in the gut and can cause bloat (see below).

Schedule for weaning:

Week 1

- Remove bottle 4 but leave the other 3 at the same time – should save time
- Keep giving grass hay
- Add some chaff and lambs pellets at ratio $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$
- Keep grass hay and add a small amount of Lucerne if you want to (pellets and Lucerne are rich so only use a little)

Week 2 remove bottle 2

Week 3 remove bottle 3

Week 4 remove bottle 1

NB: They must be eating hard food and drinking water before removing too much milk

If your lamb makes too much noise about missing milk you can give them a bottle of electrolytes to help the transition.



Health

Always have a 24 hour emergency number on hand in case it is needed.

It is essential to always be aware of your lamb and their health. Signs that something might be wrong can show in various ways including:

1. not wanting to drink
2. being lethargic
3. laying down with outstretched legs in discomfort
4. distended belly
5. stretching excessively
6. grizzling
7. white gums
8. shaking
9. noisy breathing

These are all signs that should not be ignored. Please contact us if you are unsure and let us know as soon as possible if your lamb is showing any of the above signs.

Normal temperature should be 38.5-39.5. A temperature below 38.5 in an otherwise healthy lamb can be a sign of organ failure especially if it drops below 37.5. You can rub glucose or something sweet like maple syrup into the gums if your lamb has a low temperature. Keep a very close eye on how the lamb is behaving if a colder temperature is recorded. If the temperature is too high this normally signifies infection or inflammation. To bring a temperature down, cold towels can be put under the armpits and in the groin area for no longer than 10 minutes at a time.

A temperature over 40 degrees or under 37.5 requires veterinary attention so please contact us as soon as possible.

Bloat is something that can affect bottle fed lambs – it is when bacteria in the gut causes a build up of gasses. This can be fatal because if the gas continues to build it squashes all the internal organs and the lamb can die in terrible pain. Early signs can be those listed above.

A bloating lamb will have an obvious distended abdomen. They may not be interested in drinking at all, but offer electrolytes only. Following a serious case of bloat milk must **NOT** be offered for 24 hours but given electrolytes only. Massaging the tummy in the direction of the abdomen can help. If in doubt or if swelling is not reducing you will need to see your vet. Bloat is a medical emergency and should never be ignored. If you suspect your lamb has bloat please notify us as soon as possible.

For further information on bloat please see our Bloat information sheet.

HOME ENVIRONMENT

[Keeping your lambs warm](#)



Lambs need to be kept warm especially in the first weeks. A jumper should be used where there is not a lot of heating and when they go outside to play. Overheating is something to be avoided though so if a room is nice and warm, a jumper may not be needed. Lambs love to cuddle so will happily stay warm curled up on your lap or beside you on a winter's day just like they would if they were with their Mum.

Other animals in the home



The introduction of lambs with other pets in the home should be done slowly especially with dogs and cats who have never seen a lamb before. It can be a bit overwhelming for current animals to all of a sudden have to share both their space and your attention. It is advisable to always be present when the lamb/s are in the same area as dogs. A good way to ensure everyone is safe and happy is to use a crate for the lambs when they are resting or some people like to set up a playpen. The lambs are then still a part of the household but this gives the carer an opportunity to do other things without worrying if everyone is safe. One

of our carer's explains "our house often has lambs during the winter period. One of the dogs here is fine with them, the other prefers they keep a distance, but even with the dog that loves them, I will never leave them in the same room alone. It is just not worth taking that risk".

Lambs love to play with anyone who is around and headbutting is just something they do as part of that play, so it is worth keeping that in mind with other animals in the home.

Toxic poisoning

Poisoning can occur if lambs have access to toxic materials. The main signs of toxic poisoning are excessive salivation and unsteady feet, a lamb will usually sway and eventually fall down. This is an emergency and vet care must be sought immediately. Please note: These symptoms can also be as a result of snake bite.



Toxic plants

Please refer to our toxic plants list before you take your lambs outside. Adult sheep often know which plants can harm them so avoid, but young lambs will mouth everything. Some plants and weeds are highly toxic to lambs so it is vital you check your garden first. Indoor plants can also be toxic and should be moved away from lambs reach.

Toxic chicken seed and pellets

Chicken grain and pellets are also toxic to lambs so if you have ducks, chickens and geese please ensure the lambs never have access to their seed.



Conclusion

While you have our lambs in your care, please follow the instructions you have just read as closely as possible. If you are concerned at any stage do not hesitate to contact one of our carers on the number provided to you. We hope you enjoy your time with these precious and fun loving animals.

