

farmnews

EXCELLENCE IN HEALTHCARE
FOR ALL SPECIES OF ANIMALS

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL JULY 2009

BUTOX SWISH OFFER - An economic and effective fly and midge control this summer...

DROVE OPEN DAY - Come and view our super facilities on 19th July 2009

A member of  **xl vets**
Excellence in Practice

METABOLIC DISEASE

Those who read my recent XLVets Comment in Farmers Weekly will recall that I highlighted a substantial recent increase in metabolic disease in dairy cows. Unfortunately this rise in incidence of left/right displaced abomasums and ketosis is ongoing, LDA operations are a daily occurrence and several herds have passed an acceptable annual 1-2% LDA rate in June alone!

LDA's are most common in higher yielding dairy herds during the first month after calving. They are multifactorial in origin, with low rumen fill, increased intra-abdominal following calving, reduced abomasal muscle tone and intercurrent disease all playing significant roles. The abomasum slides underneath the rumen and becomes trapped on the left where it dilates, fills with gas and results in the cow displaying symptoms of acetoneamia.

Affected cows rapidly lose body condition, have a 'tucked' up, hollow appearance, reduced milk yield and variable appetite. The economic impact of an LDA is not limited to the immediate veterinary costs of surgical correction, there are ongoing losses due to reduced fertility, reduced production and increased risks of other disease e.g. mastitis.

Feed intakes are unavoidably reduced at the point of calving, despite cows facing an almost immediate 2-3 x increase in energy demands for milk production. Good management of the transition dry cow and optimising care of the freshly calved cow are vital metabolic disease control points.

- Avoid overfat dry cows, target condition score 2.5-3.5 throughout dry period.
- Formulate dry and transition rations to maximise dry matter intake.
- Acclimatise the rumen of dry cows to moderate amounts of high quality milking ration concentrates. This will allow the rumen papillae and microflora to develop so that they can cope with ration changes at calving.

- Ensure correct dry cow mineral supplementation to help prevent disease.
- Where milk fever incidence is high consider use of a DCAB product for milk fever prevention, but beware this can affect palatability.
- Provide all cows with fresh milking ration and drinking water immediately after calving.
- Monitor freshly calved cows regularly for any sign of developing disease e.g. metritis, mastitis, retained cleansing or milk fever.
- Avoid sudden ration changes.
- Ensure that the forage to concentrate ratio and physical fibre characteristics of the milking ration are not predisposing to acidosis or SARA.
- Avoid overestimating forage intakes from grass, particularly as grazing quality decreases during the season. Provide a suitable buffer feed and allow the cow's adequate access to eat it, ideally for 2-3 hours prior to afternoon milking, as this will maximise overall forage intakes.

Remember LDA's are often really only the 'tip of the iceberg' and should serve as a warning that dry and freshly calved cow management needs attention. With good husbandry and feeding to optimise rumen health LDA's should be preventable. If you would like a management review of metabolic disease in your herd please contact your regular farm vet to arrange an investigation.

EQUINE INFLUENZA VACCINATION

During June and July we are participating in the national 'Vaccination Back on Track Initiative' to help and encourage horse owners to get their animals' vaccinations up-to-date. If your horse is over 12 months of age and has not been vaccinated against equine influenza or your horse is overdue a booster vaccination you may be eligible to participate in this offer. Please ring the office for more details and to book a visit.

EQUINE IDENTIFICATION

The equine identification regulations are changing from 1st July 2009. All newly issued equine passports will now require that the horse is identichipped at the time of identification. Microchip insertion costs £22.77 (incl. VAT) and provides lifelong identification for your horse




DROVE
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

BUTOX SWISH

Proven fly and midge control for a great price! We are currently able to offer extremely competitive prices on all pack sizes of Butox Swish, please ring the farm office to discuss your requirements.

Alta TCC Colostrum

We now have a new freeze dried colostrum product in stock which will provide guaranteed high immunoglobulin levels to newborn calves that are at risk of poor maternal antibody protection. Following difficult calvings/ caesarean, or if a dam is sick, down or likely to have poor quality colostrum we can offer a viable and safe option to protect the valuable calf from neonatal disease. This product should also be of great interest to those of you battling to control Johnes disease in your herd.

BARREN EWE BLOOD TESTING

If you've had sheep abortions or too many barren ewes then let us take a blood sample from 6 to 8 of them and see if contagious abortion infections are responsible.

The lab testing is free so just pay for our sampling and next year you may be able to improve your flock performance by using an appropriate vaccine. Please ring the farm office on 01793 501499.

24/7

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FARM STAFF...

... AT DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Our kiwi locum Hayden has now left us to travel around Europe before returning home for the busy New Zealand calving season. His help during the last couple of months has been greatly appreciated filling in for Kate who is recovering well from her injured back.

We will shortly be welcoming another southern hemisphere locum David Porter who will be covering Kate's maternity leave. David is from South Africa and has over 15 years experience in large animal practice. He will be joining us from 12th July.

In response to our ever increasing large animal workload and expanding practice area, we are currently recruiting an additional vet to increase the size of our farm team before the start of the busy winter period.

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY 19TH JULY...

DROVE OPEN DAY 2009

www.drovevets.co.uk

DROVE VETERINARY HOSPITAL CHARITY OPEN DAY
VISIT US BETWEEN 1.00pm - 4.30pm

- See 'Behind the Scenes' of our Hospital
- **FREE** Fun and education for all the family
- Face Painting, Pony Rides and Kids' Fairground
- Charity Stalls

COME ALONG... EVERYONE WELCOME!
SEE WHAT WE CAN OFFER YOUR PET IN HEALTHCARE



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