

From the
Premier Breeder
of British Registered
Soay Sheep



SOUTHERN OREGON SOAY SHEEP FARMS

Viewpoint

THIS MONTH'S FEATURE

Barn Pharmacy 101

by Kathie Miller

You can only imagine the looks I got from the customs agent upon my return from my last trip to the United Kingdom.

When he searched my suitcase, he found flower seeds (which he confiscated), plastic buckets, baby sheep ear tags, powdered sheep colostrum and “stuff” for my barn first aid kit: certainly not your typical European souvenirs. If I could have figured out a way to bring home a *Denis Brincombe Tubby* mineral lick I would have, but at 31 pounds it was more than I could fit in my luggage.

In spite of my British “treasures”, I buy most of my supplies here at home and in these tough times I have found that shopping on the Internet is a convenient and economical way to annually restock my medicine chest. You can also find things in catalogs that you will find nowhere else and some of these suppliers will ship for free. Some may ship overseas. I have turned to www.jefferslivestock.com



Hebe and her cast.

for most things because they have a huge selection, provide excellent service and seem to be the least expensive. However, I have also been very pleased with my experiences with www.pipestonevet.com, www.valleyvet.com and 1-800-Pet Meds.

A well-stocked barn “pharmacy” can be the difference between a positive outcome and a tragedy. Problems always seem to arise at the most inconvenient times and over the years I have fielded many distress calls on nights and Sundays

from fellow keepers who have had the same experience. While you may not have any idea why you have mineral oil, A + D diaper rash ointment or Pepto-Bismol among your supplies, you will be glad you did when you are advised by your after hours mentor to use them.

If you call the vet, the first thing you will usually be asked is “Does the animal have a temperature?” For that reason, the first thing I put in my supply kit was a digital thermometer. Since that purchase I have continually added to my doctor’s bag as situations arose and I learned of new things. Because of differing regulations between the US and the UK, not all of these will be available in both countries. Use the list below as a starting point. Every time someone makes a suggestion, add that to your supplies. Most of these can be purchased over the Internet, but some you will find at your local feed store, vet, or even at garage (car boot) sales. 🐏

The Medicine Chest

by Kathie Miller

- Digital thermometer
- “Betadine” solution, antiseptic
- Penicillin G (long acting), only needs to be administered every 24 hours
- “LA 200” Liquamycin which is especially good for upper respiratory problems, coughing, runny nose
- Terramycin eye ointment for crusty eyes which occasionally occur in young lambs
- Vitamin A & D (injectable) for newborns
- Vitamin B complex because the vet told me I should have it. I use it along with penicillin as a first line of defense when I have no idea what is wrong.
- Covexin 8 or CDT (Clostridium Perfringens Types C & D Tetanus Toxoid) for vaccinations. NOTE: Because both of these need to be kept refrigerated I do not order them by catalog.



Maya's hospital room

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RESOURCE GUIDE

Jeffers Livestock
www.jefferslivestock.com

Pipestone Vet supply
www.pipevet.com

Valley Vet Supply
www.valleyvet.com

1-800-Pet Meds

Sheepman Supply
www.sheepman.com

Livestock Concepts
www.livestockconcepts.com

Wiggins and Associates
www.wigginsinc.com

Cutler's Pheasant Supply
www.cutlersupply.com
hog wire pliers and hog wire clips under Cage/Coop/
Pen Making

FarmTek
www.farmtek.com

Everything from green houses (animal shelters) to plumbing and electrical to chicken feeders

Denis Brinicombe Tubbys – free access minerals (UK)
www.brinicombe.co.uk

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All advice in this newsletter has been used successfully on our farm. It is important to remember that every animal and situation is different. Before you try any of our suggestions, we urge you to consult your veterinarian.

Medicine Chest *continued from page 1*

- 1 ml syringes without needles for lambs
- 20 gauge 1/2" long needles (for 1 ml syringes)
- “Luer Lock” 3 ml syringe with 20 ga. 3/4” needle for adults. I buy needles and syringes in boxes of 100
- “Probios Paste” (tube) for rumen problems—buy the large tube as it is more economical and can be transferred to:
- 10 or 12 ml syringes which are a better size for sheep. Buy a few at the feed store or add them to a big catalog order
- Electrolytes (rehydration fluid) such as “Biolyte”
- Worming medicine (recommended by your veterinarian)
- A styptic powder to stop bleeding. When horns break they can bleed profusely
- “Shear Magic” hoof trimmer
- Small scissors
- Tincture of Iodine 7 %, for treatment of newborn’s umbilical cord and occasional cuts and abrasions
- “Deliver” granule/powder added to milk replacer to help with scours in bottle-fed lambs
- “Pritchard Teats” (nipples for lambs) and a 500ml plastic soda or water bottle
- All-weather “Paintstik” livestock crayon for marking animals that you have already worked.
- Ewe and goat colostrum, preferably collected fresh then frozen, or a powdered form such as “NurseMate” available from Pipestone Vet Supply.



Exel's Intensive Care Unit

The following I usually get from my local feed store, vet, or other places:

- Large 35 cc to 60-cc catheter syringe for administering (thick) liquids orally (drenches)
- Clean towels—buy a bundle of cheap towels at Costco or an automotive supply
- “BoSe”, which I get from my vet. It is available over the Internet with a prescription. I use this because Oregon is so low in selenium. Check with your vet or extension agent to see if selenium deficiency is a problem in your area
- Large #400 plastic dog crate for transporting an adult ewe, smaller rams or 2 lambs. You can often find these at garage sales
- “Fiskars” soft touch shears for shearing & trims
- Empty pill vial for iodine
- Mineral oil for constipated newborn lambs
- “Pepto-Bismol” for digestive discomfort
- “A +D” diaper rash ointment for rashes (dogs)
- Lamb milk replacer
- An “ICU” pen under cover. Shaul’s lightweight panels or, in the UK, hurdles, are ideal for this but you can make your own out of cattle panel. Make certain that at least one wall is wire and not solid, so the patient isn’t isolated in a box but can see and smell flock mates which will reduce stress. 🐏

Christine Williams
www.gaerllwyd.co.uk
contributed to this article.

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TIP OF THE MONTH

3/4 inch hog wire clips are extremely useful around my farm. I use them for clipping landscape cloth to wire fencing or “sewing” chicken wire to cattle panels, even hanging a bell on the dog’s collar.