

Border Disease continued...

The most important period for spread of disease is when **newly purchased animals** are introduced to the flock around tugging time. This is typically followed by high barren rates plus stillbirths, weak lambs and increased lamb **losses** at lambing.

The risks that cattle and sheep pose to each other is poorly understood– but the predominant transmission is from cattle to sheep and not vice versa.

Production effects and losses are similar to that of BVD in that non-reproductive losses are wide-ranging but can be significant and undetected.

The overall prevalence of this disease in the UK is unknown due to no health schemes or routine testing undertaken. However there may be a need for further monitoring of this disease because of the current efforts for BVD eradication in cattle in the UK. The circulating BD virus in sheep may provide a barrier to BVD eradication in time but more knowledge is required on the disease and it's **true prevalence**.

Worming Your Horse

The grazing season is coming up and has your horse been wormed appropriately for this time of year? Now would be the time to think about the **tapeworm burden** in your horses. Tapeworm levels can be easily identified by the use of a **saliva test** which owners can use and send off for analysis. Tapeworms can cause a number of problems including impaction of the guts as well as increase the incidence of spasmodic colics.

Knowing the level of tapeworm in your horse allows you to dose appropriately, avoid dosing unnecessarily and reduce the development of resistance to treatments that are currently available.

We can advise all about worming throughout the entire grazing season including the use of worm egg counts at strategic times.

Please enquire to find out more about worming and the Equisal tapeworm saliva test.

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Beware Of Sycamore Seedlings!

Now that spring is (sort of) on the way, we have seen more sycamore seedlings shooting through some of our pastures and surrounding areas. The Sycamore tree contains a substance called Hypoglycin A which produces a toxin within horses which attacks the muscles of the body and produces **Atypical Myopathy**. It has been proven that seedlings actually contain more Hypoglycin A than seeds or leaves do, so this time of year can be particularly tricky. **Clinical signs** of Atypical Myopathy include: sweating, rolling, inability to move, anorexia, dark urine. The disease has no specific treatment as yet but intensive supportive care can prevent fatality in approximately 50% of cases. **Co-grazing** horses with sheep at this time of year can reduce the number of seedlings on the pasture. Mowing, avoiding high-risk areas of pasture and providing more than adequate supplementary forage all help to minimise the incidence of disease as well.



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Spring Newsletter 2018

Booster Vaccination Reminders

We as a practice are able to send out booster reminders, provided that we have your **mobile phone numbers**. You will receive a text message prior to when your pet's booster vaccination is due to remind you. Please make sure that we are aware of your current mobile number to take advantage of this service.



Alabama Dog Rot

As I'm sure most of you are aware, there have been confirmed cases of this serious disease within the area; Newtown, Presteigne and Shrewsbury have all had confirmed cases .

This disease is also known as Cutaneous and Renal Glomerular Vasculopathy (CRGV), attacks the blood vessels in the skin and the kidneys. Skin lesions develop initially followed by acute kidney injury which is often fatal. Skin lesions appear particularly on the legs, around the face and on the sides and have **no known cause**.. A variable period, between 2-7 days later, signs of kidney failure ensue; anorexia, vomiting, lethargy.

There is no known cause of this disease as yet, and therefore no specific treatment, so vigilance is key. If your dog develops any skin lesion that is **unexplained** please get in touch with us.

It is postulated that the cause may however be environmental, so the only current advice is to **wash and then dry your dogs' legs** following a very muddy walk. Much research is being carried out at the moment and so we will start to learn more about this condition in the coming months.

Anorexia In Your Pets

Animals can go off their food for a wide variety of different reasons. Animals that stop eating altogether can become **very ill** if not treated appropriately.

After gaining a history, and finding out the answers to a number of different questions, investigations may also include blood work, radiography, ultrasound or endoscopy.

