

FARM ANIMAL NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2021

CALF PNEUMONIA VACCINATION OPTIONS

Respiratory disease in calves can be an expensive problem. As well as the immediate costs of antibiotic and anti-inflammatory treatments or dead calves there are other less obvious costs. Disease in suckled or reared beef calves can increase finishing times and reduce carcase quality. Disease in dairy heifer calves, particularly in the first 3 months of life, can result in failure to attain recommended growth and age targets, increasing age at first service and calving, reducing subsequent lactation yields and ultimately, longevity.

Good calf management and housing is important to control calf pneumonia however it is difficult to remove all the risk factors associated with respiratory disease. Vaccination is an important part of any control plan for calf pneumonia. Vaccination works by increasing the immunity of an individual animal and decreasing the infection pressure within the group. For this reason vaccination is a herd strategy and all calves in the group should be vaccinated and not, for example, just the valuable dairy heifer calves!

When choosing a vaccine the following should be taken into account:

- What does the vaccine protect against? Do I know what 'bugs' are on my farm or do I need broad cover?
- From what age can the vaccine be used and how quickly will it provide protection?
- How is the vaccine administered? Intranasal, intramuscular or under the skin? Intranasal vaccines are typically single shot vaccines and provide a quicker protection than injectable vaccines.
- How long does the protection last? Will it cover the entire risk period for the calves?

To get the maximum benefit from any vaccination programme try to minimise stress at the time of vaccination (e.g. avoid disbudding, castrating or weaning at the same time as vaccine administration), do not vaccinate sick animals. Ideally calves should be vaccinated before the main risk period i.e. suckler calves are better vaccinated before housing so that immunity has developed by the time they are brought in. Take care when handling and storing vaccines – transport them from the practice in a cool bag and store in a fridge until ready for use.



VACCINE	PROTECTS AGAINST	MIN AGE	NO. INJECTIONS	ROUTE	BOOSTERS
Bovilis Intranasal RSP	P13, RSV	7 Days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval Intranasal	PI3, RSV	9 days	1 vacc	Intranasal	Protection lasts 12 weeks
Rispoval 4	PI3, RSV, IBR, BVD	3 months old	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Intramuscular	Every 6 months
Bovipast RSP	PI3, RSV, Pasturellosis	2 weeks	2 vaccs 4 weeks apart	Under skin	2 weeks pre risk period
Bovalto Respi 3	PI3, RSV, BVD	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration or immunity
Bovalto Risp 4	PI3, RSV, BVD and Mannheimia Haemolytica	2 weeks	2 vaccs 3 weeks apart	Under Skin	6 months duration of immunity
Bovillis IBR Marker Live	IBR	2 weeks	1 vacc	Intranasal	Every 6 months
Bovillis IBR Marker Live	IBR	3 months old	1 vacc	Intramuscular	Every 6 months

We shall be holding an on farm meeting to discuss building design and ventilation of dairy calf housing between 12-2.30pm on Tuesday 14th September at Wigglesworth Hall Farm by kind permission of the Booth family. For more information or if you would like to attend please contact the surgery on 01729 823538.

FARM DOG VACCINES

More often than not when we are discussing vaccinations it relates to your cattle or sheep. Recently Neil, Andrew and I attended a course to discuss health plans and it was brought to our attention that many dedicated farm vets fall short in educating their farm clients about the importance of vaccinating farm dogs. As a mixed practice we didn't feel like we had failed on this subject, however we did feel that we could maybe do more to highlight the importance of protecting your dogs against fatal diseases ... starting with a newsletter article!!

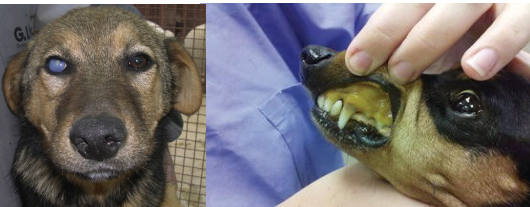
So let's start from the beginning. A puppy requires an initial vaccination course, this is routinely started at 8 weeks of age, and is made up of 2 injections 4 weeks apart, it takes a further 7 days after the second injection for the puppy to be fully protected. Part of the vaccine will provide protection against Canine Distemper, Canine Hepatitis and Canine Parvovirus (DHP) the second part will protect the puppy against four strains of Leptospirosis (L4). After 12 months the dog will require a 'booster' injection (as we do with many cattle and sheep vaccines). The first year's booster vaccine is a full DHP & L4, the 2nd and 3rd year boosters are L4's, followed by the DHP every 3 years.

