

SAHS – Moredun Visit to Shetland



The SAHS would like to thank the Moredun crew for a jam packed week with activity for many different groups during their visit to Shetland. Drs Stew Burgess, Dave Bartley, Craig Watkins and Beth Wells visited Shetland from the 26th to the 30th of August and travelled all over Shetland. They visited all the Junior High Schools and had community engagement sessions in each local area. They also held a meeting for pony and horse owners, vet CPD and visited the Marts. We have come away with a wide range of ideas of how we can better support the farmers and crofters and pony owners in Shetland

We saw very good levels of engagement in the schools. Many of the children came from farming or crofting backgrounds and had a good baseline interest. The interactive sessions used the case of a farmer having trouble with his sheep to show the pupils the real practical science involved in animal disease diagnosis. Pupils successfully navigated running both ELISA and DNA testing and microscopic tests to determine the outcome for the flock. The random nature of the results made each session interesting as the pupils learned about reporting their specific results by bringing their tests together and learned of the implications for the farmer. Overall we think the school sessions were brilliant and are glad the children have had the opportunity to try out some practical science with the Moredun team.



Farmer and Crofter hours in the local areas were attended at all locations and samples were tested on the Biobus. Discussions while preparing the egg counts helped show how easy it is to do a faecal egg count and everyone who attended seemed to get something different out of the community engagement sessions. While visiting the Marts the team were filmed in between chatting to the farmers and crofters there for the sale we hope they look forward to seeing themselves on video in the near future. The Whalsay community drop in session was particularly memorable as the Biobus received a visit from the Whalsay Primary School children during their lunch time.

There was very good engagement with the horse and pony event discussing internal parasites and equine grass sickness. Shetland has previously had very low engagement with the grass sickness project run by Moredun. After this event the SAHS has been workshopping ways to support Shetland horse and pony keepers to participate in the EGS project. We hope to see Beth again soon.

There was a practical egg counting CPD session for Vets and Vet Nurses. This is important so that farmers and crofters are able to know when to worm their sheep. The session was friendly and informal and hopefully everyone got some benefit from attending the session.

We would like to thank the Moredun team for coming to Shetland and for bringing so much positivity and good ideas with them. We hope we haven't scared them away with the busy schedule for their visit.