Photo credits: Annabelle Jamieson, Briannagh O'Loughlin, Emma Sullivan, Tamara Kenneally



BLOAT

Bloating in lambs occurs when gas forms and accumulates in part of the gut called the abomasal (stomach) and cannot be released. The buildup of gas causes the stomach to distend. Bloat is a medical emergency and MUST be dealt with quickly. There are two types of bloat: FROTHY and ABOMASAL.

ABOMASAL BLOAT

Affects bottle fed lambs usually up to around four weeks of age. While the mechanism of abomasal bloat is not completely understood, it is believed to be caused by a build-up of bacteria in the stomach. As the bacteria multiply, the sugars in the milk ferment with excess gas production. At the same time, the stomach becomes more acidic to the detriment of other bacteria. As the gas cannot escape, it bloats the abomasum (stomach). Left untreated a lamb will die.

SYMPTOMS

- Lethargy
- Swollen stomach
- Disinterest in food
- Stretching out body
- Unwillingness to sit or lay down
- Teeth grinding (pain response)
- Unsteady on legs

TREATMENT

At the first signs of bloat it is vital to act quickly. Do not wait for things to get worse and do not hesitate to call your vet for prompt advice.

- Mix $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water with $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of baking soda and syringe some (carefully) into the lamb's mouth. This will help neutralise the gas.
- Massage the lamb's stomach area as this helps the gas move. The lamb may belch or pass gas which is a good thing.
- Powdered ginger may help with mild cases of bloat. Mix two tablespoons of ginger in a small amount of warm water and administer with a syringe. Ginger has traditionally been used for the treatment of gastro-intestinal ailments. Pain medications may also be given to affected lambs.
- Do not give any food.
- The vet may need to insert a tube into the lambs stomach to help the gas escape or a needle may need to be inserted into the stomach.

PREVENTION

- Milk that has been overheated is a cause of bloating in lambs. Ensure the milk is never heated above tepid. When checked on your wrist before feeding it should feel just warm.
- Adding some yoghurt to the milk or probiotics may also help in bloat prevention
- Feed correct amounts. NEVER feed off milk packet directions as the amount each lamb needs and the frequency of feeding varies from lamb to lamb.
- Ensure hygiene is used with bottle preparation.
- Never change milk brands abruptly. If a milk powder needs to be changed it must be done gradually ($\frac{1}{4}$ new milk with $\frac{3}{4}$ current then gradually it is increased to $\frac{1}{2}$ new milk with $\frac{1}{2}$ current, $\frac{3}{4}$ new milk with $\frac{1}{4}$ old)
- Do not reheat milk. If there are leftovers from a bottle dispose of the remainder.

FROTHY BLOAT

Frothy bloat presents the same way as abomasal bloat but the cause is different. Usually it occurs when lambs have been put on pasture that is too rich. Lucerne is a common cause of bloating in young sheep so we do not advise feeding it to your lambs. Normal grass hay is recommended. With frothy bloat gas is unable to escape because a frothy substance stops it from being expelled. This is also a medical emergency so we recommend you contact your vet as soon as you notice symptoms.

SYMPTOMS

- Lethargy
- Swollen stomach
- Disinterest in food
- Stretching out body
- Unwillingness to sit or lay down
- Teeth grinding (pain response)
- Unsteady on legs

TREATMENT

- Contact vet
- Massage stomach area
- Withhold food

PREVENTION

- Do not offer lucerne or clover/alfalfa as it is too rich
- Do not allow overfeeding
- When first being introduced to fresh pasture monitor closely for signs of bloating
- Offer a high grade hay grass

SCOURS

Unlike adult sheep, lambs do not have formed faeces (little round balls) until they are several weeks old but this can vary from lamb to lamb. It is not uncommon for scours to occur in young lambs.

Scouring is another name for diarrhoea. It is very common for lambs to develop some form of scouring especially when they are introduced to a new milk. It could be from colostrum to powdered milk or from Mum's milk to powdered milk. At times it is unavoidable, but if treated properly it should not become a huge problem.

Scouring is not what makes the lamb sick, dehydration from scouring is, so it is very important to ensure scouring lambs have adequate water intake. Feeding water in between milk feeds is a good way to keep them hydrated. If the scouring is severe electrolytes can be added to the water.

Depending on the cause of scours D'scour may be sufficient to cure the problem. If the scours is caused, however, by an infection then a vet visit and vet prescribed ScourBan may be needed to get it under control.

