



DAMORY LODGE EDWARD STREET BLANDFORD FORUM DORSET DT11 7QT
TEL : 01258 452 626 FAX : 01258 453 548 www.damoryvets.co.uk

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PNEUMONIA VACCINE REMINDER

As temperatures start to drop overnight and wetter weather sets in, we are entering the risk period for pneumonia, particularly in housed animals.

We would advise you to order and administer pneumonia vaccines ASAP if you haven't already, to allow time for immunity to develop before the peak risk period.

Many different vaccines are available – each one will protect against different bugs and have a different administration protocol. Speak to one of the vets if you are unsure which is best for your farm.



CASE STUDY: THE SCOURING CALF

This two-day-old calf from one of our suckler herds was brought into the practice one August morning.

He was extremely dehydrated and scouring. We ran a “SureCheck” test on a faecal sample – this tests for four key infectious agents that commonly cause scour in calves and gives results in just 10 minutes. As suspected in such a young calf, the test was positive for E. coli so we were able to start a course of the most appropriate antibiotic.

The calf was quickly placed on a drip; this involves placing a catheter in the jugular vein (and keeping it in place, through a combination of stitches and the very fetching ear bandage seen below!) allowing fluids to run straight into the circulation.

The first litre was given very quickly, and bicarbonate was added to correct metabolic imbalances. Then a larger fluid bag was used more slowly over the rest of the day. Once the calf’s suck reflex had returned, we also gave milk mixed with electrolytes via stomach tube.



By early evening the calf was standing up and much improved, so he went home and immediately started suckling again. As you can see from the “after” photo he was soon thriving.

This case demonstrates what a huge difference fluids can make to the treatment of scouring calves. We offer this service at the practice for £90+VAT, including fluids and up to 24 hours hospitalisation. Please give us a ring if you would like to bring a calf in so we can make sure a vet is ready for your arrival.



JOHNE'S UPDATE



For Red Tractor dairies, the National Johnes Management Plan (NJMP) is now compulsory, although many milk buyers had already demanded it.

The plan requires a BCVA Accredited Johnes Veterinary Adviser, i.e. one of our vets, to create a farm-specific plan and **sign your annual NJMP declaration, which is due by 31st October each year.**

The adviser will need to look at the current level of Johnes on farm, make a risk assessment of biosecurity and disease transmission, and discuss an appropriate testing strategy.

This can be done by your usual vet at a routine visit, or we can make a specific appointment – please get in touch ASAP if yours is not yet completed.

RED TRACTOR DAIRY STANDARDS UPDATE

The dairy standard changes recently proposed by Red Tractor Assurance (see our August newsletter) have been approved and implemented from 1st October 2019. **If your annual review has been completed and signed in the 12 months prior to this date it is still valid**, but your next review will need to fulfil the updated requirements. It is now compulsory for dairy health plans to be written in conjunction with a vet.

The new protocols to add into the health plan relate to:

- calving procedures
- lameness management
- pain relief
- use of shackles
- BVD eradication plan (all health plans will already discuss BVD control strategies)

These points will require discussion with your vet to create brief farm policies for each.

The following documents are also now compulsory:

- Current National Johnes Management Plan declaration, plus Johnes test results
- Records of pain relief administration and teat sealant usage, within your medicines records
- Certificate of attendance at medicines training course*

*if you have not completed a course and would be interested in the practice running another one, please contact the office

SHEEP VETERINARY SOCIETY AUTUMN MEETING

This year, the Sheep Veterinary Society (SVS) held their three-day autumn meeting in Wareham. Expert speakers from the sheep industry, including leading specialist vets, updated us on the latest knowledge on a variety of topics, from Johne's disease and *Mycoplasma* to watery mouth and antibiotic usage. The conference was very well attended with around 100 vets in attendance, including Gian & Laura.

On Tuesday afternoon, Gian hosted a farm walk at Westhill Farm. This was followed by an on-farm workshop on housing and respiratory disease with visiting experts – an interesting and entertaining afternoon was had by all! Thank you to the Fry family for hosting.



CALF HEALTH WORKSHOP

All cattle clients are invited to our calf health workshop on Wednesday 13th November, 11am-2pm. This is aimed at anyone involved with youngstock on your farm. We will be running several stations, covering:

- Colostrum quality & administration
- Pneumonia causes and treatment
- Scour causes and treatment

This will be held at **Worgret Farm, Wareham, BH20 6AB followed by lunch.**

Please RSVP to office@damoryvets.co.uk or call us on 01258 452626 to reserve your place by Friday 8th November.

LIVER FLUKE CONTROL

The NADIS liver fluke forecast has predicted “medium risk” during 2019 grazing for South-West England. This means that we should be vigilant for signs of disease, which can range from acute jaundice and death to chronic weight loss and scour, whether or not you have a known history of fluke infection. However, fluke control is something that we need to approach with a degree of caution, especially because there are major industry concerns that resistance to flukicide products is reaching dangerous levels.

Several considerations should be taken in account when choosing a treatment for fluke:

- Milk/meat withdrawals
- Time of year: unlike worms, **cattle do not develop very good immunity against liver fluke**. If liver fluke has been diagnosed on your farm, cattle should be treated in the weeks after housing to remove any flukes that were picked up at pasture.
- Type of parasites to be targeted (adults/immature): not all fluke products work against the immature stages and **flukicides do not have any persistent activity**, so it is important to get the timing of the treatment right.
- Drug resistance.
- Association with a wormer to clear any infections picked up whilst grazing; the need for this is best checked by performing a faecal worm egg count. Many flukicides are combined with wormers (e.g. Closamectin, Cydectin Triclamox, Ivomec Super, Combinex) so it is all too easy to buy combination fluke & worm treatments unnecessarily, which can speed up worm resistance; however treating youngstock with a macrocyclic lactone (clear wormer) at housing is often recommended.

Here are some examples of fluke-specific products available:

- **Triclabendazole** (e.g. Fasinex) is the only product that kills immature as well as adult fluke and its overuse has led to resistance issues in certain areas. The use of this drug should be reserved for situations where treatment/prevention of acute liver fluke infections is required (e.g. high-risk pastures during late Summer/Autumn time when immature fluke are responsible for disease).
- **Closantel, clorsulon, nitroxynil** (Trodax), **oxyclozanide** (Zanil) and **albendazole** are all effective against older fluke only. These products can be used to clear chronic fluke infections from 8 weeks after housing. For lower risk flocks & herds this may be all that is required each year. According to the fluke history of the farm, it can be more economic to use the fluke treatment at the time of housing, as most of the fluke will be mature at this time, rather than leaving treatment for several weeks after housing to suit the product, in order to improve productivity over winter.

Other controls

Herds/flocks with a known liver fluke problem require strategic grazing strategies around autumn/winter time to reduce the risk of fluke infection. If possible avoid grazing high-risk wet lowland fields during autumn time and fence off boggy areas / streams in fields.

As there is no one-size-fits-all approach to managing liver fluke on-farm, please contact us for advice on liver fluke detection, effective and responsible treatment options, and control strategies for your farm.

STAFF NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO MATT on the birth of his second daughter Rosie, 8 lbs born 21st August – doing all the bodily functions expected of a newborn frequently and indiscriminately!

ANDY IS BACK– Our ever-popular semi-permanent locum Andy Eve has satisfied his travelling itch for the time being and will be joining us again from December onwards.

