



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

In this issue: Acorn Poisoning, Fluke, Recognising causes of Sheep Lameness, New Emerging Diseases, Gamebirds and Upcoming Client Meetings

Acorn Poisoning

We hope everyone has had a good summer despite the challenging weather and unpredictable harvest and hopefully we can help you look forward to a productive autumn. The change in season brings new challenges, and so we write this month about topical issues. Acorn poisoning is now a threat, so measures to avoid grazing areas with oaks, especially after storms and heavy acorn falls should be considered. All animals are susceptible but cattle & sheep are mostly affected.



The toxic Tannins in acorns cause serious kidney damage and gut problems. Clinical signs often occur 3-7 days after consumption of large amounts. These include the following; sudden death or poor appetite, weight loss, dehydration, depression, bloat- due to rumenal stasis, initially constipation and associated straining leading to watery/ bloody/ tarry diarrhoea, you may notice excessive urination, there may be blood in the urine and often the poisoning can lead to death.



Unfortunately there is no specific treatment, intravenous fluid therapy and other supportive treatment may help, but prevention is always better.

Fluke

It is now time to review liver fluke control and treatment on your farms.

The risk of fluke was relatively low last year however it is likely to be a different story for Autumn 2015. The predicted risk of liver fluke across the South-West is set to dramatically increase because of the wet summer we have had. Treatment with Triclabendazole will be necessary to prevent acute and sub-acute liver fluke disease in high-risk areas. Please contact us at the practice for further advice regarding treatment and pre-housing advice.

Sheep Lameness: Lesion Identification & Treatment Summary.



FOOTROT

INJECT ANTIBIOTICS

Antibiotic Spray

DO NOT TRIM

Record Case

Isolate



SCALD

Inject antibiotics

ANTIBIOTIC SPRAY

DO NOT TRIM

Record Case

Footbath
large nos. of
lambs



CODD

INJ ANTIBIOTICS

Antibiotic Spray

DO NOT TRIM



TOE GRANULOMA

Consult vet for advice

USE PAIN KILLERS

Antibiotics if infected

Cull if no response

**Prevention better than
cure!**



WHITE LINE ABSCESS

CAREFULLY trim
loose horn – pare
the sole as needed –
to drain the abscess
& alleviate pressure
Inject Antibiotics



CHRONIC FOOT

Due to repeat
infections & **over
trimming!**
These feet harbour
bacteria & spreads
disease.
The horn is
permanently
damaged.
**Prevention is
better than cure!!!**



SHELLY HOOF

ONLY IF LAME,
remove impacted
soil & trim loose
horn
If not lame; leave
alone



NORMAL EROSION

Not diseased but has
just been worn away -
seen frequently on
ewes that graze on
sandy, dry & abrasive
soil or stubble turnips.

I hope you find this concise guide to sheep lameness useful, but please contact me to discuss clinical signs & treatment choices if you have any further questions or concerns. Many thanks – Alice

Gamebirds: Autumn approaches

With the summer months behind us, the birds released to wood and the dogs in peak physical condition, we welcome the 1st of October with anticipation for the start of the pheasant shooting season.

I joined Damory in August so only caught the back end of rearing season. Overall, I hope the majority of our clients got their birds to wood without too much trouble. The spikes in rainfall through July and August were frequently correlated with peaks in protozoan challenges on the birds, with the lower lying ground being more susceptible. During the season it may be worth sitting down with drink or two and thinking about next years rearing ground and pens, planning out drainage or ways to prevent the young poults from gaining access to standing ground water, a great source for protozoa like Coccidia and Hexamita that can stunt growth and cause high numbers of deaths in a flock.

Keepers are reminded they should continue to feed their birds throughout the season, from hoppers and from the ground, not only will this keep the birds fit and healthy while they continue to grow through the season but it will also minimise the number of birds leaving your ground in search for food.



As we're moving into the season, I'd just like to remind all those that are involved with the shoots that the BASC have clear outlines for the code of good shooting practice, these can be found on their website (www.basc.org.uk) and that if you're interested in how releasing game has positive impacts on rural habitats across the country then the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust (www.gwct.org.uk) do a lot of good work and research that may be of interest. – Ben



Help with UK Disease Surveillance of Emerging Threats

We ask you to remain vigilant and report any suspicious signs that could indicate arrival of these diseases. But, please do not panic as they aren't yet in the UK, however are geographically close so should be considered.

Bluetongue Virus

There has been a reported outbreak of bluetongue (serotype 8) in cattle & sheep in the centre of France. The French Government have announced they are planning a widespread vaccination programme. The virus has not been seen in France since 2012, but its return could lead to restrictions on export. Please contact us at the practice for more information on the disease and we urge you to remain vigilant and report any suspicious clinical signs. Including; facial swelling/ulceration, eye & nasal discharge, drooling and, or lame/stiffness and coronary band lesions.



Bovine besnoitiosis

Has been found in a closed Irish herd. It has been endemic in Europe, including; Spain, Portugal and Germany. It is unknown how widespread this disease is across Europe and remains a risk with importation. Besnoitiosis is a cyst forming skin disease caused by a protozoal parasite; *Besnoitia besnoiti*, that is thought to be carried by a vector. The early stage of disease presents with high temperatures. The less common chronic phase is responsible for production losses and can lead to infertility in bulls. Signs include; weight loss, inappetence, thickened/crusty/cystic skin, nasal discharge, lameness and death. It isn't notifiable but APHA wish to know of any suspect cases.



Meetings - Dates for the diary

Practical Calving Workshop and Care of the Downer Cow – Alice Wilkinson & Matt Burge
Wednesday 4th November. 7pm at Longthorns Farm, Wareham, BH20 6HH. (Next to Monkey World).