

## INFORMATION SHEET – 24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES



### Presentation

**24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses are moulded metal cylinders of a magnesium/aluminium/copper alloy (86, 12 and 2% respectively) weighted with iron shot. Boluses intended for adult sheep or ruminating calves (1.9 cms dia x 4.6 cms length) each contain 15g magnesium. After swallowing they lie in the reticulum or at the base of the rumen and break down, releasing magnesium continuously by electrolytic action (which prevents the formation of insoluble deposits), throughout their active life. The iron shot is eliminated in the faeces of the animal as small discrete particles.

### Uses

**24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** are designed to reduce the risk of tetany (hypomagnesaemia) in sheep (of at least 30 kg bodyweight) during the high-risk period associated with the grazing of rapidly growing spring grass. They may also be used for ruminating calves where the diet is predominantly milk.

### Administration

**SHEEP:** ONE **24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** bolus should be given to each animal two days before the expected period of risk e.g. after lambing or transfer to new grazing. If necessary, dosage should be repeated after three weeks.

Only to be given to sheep of at least 30 kg liveweight. Always use the recommended Agrimin applicator.

**CALVES:** TWO **24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses should be given to each animal. One treatment should prevent a serious reduction in blood magnesium concentration for at least three weeks, thereafter, dosage should be repeated if the calf is still receiving a predominantly milk diet. Only to be given to ruminating calves over 100 kg liveweight. Always use the recommended Agrimin applicator.

### Contra-indications, Warnings etc

**24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses are particularly recommended for sheep when grazing rapidly growing grass in the spring when there is a well-defined period of high risk. It is difficult to establish experimentally their effect at other times of year when clinical tetany may occur unexpectedly. Consumption of more than small amounts of other feeds (e.g. hay, silage, concentrates) may, by altering the pattern of rumen fermentation, change the rate of release of magnesium from the boluses. **24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses may occasionally be regurgitated. This may happen very shortly after being administered if they have not been completely swallowed. The bolus may more readily reach the reticulum or base of the rumen if it is not given immediately after hay or silage has been given. Animals should be observed carefully for a few minutes after administration. Towards the end of their useful life (when the boluses become both shorter and of greatly reduced diameter) there is a small chance that regurgitation may occur. If it is noticed that an individual animal has regurgitated a bolus, treatment should be repeated.

**24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses do not necessarily restore blood magnesium concentration to accepted normal levels. In the vast majority of situations good control of hypomagnesaemic tetany is obtained. However, because of the varying complexity of factors involved in the condition as it occurs in different situations there may be a very small proportion of animals which do not respond to the treatment. **24·7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses cannot be expected to correct chronic hypomagnesaemia which may follow a long period of under-nutrition. In areas where there is no known copper shortfall, no additional supplement of copper should be given to animals which have been administered 24·7 MAGNESIUM boluses, for the active life of the boluses.

MEAT AND MILK WITHHOLDING PERIOD – NIL

### Pharmaceutical Precautions

Do not administer to sheep weighing less than 30 kg liveweight and ruminating calves weighing less than 100 kg liveweight.

Keep in original sealed packs.

Opened packs which are not completely used should be resealed (e.g. with adhesive tape).

**24.7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses have a shelf life of 10 years – for expiry date see end of each printed carton.

Keep out of reach of children.

Store in a dry place.

### Package Quantities

**24.7 MAGNESIUM SHEEP/CALVES** boluses are packed in units of 20 (enough for 20 sheep or 10 calves).