



Farming Connect Funding

Farming Connect is once again offering subsidised analysis and consultation on specific topics relating to animal health; worth up to £100 towards lab work and £50 towards vet time for herd or flock investigations for Welsh farms.

Badger Found Dead Survey

Surveillance is an essential part of controlling any disease and bovine TB is no exception. Welsh Government would like to know more about bovine TB in the wildlife population, especially within the local area.

With TB on the increase in and around Wrexham we would urge any of our clients who find a badger carcass to participate in the Welsh Government Badger Found Dead Survey by reporting the location of any dead badgers on **08081 695110**.

TB Compensation for In-Calf Animals

A reminder that for TB compensation purposes a veterinary diagnosis declaration of pregnancy that has been signed by a veterinarian is required for any TB positive animals to be valued as being in-calf. The declaration may be up to 3 months old at the date of valuation and must relate to the ear tag number of the animal concerned. The declaration must be presented to the valuer at valuation and will be sent by the valuer to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) with the other relevant valuation paperwork. If any animals require scanning and a declaration signing by one of the team then please give us as much notice as you are able so that we can schedule these into our diary.



Daleside Veterinary Group

DECEMBER 2018

Merry Christmas

The whole team at Daleside Vets would like to wish all our clients an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year! Please note the office will be open as usual except for the following days:

Office will be closed from 4pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve

❄️ **Christmas Day | Tues 25th Dec**
Emergencies only

❄️ **Boxing Day | Wed 26th Dec**
Emergencies only

❄️ **New Years Day | Tues 1st Jan**
Emergencies only

Our 24 hour Emergency service will continue to operate at all times when the office is closed. Please also note there will be no deliveries on Tuesday 25/12/18 and Tuesday 1/1/19

Christmas Party

We would love to welcome you to our annual client Christmas Party, which will now be held at Holt Lodge on the 11th of December at 7.30pm. So dig out your best Christmas jumper, bring plenty of festive cheer and we'll supply the beer!



Calf Scour

Calf scour is a major cause of disease in young calves and a cause of significant economic loss on many farms. Scour can result from non-infectious (e.g. nutritional) or infectious causes. Often there is a combination of factors involved and the occurrence of disease is influenced by environmental and management factors.

What causes scours?

There are a number of infectious diseases that can cause diarrhoea in young calves including: E.coli, Rotavirus, Coronavirus, Cryptosporidia or Salmonella. Coccidiosis is typically seen in older calves and is characterised by a bloody scour.

How to Treat Scours

Scouring calves become dehydrated very quickly; if they become severely dehydrated this lowers the amount of oxygenated blood circulating the body, which can have very severe effects. The aim of treatment is primarily to prevent dehydration. A calf needs a surprisingly big volume of fluid over a 24-hour period and this requirement is further increased when taking into account the increased loss of fluid due to scour. A 50kg calf with bad scour, which is already slightly dehydrated, requires at least 8 litres of fluid per day to treat and prevent further dehydration

If scouring calves are able to stand and suck, it is appropriate to offer extra fluids via rehydration fluids by mouth. If the calf is down, weak or unable to suck then fluids will need to be given in the vein by a vet.

If rehydration fluids are given by mouth, continuing milk feeding is strongly advised to provide the gut with energy to repair itself. Milk feeds and rehydration fluid feeds should be alternated throughout the day. Because the most likely causes of diarrhoea in young calves are not bacterial, it is rare that antibiotics are necessary. In fact they can do more harm than good by killing off the 'good bacteria' in the gut and increasing the likelihood of developing antibiotic resistance. Calves with blood scour or which are suffering from other infections as well as scour (e.g. joint ill, pneumonia) do need antibiotics. Speak to a vet about when to use antibiotics and which ones are best for your particular case. The benefits of keeping the calf warm, dry and well hydrated are often underestimated!

Diagnosing the Cause

If an infectious cause of scour is suspected then it is important to ascertain the cause of the scour. Muck samples from a few scouring calves should be submitted for testing. In severe cases of scours, early veterinary treatment is life-saving.

Calf Scour...

The first step in control is finding out what infectious agents you are dealing with so faecal sampling or post-mortem of dead calves is essential.

Prevention

- **Vaccination**

There are a number of excellent vaccines available against the viral causes of scour as well as against E. coli (e.g. Rotavec Corona). These vaccines are given to the cow before she calves. The cow produces antibodies in response to the vaccine which she then passes on to her calf in colostrum. Speak to the practice about choosing and using an appropriate vaccine in your herd.

- **Management**

Cleanliness is key! Regular cleaning and disinfection of the calving pens and calf housing prevents build-up and spread of infection. Simple practices you can adopt to reduce the risk of scour spreading in your herd include:

- **Feed youngest calves first, working towards the oldest to minimise the spread of disease**

- **Keep all feeding equipment clean and wear disposable gloves**
- **Use a disinfectant boot dip before entering the calf shed and when moving between different groups of stock**
- **Ensure washing water drains quickly and effectively: wet environments raise humidity levels, which helps bacteria and viruses to survive**

- **Colostrum**

Newborn calves should receive 10% of their bodyweight in colostrum in the first 6 hours of life and again by 12 hours of age. After this time, the calf is no longer able to absorb the antibodies from the colostrum that allow the calf to fight infections. Colostrum should be of good quality (which can be checked using a meter available from the practice) and given using clean equipment. Bought-in colostrum should never be used due to the risk of disease transmission, especially Johne's disease.