FLYSTRIKE

Flystrike is when a blowfly lays eggs in the fleece of the sheep and the eggs hatch into the larvae that in turn become maggots. These maggots then eat into the skin and tissue of the sheep. Flystrike is most likely to happen underneath the tails of lambs and sheep so keeping a close eye on this area especially in the warmer weather is important. Also keep an eye out for small nicks, cuts or abrasions on your sheep as flies are very attracted to blood and can start laying eggs very quickly. Flystrike can happen anywhere on the body not only under the tails.

Time of year most prevalent

- Warmer weather – more blowflies
- Warm day following rain if the sheep have got wet and the fleece is moist
- Following shearing due to the possibility of cuts

Symptoms

- Lethargy
- Unusual behaviour
- Hanging of the head
- Walking displays physical discomfort
- Unusual smell
- Being off their food
- Small white maggots (can look like worms) may be visible. The larger the maggots the longer they have been there

Treatment

- Wipe away maggots with a warm wet cloth, can slightly wet or dampen the cloth in with some iodine and water
- Many maggots will fall out with the wiping but if not all are removed apply water pressure with a 20ml or 50ml syringe or even a hose as the maggots may have dug in too far for wiping to be effective
- Spray generously with Extinosad
- Check the rest of the sheep for maggots
- Treat sheep with antibiotics in case of infection and pain relief
- Check again 24 hours later
- If you see your sheep/lamb has a cut or abrasion spray with Extinosad after cleaning immediately
- Cut away any dirty wool from the bottom area, maggots can also live in the wool
- In severe cases a course of antibiotics may be needed



PLANTS POISONOUS TO LAMBS AND SHEEP

Some plant poisoning of stock can be sudden, common with green cestrum, but in many cases the animals will exhibit symptoms including:

- weight loss
- diarrhoea
- staggers
- photosensitisation (skin becomes very sensitive to sunburn or causes liver damage)
- irritation
- loss of production (wool contamination etc)
- congestive heart failure – oedema
- red water (bacterial disease which can result from high nitrate plants)

The following plants have been identified as harmful to lambs and sheep:

Alfalfa

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Agapanthus

An evergreen, perennial plant, growing in leafy clumps to 60 cms high, reproducing from rhizomes and seeds. Leaves contain an irritant sap, but livestock are not affected; the rhizomes, however, are very toxic.



Arrowgrass

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Avocado

All parts of the plant and fruit contain a cardiac glycoside that ruminants can't break down as they lack the enzyme to do so.



Azalea

This plant is poisonous in a fresh or dried condition causing rough hair coats, listless attitudes, and mucous discharge in ruminant animals like sheep, cattle, and goats. Elevated temperatures, swelling of the neck and difficult breathing may occur. Monogastrics, like swine, may show anorexia and incoordination.



Birdsfoot Trefoil

The whole plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Black Locust

Bark, leaves and seeds are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Bracken Fern

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Brassica

Rape, Cabbage, Turnips, Broccoli, Mustard – roots and seeds are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Capeweed

Can cause nitrate or nitrite poisoning in sheep and cattle but this is rare.



Cherry (Wild)

As far as plants go, wild cherry is probably the most common cause of livestock poisoning known. The most common exposure occurs when limbs are blown down or are trimmed and thrown into a fenced area. Only the wilted leaves are toxic as they produce cyanide. Wilted cherry tree leaves cause anxiety, staggering, falling down, convulsions, rolling of the eyes, tongue hanging out, loss of sensation, and dilated pupils. The animal then becomes quiet, bloats and dies within a few hours of ingestion.



Conifers

The general rule is that evergreens are not good news, but they're not all actively poisonous. The reason evergreens aren't good to eat is that the plants put unpleasant chemicals into their leaves on purpose, in order to avoid them being eaten (aimed at insects mainly) since they keep their leaves all year and so it would be a bigger problem for them to lose leaves.



Dock

The leaves are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Dogbane

The rhizome is harmful to lambs and sheep.



English Ivy

All species of livestock have exhibited toxicosis from English Ivy with symptoms including local irritation, excessive salivation, nausea, excitement, difficult breathing, severe diarrhea, thirst, and coma.



Darling Pea Plant

Darling Pea, from the Swainsona species, is a stout-stemmed, erect plant with purple pea-shaped flowers and long woolly pods. The Swainsona species contain a poison that is toxic to livestock. When grazed on for extended periods of time, the plant's toxins build in the animals' systems and affect their central nervous systems by attacking an enzyme involved in metabolism.