The vaccines protect your dogs against Canine Distemper, Canine Hepatitis and Canine Parvovirus (DHP) and Leptospirosis (L4).

Canine Distemper Virus: This disease affects a dogs gastrointestinal system, respiratory system, spinal cord and brain.



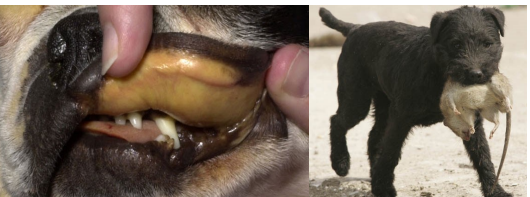
Symptoms include hardening of the pads and nose, fever, eye inflammation, eye and nose discharge, laboured breathing, coughing, vomiting and diarrhoea and lethargy. Secondary bacteria infections are in addition to the virus. The virus is transmitted via aerosol droplets, infected bodily fluids and contaminated feed and water. There is no treatment for Canine Distemper. Dogs which do survive via treating the symptomatically tend to live a degenerative life.



Canine Hepatitis Virus: Acute liver infection in dogs. It is spread via urine, faeces, blood, saliva and nasal secretions. It is contracted by the nose or mouth where it replicates in the tonsils and goes on to infect the kidneys and liver. Symptoms include fever, depression, loss of appetite, cough, tender abdomen, corneal oedema, jaundice, vomiting and in severe cases a bleeding disorder. Dogs are treated symptomatically. Life long problems after the illness includes liver disease, kidney failure and corneal oedema.



Canine Parvovirus: Highly contagious and is spread from dog to dog or through infected faeces. Mortality is reported to be 91%. Symptoms of the virus include lethargy, bloody diarrhoea and vomiting. Dogs become dehydrated extremely quickly; this then upsets the electrolyte balance. Due to the immune system being weakened we then start to see secondary bacteria infections. All these factors can lead to shock and death. Initial treatment involves supportive care of intravenous fluids. Antibiotics and blood transfusions may be administered to fight bacteria infections and for passive immunity. If a dog recovers they remain contagious for as long as 6 weeks. Contaminated stools remain a source of infection for up to 6 months.



Leptospirosis: Lepto is a bacterial disease which damages the liver and kidneys. This disease can be passed from animal to human. It is spread via urine and enters the body through the mouth, nose and wounds. The disease is spread by infected dogs, mice, rats, cattle and infected water. Dog which live on or around farm land, near water courses or kill rodents are at high risk. Symptoms of the illness include fever, jaundice, muscle pain and limping, weakness and collapse, reduced appetite, drinking more, vomiting, bloody diarrhoea, bleeding from the mouth and eyes, mouth ulcers, difficulty breathing. Lepto is a fatal disease, but dogs with mild symptoms which get treatment early can recover.



A large percentage of farm dogs will never leave the farm, but we have to think; how many dogs are coming onto your land? How many dog owners are not picking up their dog's mess? Are their dogs fully vaccinated? Where have they been before walking across your fields?

At Dalehead we do see several cases of canine infectious diseases a year, most commonly Leptospirosis and just lately Parvovirus. During the Covid pandemic we have seen a dramatic rise in the numbers of puppies being brought in to us for 1st vaccinations and new pet checks. We have also seen an increase in demand from visitors on 'staycation' in need of emergency veterinary care. As a whole the canine population has increased and our farm dogs which once upon a time will never have crossed paths with another dog may well be doing so now.

To discuss vaccinations for your dog or to organise an appointment, please contact the surgery.

DOSING FOR LUNGWORM

We have had several outbreaks of lungworm confirmed in the last few weeks. Lungworm development has been slow on pasture earlier in the summer due to the very dry conditions through June and July but when it has rained, lungworm development has occurred resulting in clinical symptoms in grazing cattle.

Clinical Signs

- Early clinical signs include an increased respiratory rate at rest and coughing when moved.
- Severe cases will become reluctant to move with their heads down and necks extended, coughing frequently even at rest.
- In dairy cows there is a reduction in milk yield with widespread coughing especially as cows are walking to and from the parlour.

How is lungworm diagnosed?

- Clinical signs.
- Dung samples - presence of lungworm larvae in faecal samples confirms lungworm infection. This can be performed in our practice laboratory.

