



Nantwich Veterinary Group

Crewe Road End, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 5SF
Tel 01270 610349 or Fax 01270 628367



Newsletter June 2010

I hope that first cut has gone well and that we have had a bit of rain by the time you read this!

There has been an increase in incidence of **uterine torsions** recently, I have corrected 5 in 5 days! Signs to look for are typically cows at term (or slightly overdue) with a raised tail head, looking uncomfortable and not getting on with calving. They are often breathing too fast, straining and may have some vaginal discharge. Although the causes are not fully understood we tend to find that cows with torsions are carrying larger than average calves, often male. We would advise giving a bottle of calcium to any cow not getting on with calving but it is important to put your hand in to check that everything is as normal. If there is a ridge of tissue or your hand spirals and the calf feels as though it is lying on one side or upside down, it is likely to be twisted. Ring us early if you suspect a torsion as we stand the best chance of correcting it if the calf is alive.

With the recent very hot weather please be aware of **heat stroke** in cattle. Double check that water troughs are working properly and provide shade. Ensure that any down cows have plenty of water near them. Clinical signs include depression, increased breathing rate, frothing at the mouth, sweating and a very high temperature. Moving the animals to somewhere cooler and hosing them down is normally adequate but if they do not respond quickly then ring us as they may need intra-venous fluids.

August bag is likely to become an increasing problem as we get more flies about. To reduce cases keep up with fly control – our offer was mentioned last month - Butox Swish Value Pack (4x2.5L + 2x1L + gun) £314.75 plus vat (roughly 52p per 200kg dose). It has been proven to have up to 10 weeks duration of action compared to the more traditional pour-on solutions which only last for 4 weeks. We also sell Dairy Fly Spray 4.5L and Oxyfly suspension 250ml for use in parlours and buildings. We recommend that you act early if you notice summer mastitis and treat with Tylan and Finadyne as well as antibiotic tubes up the quarter.

In hot weather some farms see a rise in mastitis caused by **Strep uberis**, an environmental pathogen and we put it down to fresh cows lying in the shade under trees. Try to rotate calving paddocks to avoid build up of bacteria.

For those of you with sheep, some suitable pour-on **fly products** include Crovect which treats sheep already suffering from blowfly strike and prevents flies for 8 weeks, Klik which prevents for 16 weeks and Vetrazin which prevents for 10 weeks. If you would like any more advice please speak to one of us at the practice.

One issue that has come to our attention recently is how routine TB tests can mess up **Johne's milk tests**. To avoid any problems we would recommend that quarterly Johnes milk tests are carried out one month before or at least two months after the TB test is carried out.

Quick message from Stuart: please make sure that you have signed up to **CowWatch** as the free print outs will soon be stopping, see your routine vet for more details.

For those of you with horses, you are invited to a free informal evening talk at the Equine Centre on **'Treatment and care of the laminitic horse'** with Alastair Sanderson (one of the horse vets) and Lizzie Drury (a nutritionist from Saracen Horse Feeds) on Tuesday 15th June 7pm for 7.30pm until 9pm, including refreshments. Please RSVP before Friday 11th June 01270 628888 as spaces are limited.

A date for your diaries is **Nantwich Show** on Wednesday 28th July, we will be doing the usual beef baps and refreshments both alcoholic and not! Hopefully it won't be such a washout this year. See you there.