

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

July 2019

Flies

As the warm weather is here to stay, we know flies are a nuisance. However, there are a few more problems that they can cause which are a bit more serious.

Blowfly Strike

Reiterating from last month, this mainly affects sheep due to their wool, but theoretically can affect all animals.

Clinical signs: chewing or rubbing at the tail end, foot stamping and shaking. It also has a characteristic smell.

Treatment: cleaning the affected area, removing all visible maggots and applying a repellent spot-on. Antibiotic spray should be applied to the affected area.

New Forest Eye/Silage Eye/Pink Eye/Keratoconjunctivitis

There are many names for this condition in both sheep and cattle. It is a highly contagious condition seen during summer months caused by the bacteria *Moraxella bovis* and can be spread via cow-to-cow contact or flies.

Clinical signs: conjunctivitis (reddening of the eye), squinting, tear staining, corneal ulcers (damage to the surface of the eye). Cases vary from very mild that resolve without treatment, to cases which can progress to ulcers and even rupture of the eye.

Treatment (depending on the severity):

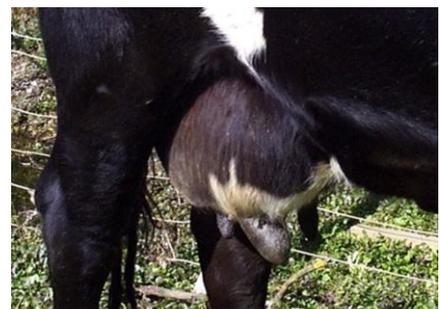
- Topical creams: Opticlox, Orbenin
- Subconjunctival antibiotic injection: under the upper eyelid.
- Systemic antibiotic injection: into muscle or under the skin.



Summer Mastitis/August Bag

Again, reiterating from last month, and is associated with biting flies. It is most commonly seen in cattle grazing pasture, therefore is relevant to both dairy and beef herds, with dry cows and heifers being particularly susceptible. The bacterium thought to be responsible is a mixture of *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*, and *Streptococcus dysgalactiae* working together.

Clinical signs: swelling and lengthening of the affected teat leading onto swelling of the quarter, kicking at the udder, foul-smelling, thick, green/cream pus from the teat, stiffness in the legs (sometimes with joint swelling) and general illness, separation from the herd and reluctance to graze



Treatment should be initiated immediately as this condition can be fatal. The affected quarter is normally lost once signs are first noticed.

Treatment: Both systemic (injectable) and intramammary antibiotics are required and should be used alongside an anti-inflammatory (e.g. metacam or ketofen). Regular stripping out of the affected quarter is essential to remove as much infected material as possible. Often the affected quarter is lost due to abscessation within the udder. Fly prevention is key, especially in susceptible animals. Fly sprays, tags and pour-ons are available.

Ashover Show

Just a little note to say we will be having a stand at the show again this year. It was great to see so many of you last year outside the normal working environment, so pop over again this year.

TB Testing

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the majority of you for your cooperation with testing this year.

Many of you have now returned to yearly testing. If you are not on yearly, this is not necessarily due to an issue on your farm. Some parishes remain on 6 monthly testing as they are higher risk and have likely had herds break down in the area. We know what's happening in most parishes, but please keep us updated if anything has changed.

Just to reiterate, our instructions from the ministry are to TB test. It is your responsibility to ensure you are adequately staffed and good handling facilities. We know the test is inconvenient, but we would like to stress that all cattle be available for testing at the pre-arranged time and accessible to minimise waiting times. We have had a few issues with this and reserve the right to abandon tests if we see fit. Again, this is only a small proportion, but just makes our job easier if we can run smoothly.

Parasite Reminder

With the fluctuation in weather at the moment, we have seen a surge of fluke related issues. Please ensure you have your fluke control up to date!

The nematodirus risk has surprisingly decreased. However, this doesn't mean we can get lax as we are still seeing cases. Ensure all your lambs are fully covered. We offer faecal egg counts at the practice, so get in touch if you would like us to test a proportion of your flock.

If you need any advice please just call.

Calvings

There have been several cases when we were called too late resulting in fatalities. If a cow hasn't produced a calf within 2 hours of a water bag showing, please have a feel and if you are unsure call us. We would much rather be called for advice than end up with a rotten calving or dead cows!

Lubricate up well, no sharp nails, clean hands or use an AI glove.

If unsure, phone the duty vet if out of hours or the surgery if in hours. If it's abnormal in anyway it needs help from either you or us, and sooner is always better



We are looking forward to seeing you all on August 14th!

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

*Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie, Ken, Maddy and Wenna*

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