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**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From all of us here at Damory Vets

Farm meetings in the New Year:

January 2016 – date TBC (will be towards the end of the month) Longthorns Farm
SHEEP – Ewe Nutrition - guest speaker Kate Phillips & Ewe Health – Alice Wilkinson

Wednesday 3rd February – TBC

COWS – Lameness and Mobility scoring with guest speaker Dr Nick Bell

Wednesday 2nd March – Longthorns Farm (near monkey world)

COWS – Selective dry cow therapy

Wednesday 6th April – Langton Arms

GAMEBIRDS – Aspects on controlling disease: From rearing to releasing.

Antibiotic Usage



Why is there growing concern over antibiotic use?

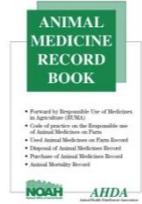
- There is growing concern within the industry and amongst Veterinarians that bacteria are developing resistance to antibiotics.
- This means there is a possibility that bacterial infections will be harder to treat.
- If it becomes harder to successfully treat infections in animals this will have a negative impact on animal health and welfare, as well as productivity and increased treatment costs.
- There is potential that resistance will be transferred from animal to human infections and there will be limited antibiotics available to treat critical infectious diseases.

What can we do to avoid this problem?

- Use antibiotics responsibly
 - Only treat animals that are infected.
 - Avoid prophylactic antibiotic use.
 - Use the correct product for the condition – CONSULT VET for advice.
 - Use the correct amount in accordance with the data sheet - dose rate
 - **Dose accurately to the weight of the individual.**
 - Weigh animals before treatment.
 - If you have no weigh scales use a **weigh band** to get a close estimate – we have these in stock to purchase.
 - **Avoid guessing weights!!!** Test yourself on farm - it can be deceptive & surprising how much animals may or may not weigh!
 - **Apply the correct course length.** Only administer Long Acting drugs once. All short acting drugs must be given for the number of days stipulated on the data sheet.
 - Finish the course even if the animal appears better.
- Avoid use of the following protected antimicrobials, and where possible use other alternatives for first line treatments.
 - 3rd and 4th generation **Cephalosporins**, includes; Naxcel, Excenel and Cobactan
 - **Fluoroquinolones**, includes; Baytril, Marbocyl and Forcyl
 - **Long-acting macrolides**, includes; Draxxin, Zactran and Micotil
- Treat with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) drugs.
 - Includes; Allevinix, Finadyne, Ketofen and Metacam.
 - At the first indication of a high temperature give an NSAID – in some viral cases this will negate the need for antibiotics.
 - **'Fever tags'** – are a brilliant early indicator tool for monitoring temperatures.
 - NSAIDs can be used alongside antibiotics to reduce the animal's temperature and help make it more comfortable by decreasing pain, as well as increasing the rate of tissue repair by reducing swelling.



- Always record Antibiotics Used
 - As always we recommend everyone is careful to record all their antibiotics administered in their medicine record book. This includes mastitis tubes and eye ointments for example, as well as injectables, tablets and footbaths.
 - If you need a new **medicine record book** for 2016 please give us a call.



Many milk buyers are requesting presentation of detailed antibiotic usage on farms. We endeavour to continue to work alongside all our farm clients to ensure we are supporting them with advice on which antibiotics to use in certain circumstances as well as providing any data your milk buyers or auditors may request.

If you have any concerns or questions regarding the use of antibiotics, please contact us at the practice or we can discuss this at your next vet visit.

DECEMBER PARASITE FORECAST/UPDATE

The recent balmy temperatures have been the highest in records. The constant low pressure systems from the South West have brought with them plenty of rain, the warm wet weather and lack of any frost has kept pasture worm burdens high through to November and possible even December.

SHEEP

- > Shepherds should keep vigilant of potential outbreaks of *Trichostrongylosis* (Intestinal worm) in store and replacement lambs during this mild wet weather. Monitor flocks carefully and consider taking faecal samples for worm egg counts. Many of you won't be accustomed to drenching sheep so late in the year, but it may be necessary. Heavy infestations cause black foetid diarrhoea with associated rapid weight loss.
- > It would be prudent to take faecal samples from rams after tupping to test worm egg counts..
- > If treating for liver fluke, consider using products containing Closantel or Nitroxynil. At this time of year any flukes will be at a mature stage so avoid using products containing Triclabendazole.

CATTLE

- > *Ostertagia* larvae ingested by susceptible yearling stock during the autumn may have halted development and over-winter (as early L4) in the abomasal (stomach) wall. These larvae resume their development in late winter/spring and can cause outbreaks of acute scour with subsequent death (type 2 ostertagiosis).
- > Consider worming late house cattle that have been exposed to contaminated pastures during the October and November; they may be at risk from type 2 ostertagiosis.
- > Due to the weather, lungworm outbreaks may be possible. Coughing in unvaccinated susceptible cattle at pasture before housing, or in un-dosed stock after housing, should be investigated for the possibility of lungworm. The damage the parasites cause can lead to secondary problems such as bacterial pneumonia.