Drooping Leucothoe

The leaves and nectar are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Flax

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Foxglove

Contains toxic compound digitalis purpurea which has profound effects on the heart. All parts of the plant are toxic but leaves are the most toxic at start of flowering. Not commonly eaten by animals unless very hungry in the absence of other feed. Cattle and horses are most at risk. Clinical signs include gastrointestinal irritation and diarrhoea, anorexia, nausea, slow but strong pulse, contracted pupils.



Garden Iris

Grown as an ornamental plant, the iris contains an irritant in the leaves or root stalks which can produce gastroenteritis if ingested by livestock in sufficient amounts.



Green Cestrum

Green cestrum is a vigorous plant that can out- compete other vegetation. green cestrum is toxic to animals including cattle, sheep, horse, pigs, poultry and humans. green cestrum is normally found along watercourses and in non-crop areas where it usually grows in small to medium-sized thickets.



Halogeton

The leaves and stems are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Hellbore

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Horsebrush

The leaves are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Holly

Common holly, a favored ornamental in landscapes around the home, has berries that are poisonous and cause vomiting, diarrhea, and stupor in animals if ingested in large amounts.



Lambs Quarters

All of the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Lantana

Unripe green berries are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Locoweed

The flowers, leaves and stem are harmful to lambs and sheep



Manna Gum (*E. viminalis*)

New red growth contains cyanide.



Mallow

Sheep, especially lambs are more susceptible than cattle or horses to poisoning. Most cases occur in the July to October period with some as late as December when Mallow has made up a large part of their diet for days or weeks. Toxicity may be passed to lambs through milk.

May contain toxic quantities of nitrate.

Symptoms:

Symptoms usually appear after driving some distance and include staggers, sluggish movement, stiff action in the hind legs that are tucked under the body, back arched, head stretched forward, knuckling over of the front legs, sitting with the head turned into the body then lying on one side, trembling, rapid breathing and pulse. If forced to move again they often die, otherwise they rest and recover. Symptoms usually appear a day or two after eating Mallows.



Milkweed

The leaves, fruit and stem are harmful to sheep and lambs.



Morning Glory

Hogs, sheep, cattle and goats are especially susceptible to poisoning from overdoses of the hallucinogenic seeds produced by the morning glory.



Mountain Laurel

Native or wild Mountain Laurel, Rhododendron and Azalea are all considered poisonous and highly toxic to ruminants. Symptoms of poisoning include: anorexia, repeated swallowing, profuse salivation, watering of the mouth, eyes, and nose, loss of energy, slow pulse, low blood pressure, incoordination, dullness, and depression. Death is preceded by coma.



Nightshade

Leaves and immature fruits are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Oaks

Acorns and young shoots can cause severe poisoning especially if eaten in quantity. Cattle, sheep, horses, swine will display anorexia, constipation that develops into diarrhea, gastroenteritis, thirst, and excessive urination.



Oleander

Oleander, a common garden plant (a popular planting in primary schools around the 1960s and 1970s) is highly toxic to humans and livestock.



Pokeweed

All the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Prunus family

Cherry, peach, apricot etc – these contain prussic acid (cyanide).



Paterson's Curse

Paterson's Curse is a major pasture weed throughout southern Australia. It is also known as Patterson's Curse, Salvation Jane, Blueweed, Lady Campbell Weed or Riverina Bluebell. Paterson's Curse contains alkaloids that can cause chronic cumulative liver damage that can lead to deaths of animals, especially when substantial amounts are consumed over prolonged periods. Horses and pigs are highly susceptible to poisoning by Paterson's Curse, cattle moderately susceptible, and sheep and goats slightly susceptible.



Sweet Clover (yellow and white)

The stems are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Sweet Peas

The seeds are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Perennial Ryegrass

Perennial ryegrass toxicosis (or ryegrass staggers) can be a serious and widespread problem in livestock grazing perennial ryegrass dominant pastures during summer and autumn. Outbreaks of perennial ryegrass toxicity occur annually and are most common in southern Victoria and Tasmania.



Pimelea

Pimelea poisoning affects cattle, sheep and horses, however it is potentially fatal for cattle. It is most common in south-west Queensland, north-west New South Wales and northern South Australia. It is also known as St. George disease, Marree disease, 'big-head' and flaxweed poisoning.