Common causes of anorexia:

1. **Oral Disease**— many problems in the mouth including gingivitis, stomatitis and decay can lead to significant pain.
2. **Abscesses**— animals can develop abscesses in and around the oral cavity; tooth root abscesses, behind the eye.
3. **Cancer**— either within the oral cavity itself or elsewhere, can affect appetite significantly.
4. **Oesophagitis**— like when we have the feeling of ‘heartburn’ animals can experience the same sort of sensation. Fatty diets, obesity and lack of appetite can be contributing factors.
5. **Pain**— not only pain within the mouth but severe osteoarthritis in other joints in the body can affect willingness to eat.
6. **Stress and anxiety**— never to be underestimated the effect of stress on appetite.
7. **Poor quality food**— a sudden change to a diet can lead an animal to become anorexic and palatability is important!
8. **Kidney Disease**— unfortunately, a lot of dogs and cats are susceptible to developing chronic changes in their kidneys as they age. Toxins can build up in the blood which produce anorexia.
9. **Drugs**— some medicines can affect appetite. Anorexia should not be taken lightly and if more than **24 hours** should warrant investigation.

Lungworm Planning

Its important with the next grazing season coming up to think about lungworm treatment in your cattle and be prepared. It is not only animals in their first grazing season which can be affected. Adult cows can succumb to subclinical disease which results in production losses, reduced milk yield and poor condition.

Plan ahead!

Foster Homes

The local charity for dogs, Dog Samaritans, are desperate for more foster homes for their rescue dogs. Food, bedding and other expenses paid for. If you are interested in finding out more about this, then please contact Janet on 01588640932.



Top Tips for Sheep's Feet

- **Know the condition** you are treating and preventing—is it Scald, Foot Rot or CODD? Different approaches are used depending on the condition.
- Choosing the **right treatment**—Injectable antibiotics are advised for all foot conditions in adult sheep. The correct dose is essential as they are often underdosed. The choice of antibiotic is dependant on the condition; Oxytetracycline (Tetroxyvet) or Amoxicillin based (Bimoxyl LA) will treat most conditions, however Bimoxyl may be more appropriate for CODD. Tulathromycin (Draxxin) or Gamithromycin (Zactran) are licensed for the treatment of foot rot in sheep and is long acting. Foot trimming lame sheep will delay healing and can contribute to spread of infection.
- **Remove carrier sheep**—there will be animals carrying and spreading infection within the flock. They are likely to be chronically lame and unresponsive to treatment. An animal still lame after two or three treatments should be culled.

- **Footbathing** has a place in certain situations but if done incorrectly or inadequately can contribute to the spread of disease within a flock. Scald in lambs is very well managed by footbathing. If used, formalin should never be more than 3% as severe pain is experienced.
- **Quarantine** and check of new sheep into the flock. Keeping newly acquired sheep separate from the main flock for at least 3 weeks. If facilities allow, footbathing on arrival and during quarantine is recommended.
- **Breed the right ewes**—footrot has a heritable component to it, and so breeding from those ewes that have never been lame should help build up flock resilience over time.
- **Vaccination**—The foot rot vaccine can be used as a preventative measure particularly before times of risk—normally after weaning and at scanning. It can be very useful and successful at reducing overall footrot prevalence on farm, however the success relies on sound control measures as well.

Border Disease in Sheep

This disease is caused by a Pestivirus, which is from the same family of virus as BVD in cattle. The BVD virus is actually capable of causing Border Disease (BD) in sheep, and approx. 20% of cases of BD are caused by BVD virus. It has been shown that cattle are able to contract BD virus from sheep.

Similar to BVD, there is infection during gestation which has different outcomes depending on the stage of gestation at which infection occurred. Lambs affected are born **weak**, and are more susceptible to disease such as scour and respiratory disease, as well as having an overall reduced weight gain. Ewes can display embryonic death and conception failure (barrens). Infection before day 80 of gestation can produce **persistently infected animals**— a PI (very similar to BVD in cattle). These animals are a constant **infection source**. PIs can appear completely normal but can also have neurological and coat abnormalities— giving the characteristic **'hairy shaker'** associated with disease.