

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

August 2019

ASHOVER SHOW – 14th August

As you are all aware, it's that time of year 😊.

We have got a stand at the show again. Plenty of quizzes to play and, of course, all our vets to chat to!!

Calf Scours

Scour is caused by both bacterial and viral infection. Diarrhoea occurs either due to lack of colostrum, exposure to infectious agent or both. Death is most commonly due to dehydration.

Infection with *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, coronavirus, rotavirus, cryptosporidiosis and coccidiosis can all result in calf scours but affect different age groups:

<4 days	<i>E.coli</i>
<14 days	Rotavirus
<30 days	<i>Salmonella</i> Coronavirus Cryptosporidium
>3-4 weeks	Coccidia



Adequate colostrum intake is vital to provide immunity to the newborn calf. They must receive **3 litres in the first 6 hours**, then a **further 3-6 litres by 12 hours**.

Most causes of diarrhoea in calves are self-limiting and antibiotics are not indicated. The main approach to treatment is through correcting electrolyte losses and dehydration. This is through provision of water + rehydration solution (e.g. Glutalyte, LifeAid or Rehydron).

The key aim is prevention or reduction of exposure to infectious agents. Many are present in faeces of healthy animals but it is the build-up of the level of environmental contamination over time which leads to an overwhelming exposure resulting in clinical disease.

Keeping your calving and calf pens clean between batches and not mixing calves of varying ages will reduce chance of infection.

Any concerns or questions please phone the practice for advice.

Coping with the Heat

As summer is now with us, we thought this is the perfect opportunity to reiterate the risks of heat and how to help your stock cope.

Fly Strike

Clinical Signs:

- Chewing or rubbing at the tail end
- Foot stamping
- Shaking
- Wool shedding / matting
- Strong odour which can attract more flies



Control

- Clean the affected area, removing all visible maggots
- Applying a repellent spot-on.
- Antibiotic spray should be applied to the affected area

Prevention is the best form of control. Ongoing control of strike in late summer/autumn will prevent larvae from overwintering in the soil.

It is also beneficial to treat any animals that have had surgery or have any wounds on them with a fly repellent. This will reduce the risks of other fly-borne infections such as summer mastitis and new forest eye.

Heat Stress

Clinical Signs:

- Panting
- Lethargy
- Cows will huddle together, sheep will isolate themselves
- Drinking more, eating less

Control:

- Increase air flow, particularly with housed stock, you can do this by installing fans if available
- Sprinkle stock with water to aid heat loss
- Make sure stock have access to ample water at all times
- Provide shade/shelter in outdoor stock

As always, any issues you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact us,

*Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie, Ken, Morwenna and Madeleine*

Tel: 01629 – 582844