Pimelea poisoning is caused by ingestion of toxic varieties of the plant pimelea (native rice-flower, flaxweed, poverty week) and in some cases inhalation of plant dust can also cause poisoning.



Poinsettia

Leaves, stems and sap are harmful to lambs and sheep.



Ragwort

It is poisonous to livestock. Eating ragwort can lead to liver damage which cannot be treated. Cattle and horses are particularly susceptible to poisoning by common ragwort but sheep are also susceptible. Palatability of the weed increases when plants are conserved in hay or silage or treated with herbicide.



Rhododendron

All parts of the plant including the nectar contain grayanotoxins. Most poisoning occurs in the winter months because the leaves are generally evergreen and are attractive to animals when other forages are scarce. Animals eating approximately 0.2 percent of their body weight of leaves are likely to develop signs of poisoning.

Animals poisoned by rhododendrons initially have clinical signs of digestive disturbances characterized by anorexia, excessive salivation, vomiting, colic, and frequent defecation.



Rhubarb

The flat leaf blade is the toxic part of the rhubarb plant that causes staggering, excessive salivation, convulsions, and death in most classes of livestock.



Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*)

Sugar Gum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*) and Red Box (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*) have been implicated in stock deaths due to cyanide poisoning. Sheep, cattle and goats have been affected. Symptoms: Sudden death after eating leaves of suckers or mature trees especially if wilted and between May and September.



St John's Wort

St John's wort is a serious perennial weed of pastures, catchments, forest and national parks in the high rainfall areas of southern Australia. Livestock grazing St John's Wort can develop photosensitisation (light sensitivity), leading to low productivity and sometimes death. St John's Wort causes vegetable faults in wool, excludes useful plants from pastures and reduces property values.



White Cedar (seeds)

Occasionally cattle, sheep, goats and dogs are poisoned after access to ripe berries.



White Snakeroot

All of the plant is harmful to lambs and sheep.



Yew

The genus *Taxus* consists of three commonly grown ornamental shrubs – English yew, Canada yew and Japanese yew – and hybrids. The needles and seeds of all yews are highly poisonous to horses, cattle, sheep and goats, although the red, fleshy seed covering is not. Yews, fresh and dried, are toxic year round.



VETS

LCA Recommended (** denotes vets with farm animal specialists)

Ballarat Pet and Farm** (NOT Peter)

28 Wiltshire Lane,
Delacombe VIC 3356
Phone: (03) 5336 0006
www.ballaratpetfarmvet.com.au

Main Ridge Veterinary Clinic** (NOT Jess or Jade)

334 Main Creek Road,
Main Ridge VIC 3928
(03) 5989 6232
www.mainridgevet.com.au/

Korumburra Veterinary Clinic**

7-11 Langham Drive,
Korumburra VIC 3950
(03) 5658 1004
www.kvetsvic.com.au

The Veterinary Surgery** (LCA account set up)

Yarrambat: 9436 1699
North Warrandyte Veterinary Clinic
274 Yarra Street, Warrandyte VIC 3113
(03) 9844 0781
<http://thevetsurgery.com.au/>

St Kilda Veterinary Clinic

St kilda: 9534 1741
www.stkildavet.com.au
Ask for Justin

Bacchus Marsh Veterinary Center- 24/7**

Bacchus Marsh: 03 5367 4000
www.bacchusmarshvet.com.au

Bannockburn Veterinary Clinic**

1759 Midland Highway
Bannockburn VIC 3331
(03) 5281 1221
www.bannockburnvet.com.au/

Maryborough Veterinary Clinic

49 Alma Street
Marysborough
5461 4466
www.maryvet.com

Golden Plains Vet – Bannockburn (LCA account set up) Customer ID 209598

2 Milton Street
Bannockburn VIC 3331
03 5281 2226

Golden Plains Equine Vet – Lethbridge (LCA account set up) Customer ID 209598

After Hours
179 Tall Tree Road
Lethbridge VIC 3332
03 5292 2151 (After hours)

