

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

November 2019

Evening Talk: Medicines Meeting (as before)

When: 4th December

Where: Duke William on Starkholmes

Time: 7.30pm

Please contact Hollie to book your space. We need numbers as there will be a hot meal.

Metritis

Metritis is an abnormal uterine infection within the first 21 days after calving. This can progress into endometritis (whites). It can also predispose cattle to other post-partum disorders such as ketosis or displaced abomasum. It is commonly related to dystocia, retained foetal membranes, twins, fat animals or abortion.

Typically metritis is graded from 1 – 3, with 1 being mild and 3 being severe.

Grade	Vaginal Discharge	Clinical Signs	Temperature
1	Most likely thick and white	Probably normal	Probably normal
2	Red/brown to black, watery and unpleasant odour	Off colour: tail head raised, varying milk drop	39.5°C or above
3	Most likely brown/black, very watery with unpleasant odour	Very sick: not eating, depressed, low milk yield, toxic	Could be sub-normal due to shock

Clinical signs can include reduced appetite, reduced milk production, condition score loss, and slower calf growth in beef cattle.

Long term problems include delayed return to heat, lower conception rates, prolonged calving – conception and reduced milk production efficiency.

Treatment with an anti-inflammatory and antibiotic will likely be required following veterinary examination. A hormone injection (prostaglandin) can also be used to aid expulsion of discharge but this depends on the number of days following calving.

Prompt treatment should result in full recovery from metritis. However, milk production and reproductive performance will still be affected in the current lactation. Close monitoring of cattle within the first 2 weeks post-partum (calving) including rectal temperature, milk production monitoring and demeanour of cow will aid with quick diagnosis.

Post natal checks are always recommended if cows have retained any cleansings or are not quite right after calving. If we do routine scanning, this is the ideal time to check newly calved cows.



Lameness in Sheep

Lameness is common in sheep throughout the UK and is an important cause of economic loss due to decreased productivity, decreased fertility and increased culling, as well as the costs of treating the lame individuals.

Lameness in sheep also provides a welfare issue so should never be ignored.

There are many causes of lameness in sheep; the main causes in the UK are listed below:

Interdigital Dermatitis (Scald)

- Most common cause of lameness in lambs
- Occurs in late spring, or when conditions are wet underfoot. Can also occur in housed ewes when bedding becomes warm and damp
- Characterised by swollen skin between toes, often with a thin layer of white discharge without any underrunning of the claw
- Prompt effective treatment reduces the risk of development into footrot
- Topical antibiotics (blue spray) and footbathing required

Contagious Footrot

- Extremely painful and can have serious effects on growth. Sheep are lame, spend more time lying down and are visibly lame on affected feet
- Characterised by swelling and moistening of skin between toes. The infection will spread up to the coronary band and under the toe and may result in complete separation of the hoof capsule from the foot. There is a characteristic foul smelling discharge
- Systemic antibiotics and anti-inflammatories required. Do not foot bath

Contagious Ovine Digital Dermatitis (CODD)

- Doesn't initially present as lameness until severe disease is present
- Starts with small ulcers around the coronary band, eventually will progress to complete separation of the hoof capsule from the foot

Toe Granuloma

- Red painful swellings originating from soft tissues underneath the hoof capsule
- Occurs due to over trimming, chemical irritation or untreated lesions

Shelly Hoof

- Truly overgrown feet, one of the only conditions that warrants trimming

White Line Disease

- The connection of the wall and sole gets broken open, causing infection to tract up into the horn
- Also warrants trimming

Treatment varies depending on the issue, so please contact us for advise. We have a 5 step plan for helping to eradicate lameness issues.

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

Warm Regards:
Andrew, Hollie, Wenna, Maddy and Emily

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