

Post Mortem Worksheet



Details:

circle appropriate answers

Estimated age of lamb _____ hours or days

Sex Female Male

Breed _____

Any intervention at birth?	Assisted	Very minor help	No help
Any treatments given?	Stomach tube	Glucose injection	Warming box
	Antibiotics	Castration	Tailed

1) Weigh the lamb

_____ Kg

If lambs weigh less than 3kg it suggests undernutrition and lack of body reserves.

If lambs weigh greater than 6kg have increased risk of lambing problems.

2) Examine coat

Has the lamb been licked?

Yes No

3) Examine feet

Has the lamb walked?

Yes No

4) Examine navel

Is it dry?

Yes No

Been treated with iodine?

Yes No

Any signs of bleeding?

Yes No

Any enlargement?

Yes No

5) Examine head

Any swelling?

Yes No

Any fluid?

Yes No

6) Examine body

Any swelling?

Yes No

Any damage?

Yes No

Meconium staining present?

Yes No

Meconium staining is when the coat is yellow, and indicates stress during birth

7) Place the lamb on its back and open up from groin to throat with knife, cut open ribcage to expose the contents of the chest

8) Examine the fat deposits near the kidneys and heart

Still present?

Yes No

Brown fat around the kidneys and heart is used up within hours of birth

9) Look for blood clots in the chest or abdomen

Any present?

Yes No

Blot clots in the abdomen suggest birth difficulties. Umbilical vein

10) Examine the stomach and intestines for milk

Any present?

Yes No

No milk in the stomach or intestines suggests the lamb did not suck

11) Place lungs into bucket of water

Do they sink?

Yes No

Uninflated lungs sink, which means the lamb never breathed

12) Look at the thyroid glands

Any signs of enlargement?

Yes No

Iodine deficiency will cause the thyroid glands to increase in size

13) Notes, eg other abnormalities, comments on coat and wool, joints, palate _____