

Preparing for lambing:

Lambing Kit:

- Arm length gloves
- Lube
- Lambing ropes
- Clean bucket
- Iodine
- Thermometer
- Colostrum supply or substitute
- Warming box/heat lamp
- Stomach tube
- Calcium, glucose and antibiotics (needles and syringes)



What to expect/Normal lambing events

- Firstly the ewe may isolate herself and been seen to be nesting, pawing the ground, and restless often frequently getting up and down.
- As lambing progresses the ewe will lie down and strain then a water bag will be seen which will then burst.
- If the presentation is normal then the lamb's head and feet should be seen at the vulva



Most ewes will lamb themselves and it is best for them to be as undisturbed as possible during this time.

Managing newborn lambs

- Colostrum intake is essential as soon after birth as possible: The recommended amount is 250ml/kg within 24 hours of birth with every lamb receiving some colostrum within 15 minutes of birth. Ewes' udders should be checked and lambs assessed for fullness to ensure colostrum intake.
- Navels any lambs born indoors and ideally outdoors should have their navels treated with iodine at birth.

When to intervene:

- Waterbag present for over an hour
- Prolonged discomfort and unproductive straining (>1 hour)
- Over 30 mins after birth of last lamb and scanned for more.

What to do:

- Restrain the ewe gently on her side
- Use a clean gloved hand with lube to examine the vagina
- Feel if the cervix is open/any foetal fluids in the vagina. If the water bag can be felt do not burst and leave ewe for 30mins
- If the lamb can be felt check the presentation

If you are in any doubt or not making any progress within a short space of time contact your vet

What to do with a hypothermic lamb?

Temperature:	What to do:
39-40°C	Normal – No action needed
37-39°C	Moderately hypothermic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry • Feed Colostrum • Return to ewe
<37°C	Severely hypothermic <5 hours old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry • Warm to >37°C • Feed colostrum 50ml/kg • Warm to 39°C • Return to ewe >5 hours old <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inject intraperitoneal glucose • Dry • Warm to >37°C • Feed colostrum • Warm to 39 °C • Return to ewe