Treatment

Whilst white drenches and levamisoles are effective against lungworm they have no persistent activity, therefore leading to cattle becoming re-infected after treatment if grazing contaminated pasture.

Treatment of youngstock is usually with an ivermectin based wormer which, as well as treating for gut worms has a persistent effect for 28 days against lungworm (e.g. **Enovex**).

Closamectin Pour On will treat for fluke in addition to gutworms and has a 28 day persistent activity against lungworm. **Dectomax Pour On** has a persistent effect for 6 weeks against lungworm while for dairy cows **Eprinex** or **Eprizero** are effective treatments with a nil milk withdrawal period.



LAB FINDINGS IN AUGUST



Worms

A mixture of results these last couple of months. Most high results have come from shearlings rather than lambs. This could be because of a number of reasons including pasture management and mineral deficiencies. With the current weather it would be a good idea to keep an eye on burdens with worm egg counts, the warm weather could push on some early autumn worm hatches. We have had some early positives for lungworm in cattle.

Fluke

We are planning to do further blood sampling in lambs this year to monitor for the emergence of liver fluke. Given the weather so far we are thinking emergence may be late again but please watch this space we will keep you updated! The majority of fluke egg tests in the lab for sheep have been negative. This looks for adult fluke infections which haven't been cleared out from last spring. This is good news, as it looks like most of the flocks we've tested have had a good clear out, meaning there's no sneaky fluke in the sheep laying eggs to contaminate pasture for autumn.

Milk bacteriology

We've had a mixture of results in the lab this month for milk cultures but E.coli is one of the main culprits. E.coli is an environmental bacterium and is one of the most common causes of environmental mastitis. E.coli comes from the gut, so is anywhere that cow faeces can come into contact with the udder. To control environmental mastitis, we have to look at management throughout the cow's lactation cycle. Preventing contamination in the dry cow is just as important as it is in the milking cow. Pay particular attention to good hygiene, bedding and pasture management i.e. avoid overstocking and poached areas. Use of teat sealants *e.g orbeseal/ cepraloack* at drying off are a valuable aid in helping to prevent cows picking up E Coli infections during the dry period which can then manifest themselves as clinical mastitis during the first month of lactation.

TRODAX INJECTION

Trodax injection has been unavailable since 2020. We have recently been informed that due to manufacturing problems the product has unfortunately been permanently taken off the market.

TETRA DELTA MILK COW TUBES

Again, due to manufacturing problems Tetra Delta has been permanently taken off the market.

RISPOVAL 4

Temporarily unavailable from the manufacturers. Bovalto Respi 4 is the closest alternative available with no known supply problems. When ordering vaccines which need 2 doses it is always good practice to order the second dose at the same time as the first.

CLOSAMECTIN INJECTION FOR CATTLE AND SHEEP

We have been informed from the drug company that this product is currently unavailable, but hopefully it will be back on our shelves in November 2021.

SOLANTEL POUR ON ***NEW PRODUCT***

Solantel pour on has recently been launched. Solantel pour on is the first fluke only pour on licensed for cattle in the UK. Containing the active ingredient Closanel, the product treats flukes down to 7 week old immatures. It is not recommended for use in milk cows including dry cows or replacement heifers in the second half of pregnancy.

PRODUCT

NEWS



WE'RE NEARLY THERE!!



It's been a long road travelled but we are nearing the end of our building project at the Settle practice. Despite some of the rumours in town and misinformation spread by the scaffolders, it is not an ALDI or a swimming pool. It is in fact our new farm animal building!

The ground floor in the building will provide dedicated areas for large animal surgeries, lambing facilities, calf hospitalisation, post-mortems and laboratory examinations. Upstairs we have incorporated a large function room to accommodate farmer meetings and presentations.

The new facilities allows the farm animal department an exclusive area where we can continue to provide dedicated services. The addition of the meeting room will allow us to proceed with a the number of further educational courses which we can provide to our clients. In addition to the room proving a space of learning for you it also provides one for us. Veterinary professionals, veterinary nurses and SQP's are required to continue their professional development once gaining their qualifications. Having a platform which allows external personnel to come to us is of great benefit.

Now we have the end in sight we would like to invite you to an open day to showcase the new facility and how we are intending to use it over the coming months and years.

THE OPEN DAY IS:

Saturday 2nd of October, 11am-4pm.

Unfortunately car parking will be unavailable on the day as the outside space will be used for fun activities and refreshments. We hope you will join us and help us celebrate this next exciting chapter in Dalehead's history.

SEPTEMBER
2021



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

