



## **POSITION STATEMENT ON SUPPLEMENTARY ANALGESIA DURING THE GOAT KID DISBUDDING PROCEDURE.**

In the UK – when it is considered necessary to disbud a goat kid, the procedure must be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon following a ruling by RCVS in 2012:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/news/position-on-the-disbudding-of-goats-clarified/>

In 2017, BVA and BCVA developed a joint position statement on the use of analgesia as a supplement to anaesthesia when disbudding and castrating calves:

[https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News\\_campaigns\\_and\\_policies/Policies/Ethics\\_and\\_welfare/Analgesia%20in%20calves%20BVA%20branded.pdf](https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News_campaigns_and_policies/Policies/Ethics_and_welfare/Analgesia%20in%20calves%20BVA%20branded.pdf)

As many goat kids will be disbudded by our veterinary surgeon members who will also be disbudding calves, it seemed opportune for the GVS to gauge whether they were also using supplementary analgesia when carrying out the procedure in goat kids. A questionnaire was prepared which asked members what products were being used, at what dose rates, and whether any benefits or adverse reactions were identified.

Thirteen questionnaires were returned by veterinary members who between them disbud approximately 2065 kids annually (range 10 – 1000). All without exception were already using supplementary analgesia, mainly “large animal” Meloxicam 20mg/ml, and to a lesser extent “small animal” Meloxicam 5mg/ml.

No recognisable adverse reactions were reported. Anecdotally, some individual veterinary surgeons felt that there was a visible benefit, others felt that it was “the right thing to do.”

There are currently NO analgesics with a marketing authorisation for use in goats in the UK and therefore the principles of the Cascade under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (2013) are applied when considering their use.

While this should not deter their use, veterinary surgeons should ensure owners/keepers are advised of both the risks and benefits as part of the process of obtaining informed consent for the entire procedure.

**Although this Society is unable to endorse the use of any specific product, it can state based on a small survey, that supplementary analgesia using currently available pharmacological agents (and specifically “Meloxicam”) at data sheet recommendations should be considered alongside the joint BVA / BCVA position statement above.**

**February 2018.**

**FURTHER GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Visit the Goat Veterinary Society website:

<http://www.goatvetsoc.co.uk/>