

PEAK VETERINARY NEWS

October 2019

Evening Talk

Due to the success of the previous meeting, we are running a 2nd medicines meeting on **4th December**. Please contact Hollie to book your space.

Toxic Mastitis

There are many causes and presentations of mastitis. The one that is the most concerning and requires immediate veterinary attention is toxic mastitis.

Presentation

- Acute onset (<12 hours)
- Brown watery fluid in affected quarter(s)
- Generally down
- Sunken eyed
- High temperature initially. This will progress to a low temperature once down.
- Off food, lethargic
- Recently calved
- Diarrhoea
- Hard, hot, swollen udder
- Dark red mucous membranes (gums/eyes/vulva)



Cause

There are many different bacteria that can cause mastitis. In the cases of the acutely ill toxic mastitis, the cause is generally E.coli. The cows immune system will kill the bacteria before any clinical signs are seen (this happens rapidly, within hours). Once the bacteria are dead, they produce toxins within the udder which can then spread systemically. This will then produce a major inflammatory reaction, resulting in the classic down cow presentation of toxic mastitis.

Treatment

- Due to the fact that the bacteria are already dead, antibiotics aren't always indicated; especially the critically important antimicrobials such as A180, marbocyl and cobactan.
- Fluids are required ASAP – we can give IV fluids to counteract the cardiovascular collapse that results from the toxins depending on the severity of the case. This needs to be done in conjunction with oral fluids regularly for a minimum of 24 hours. The most effective way of doing this is with a pump.
- Anti-inflammatories. Flunixin is the most effective as it has anti-endotoxic properties and can be given IV

Prevention

E.coli is an environmental pathogen and is present in faeces in large quantities. The most important factor in preventing toxic mastitis is keeping bedding in housing and calving areas clean and free of faeces. Cleanliness during milking is also imperative.



Fog Fever

This is something we need to be wary of, especially if we get a flush of warm weather giving way to a late grass growth.

Fog fever can affect all adult ruminants but is predominantly seen in adult brood cows or bulls (> 2 years old). Signs are associated with the movement of cattle from dry summer pasture to irrigated/fertilised lush pasture in autumn. The grass will be high in L-Tryptophan, causing an allergic reaction. Affected animals show severe respiratory distress, open mouth breathing, salivation, head and neck extension and distress, however they usually do not cough. They will also present with a normal temperature. There is a high mortality rate associated with this disease.

There are limited effective treatments available, steroids are needed ASAP, however management of the cattle should be altered to avoid abrupt/sudden access to lush green forage and toxic plants.

If you think you have a case of fog fever then give us a call as treatment can be given to help alleviate the clinical signs.



National Johnes Management Plan

Most of you have already been in contact regarding the NJMP declaration forms. We are now into the second year of the action plan, so those of you who have already had a form signed may be due an update.

Hollie is still our nominated vet that is able to sign these forms.

If you have one and need it signing, just pop it down to the surgery. She will have a quick discussion with you about your current management strategies and get things underway, or continued, for you.

Most of you are already monitoring, so there will be very little alteration to do, it just needs to be put on paper!

Foetal Abnormalities

This is an interesting case we had a few weeks ago which we thought we would share with you all. These

conjoined twins were delivered by caesarean. As you can see, the foetus has 8 legs, 2 heads and is joined at the body.



Practice News

At the end of October, Ken will be leaving us to return to Ireland. We wish him all the best with his future endeavours.

We will be joined by Emily in November, who is joining us from Lancashire.

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

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

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