Golden Plains Vet – Smythesdale (LCA account set up) Customer ID 209598

45 Brooke Street
Smythesdale VIC 3351
03 5318 5750

Romsey Veterinary Surgery

Dr Josh
80 Main Street
Romsey VIC 3434
03 5429 5711

Malvern Pet Emergency and Specialist Centre – Open 24 hours

1103 Dandenong Road
Malvern East VIC 3145
03 569 3677

Wandin Veterinary Clinic

367 Warburton Highway
Wandin North VIC 3139
03 5964 4500

Benalla Veterinary Clinic

16 Church Street
Benalla VIC 3672
03 5762 2788

Strathbogie Vet Clinic

53 Anderson Street
Euroa VIC 3666
03 5795 2811

Northern Suburbs Animal Emergency Centre

19 Plenty Road, Bundoora VIC 3083
03 9467 2255

Animal Emergency Centre

151/159 Princes Highway, Hallam VIC 3803
03 8795 7020

CARE Vet Specialists

5 Hood Street, Collingwood VIC 3066
03 9417 6417

Animal Emergency Centre

248 Wickham Road, Highett VIC 3190
03 9532 5261

Animal Accident & Emergency

72 Hargrave Avenue, Essendon Fields VIC 3040
03 9379 0700

Advanced Vetcare

26 Robertson Street, Kensington VIC 3031
03 9092 0400

Animal Emergency Centre

39 McMahons Road, Frankston VIC 3199
03 9770 5555

Pet Emergency & Specialist Centre

1103 Dandenong Road, Malvern East VIC 3145
03 9569 3677



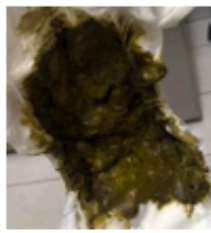



Animal Emergency Centre

37 Blackburn Road, Mount Waverley VIC 3149
03 9803 8122 250

24 Hour Emergency vet clinics - Please note your local vet may have an after hours service. It is worth calling them in case of emergency.

POO CHART

It may be something we would rather not look at, but the truth is poop can tell us a lot about the overall health of the lamb. In fact, when a lamb seems a bit off or not feeling 100 percent, one of the first things we look at is what is going on in their nappy. Poop can indicate if there is infection, dehydration, intestinal issues or milk allergies.

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|  | <p>Meconium</p> | <p>Meconium is the very first poo a newborn passes. It is very dark in colour. This first poop is very important because it shows a lamb's digestive system has begun working.</p> |
|  | <p>Scouring</p> | <p>Scouring (diarrhoea) is watery poo that can be serious if left untreated. Scouring is often caused when new milk is introduced so bottle lambs are prone to it in the beginning. It can also be a sign of infection. It is very important to keep your lamb hydrated during a scouring episode. Alternating feeds with electrolytes can assist with scouring. On occasion a medication called Scourban will be needed.</p> |
|  | <p>Dark and foul smelling</p> | <p>This type of poo is often caused by infection so needs to be followed up. There are many infections that cause this type of poo, but the main culprits are normally coccidiosis, E. coli and cryptosporidium. All require veterinary treatment.</p> |
|  | <p>Blood</p> | <p>Finding blood in your lamb's poo can be very worrying. At times a lamb might have a little bright red blood on their nappy especially if there has been straining. This can be treated by giving lamb, some additional water between feeds to ensure they are not constipated. Larger amounts of blood or dark red blood can be a sign of intestinal problems or infection. Veterinary support is required.</p> |
|  | <p>Mucous</p> | <p>Mucous like blood can indicate a number of issues. It is something to monitor closely. If it happens more than once a vet visit is advised. A faecal sample may be taken just to check there are no infections.</p> |
|  | <p>Constipation and Dehydration</p> | <p>Very dry poo is a sign that a lamb is dehydrated and possibly constipated. A young lamb poos frequently. If you notice there is lots of straining (calling out when trying to pass poo) it could mean some extra water is needed between feeds (small amount, 100mls). If constipation is ongoing paraffin oil may be required to get things moving again. Please contact Lamb Care Australia if you are worried about a constipated lamb and we can advise on correct dosage of oil.</p> |

FEED CHART

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|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------|
| Day 1 | 2 hourly feeds of 80 ml | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Day 2 | 3 hourly feeds of 100ml | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Days 3 - 14 | Feed times: 6am 10am 2pm 6pm 10pm | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weight in kgs | 4 | 4.5 | 5 | 5.5 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| Feeds | 5 x 160 | 5 x 180ml | 5 x 200ml | 5 x 220ml | 5 x 240ml | | | | | | | | |
| Week 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Weight in kgs | 4 | 4.5 | 5 | 5.5 | 6 | | | | | | | | |
| Feeds | 4 x 200ml | 4 x 225ml | 4 x 250ml | 4 x 275ml | 4 x 300ml | 4 x 325ml | 4 x 350ml | 4 x 375ml | 4 x 400ml | 4 x 425ml | 4 x 450ml | 4 x 475ml | 10 and above 4 x 500ml |