

PORTLAND HOUSE VET NEWS

December 2006

YOUR CO-OPERATION WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED



As many of you will be aware, we have recently expanded the farm animal side of the practice again; this time eastwards towards Lincoln. With the associated increase in the number of farms and therefore, calls per day, it has become ever more important for us to organise ourselves well each morning. If you require a 'non-emergency' farm call could you please ring the practice before 8.45am (not before 7.30am) whenever possible.

For obvious reasons all emergency calls will be attended as soon as possible whatever time of day or night.

Lambing club!

Calling all sheep farmers.....



Would you like to call the vet to help with the occasional tricky lambing?

Would you like to have a caesarean done when the lamb is just too big to come out?

Would you like to be able to take your sick sheep and lambs to the vet?

Has the cost of doing any of these in the past put you off?

Well the answer is here - **join our lambing club!**

For a £150 joining fee, any lambing related problem that you bring to the surgery between 7am and 7pm will be seen for just the price of drugs and disposables with a small additional charge outside of these hours. That means that you can get lambings, caesareans, prolapses and more done for an affordable price, e.g. **just £4 for a lambing**, therefore increasing both your lambing percentage and your profits. Give Poppy a call at the practice for more details on 01777 703663.



MICOTIL® PROMOTION

Since Micotil® pneumonia treatment for cattle and sheep has been reclassified as a dangerous drug it is now only qualified vets that are legally allowed to administer it. **Elanco**, the company who make Micotil®, have concerns that usage of this effective treatment will decrease due to this new ruling and have therefore, joined forces with the vets at Portland House to **deduct £25 from any visit** to farmers needing to use at least 50mls of Micotil® in one batch treatment; i.e. **treating at least 5 cattle weighing 300kgs.**

This will suit any farmers that are keen to continue using Micotil® during a pneumonia outbreak. Remember Micotil® is an effective treatment for foul in cattle as well as mastitis in sheep.



The University of
Nottingham

Student Placements

Farm experience in the first two years of the veterinary course is a vital part of a vet student's early training. It provides them with an introduction to U.K. farming and the health and husbandry of a wide range of farmed species on which they can build throughout the course. At the new Nottingham Veterinary School they are striving to train motivated, enthusiastic and practical vets who understand the farming industry in which they will work. They would greatly appreciate your help achieving this goal and are looking for farms that would be interested in providing vet student placements (at Christmas, Easter and summer vacations). Students may initially be 'wet behind the ears' but will be keen quicklearners who will rapidly be able to help out with routine tasks.

If you are interested please contact them on 01159516439, email: veterinary-placement@nottingham.ac.uk or write to Student Placement Manager, Nottingham Vet School, University of Nottingham, College Road, Sutton Bonington, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 5RD.

PORTLAND HOUSE VET NEWS

December 2006

THE Mastitis Lab

We are currently in the process of setting up a mastitis lab. This should enable us to get quicker results from milk samples submitted early in the week and at a lower cost (**approx £6 per cow** at time of going to press) than if we were to send them to an external lab. With this facility we hope to target dairy farms with recurrent cases of mastitis, find out what is causing the problem, and put in place a strategy to either control or eradicate the disease. Early runs have been very promising, so if you feel that you are spending too much on milk tubes then call Robin now and

stop mastitis from milking your profits!



MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VET!

Because life is so hectic, it is important that every farm has an up to date disease prevention and management strategy to maintain good health and fight illnesses amongst the animals on that farm and that this plan is written down! The 'All my plans are in my head!' attitude is all well and good but at one time or another it is more than likely to fail. We are keen to help set up herd and flock health plans to clarify the jobs that need to be done systematically throughout the year. If any of you would like a visit to discuss creating a specific plan please contact Alan on 703663.

Calf Pneumonia...Be prepared or lose money!

Have any of you thought how well your herd will cope with this years pneumonia challenge? Last year we saw dramatic numbers of animals going down with the potentially fatal disease complex and its spread was aided by the perfect climate changes.

Remember that pneumonia in cattle is caused by a number of viruses and bacterial diseases so antibiotics are not always effective. In such non responsive cases vaccination may be the most sensible option in order to get control of the situation and save money on expensive treatment that doesn't work.

RSV, PI3 and IBR are the main viruses involved in calf pneumonia and *Pasteurella, Mycoplasma and H.somnus* are particularly significant bacterial infections involved. These bacterial infections can cause disease on their own or can complicate the disease once the viruses have already caused lung damage and challenged the calf's immune system.

Age of Cattle Mainly Affected	Infectious Cause
Young calves	<i>Pasteurella</i> and RSV
Older calves	IBR
Calves at any age	PI3

How to spot it? Sounds obvious, but **many cases we see aren't coughing with a snotty nose!** Watch the chest closely to see if the animal in question is breathing more quickly than the others in the same group, is it eating normally too? Invest in a thermometer (£3 – ring reception for details) The **normal temperature of a calf will be 101.5°F**; in most cases of pneumonia calves have temperatures of 103°F or more! If the weather is humid and mild and the air is still, particularly after a cold patch then think pneumonia. Treating these animals early is absolutely vital before the irreversible damage is done to the lungs, if these animals are left or not treated early enough then it will take longer to reach finishing weight or achieve target weight for first calving inevitably reducing the lifetime performance of that animal. It's these hidden costs that are easily forgotten when looking at the price of the treatment!

If your mind boggles at the thought of choosing and using one of the many antibiotics and vaccinations available on the market, please call any of us at the practice to discuss which treatment is likely to be cost effective and work for your herd.

More Routines Please!

We would also like to encourage the booking of regular routine cattle fertility visits and pregnancy scanning. We have scanning monitors and battery powered goggles to use and we can then sort out those cows not seen bulling and advise the best treatment for problem cows as well as giving accurate conception dates. Make it worth your while and save up a batch for us to scan at one time. Call Alison **01777 703663**.



RESFLOR® injectable ANTIBIOTIC AND ANTI- INFLAMMATORY IN ONE!

Schering-Plough has launched a new pneumonia treatment containing the active ingredient found within Nuflor and the painkiller Flunixin. It claims to work better than Nuflor® and flunixin given separately. To order ring Vet Drugs To Go on 01777706664.