GENERAL INFORMATION

With the increase in the number of people moving out of towns and cities for a life in the country, complaints of noise from livestock are on the increase.

It’s a popular misconception that the countryside is peaceful and quiet. In some ways it can be noisier than towns. If you’ve moved to the country be tolerant of country noises; they are part of its charm.

URBAN LIVESTOCK

During the lambing season (early March) Wrexham County Borough Council receives occasional complaints regarding noise from lamb bleating. The noise is generally from orphans (cade) lambs, adopted by surrogate human mothers and fathers and taken from the countryside into urban gardens.

Wrexham County Borough Council would advise against the keeping livestock animals (such as sheep and cows) in urban, i.e. built up, areas of the County Borough.

If you wish to house any livestock animals on your property/land then you are strongly advised to contact Wrexham Country Borough Council’s Animal Licensing Service (01978 292045) for further advice before doing so.

HOW TO CARE FOR AN ORPHAN LAMB

Once lambing season begins farmers are occasionally left with orphan lambs, or if triplets are born then some may also need hand-rearing. Firstly orphans / hand-reared lambs will need to receive colostrum ideally from their dam (mother) or if this is not possible a manufacturer’s substitute can be used.

Hand-rearing takes a lot of time and hard work, but can be very rewarding. You will require either a large sterilized bottle with a rubber teat, or for multiple lambs you can use a sterile bucket with teats around it to make a multi-feeding station if you do not want multiple bottles.

Lambs will require a milk formula which is made from a milk substitute; cows milk is not acceptable. For the first four or five days the lambs will need feeding every 4 hours, after this period that can increase to 6-8 hours until weaning. The initial amount of milk can gradually be increased from 1 pint up to 3 pints at weaning. After the first week a small amount of concentrate feed such as Lamb Starter Grower can be introduced gradually alongside the milk. At around 6 weeks of age the lambs can be gradually weaned off the milk substitute and onto the Lamb Starter Grower which can be fed to appetite as the milk is diminished and withdrawn from the diet.
Throughout this whole process lambs should be housed in a clean warm environment with access to fresh clean water at all times, care should be taken with the depth of water to make sure they do not drown. Hand-reared lambs can either be turned out to graze or kept in with hay and concentrate.

Key things to remember about hand-rearing are that routine is very important and once started should be stuck to. The other key point is hygiene; for the survival of your lamb good hygiene standards in pens and when storing milk substitute and using feeders is essential.

If you live in an urban area of Wrexham you are advised not to care for orphan lambs.

**Who should avoid contact with sheep?**

Government advice states that pregnant women should avoid close contact with sheep during the lambing season.

The Department of Health, Defra and the Health and Safety Executive have advised that pregnant women who come into close contact with sheep during lambing may risk their own health, and that of their unborn child, from infections that can occur in some ewes.

Although these infections are uncommon, and the number of human pregnancies affected by contact with sheep is extremely small, it is important that pregnant women are aware of the potential risks and take appropriate precautions.

To avoid the possible risk of infection, pregnant women are advised that they should:
- not help to lamb or milk ewes;
- avoid contact with aborted or new-born lambs or with the afterbirth, birthing fluids or materials (e.g. bedding) contaminated by such birth products;
- avoid handling (including washing) clothing, boots or any materials that may have come into contact with ewes, lambs or afterbirth;
- ensure partners attending lambing ewes take appropriate health and hygiene precautions, including the wearing of personal protective equipment and adequate washing to remove any potential contamination.

Pregnant women should seek medical advice if they experience fever or influenza-like symptoms, or if concerned that they could have acquired infection from a farm environment.

Farmers have a responsibility to minimise the risks to pregnant women, including members of their family, the public and professional staff visiting farms.
Wrexham Country Borough Council's Animal Licensing Service is responsible for issuing licences and enforcement pursuant to livestock. For further advice on any of the following issues please contact them through our call centre on 01978 298989 or directly on 01978 292045:

- Sheep Movements
- Goat Movements
- Boarding Establishments (for Pets)
- Breeding Establishments (Dogs)
- Dangerous Wild Animals Licences
- Licensing of Riding Establishments
- Game Dealers Licences
- Pig Movement Licences
- Horse Drawn Omnibus
- Pet Shop Licences
- Bluetongue Protection Zones

**FURTHER ADVICE**

To obtain further advice on noise nuisance issues please contact the Housing and Public Protection Department:

Telephone: 01978 298989
Email: contact-us@wrexham.gov.uk