

Peri-parturient Recumbent Ewe Profile

This profile includes calcium, magnesium and betahydroxybutyrate (BHB) and is intended for the diagnosis of causes of recumbency or neurological signs due to metabolic disease in ewes in the period around lambing. The most common metabolic diseases in sheep are pregnancy toxæmia (twin lamb disease), hypocalcaemia and hypomagnesaemia. All can present as nervous signs and recumbency.

The testing is undertaken on serum (red top vacutainer) but it is also worth knowing that testing of eye fluids (aqueous or vitreous humour) can be carried out when presented with dead ewes where metabolic disease is suspected. In the live ewe samples should ideally be taken before treatment and where treatment has been given prior to sample collection it is helpful if information on what treatment and when is provided on the submission form.

The profile costs £12.50 per ewe. Veterinary interpretation will be included on all reports with further advice available by telephone.

Please contact us for any additional advice on problems in the peri-parturient period as there are other causes of recumbency in ewes and other testing may be indicated. Advice can also be provided on selection and collection of samples from postmortem examination of sheep to allow cost effective laboratory investigation.



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