

Welcome to the Fair City Veterinary Group August Newsletter!

FLIES AND SUMMER MASTITIS

After a promising start to the summer with sunny weather, the past month has been warm and wet. This is leading to large numbers of flies causing various problems.

In cattle, flies can cause issues with summer mastitis. This is mainly a problem in heifers and cows that are not in milk through the summer. The flies transmit bacteria which cause infection resulting in various symptoms.

What to look out for:

- Teat enlargement, often surrounded by flies.
- Stiffness and reluctance to walk.
- Swelling and pain in one or more udder quarters with green or yellow discharge.
- Systemic illness including a high temperature
- Abortion or deaths are possible if untreated.

Treatment includes stripping out affected quarters and administering antibiotic tubes. Treatment with injectable antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may be needed in severe cases and the cow should be separated from the herd as she will be a source of infection. All of these present costs and practical problems with handling cattle, especially through the summer months, so prevention is much more desirable than cure, and is mainly achieved through fly control.

Ways to prevent summer mastitis

- Avoiding fields surrounded by trees and hedges and if possible using those that are on high ground and exposed to a breeze.
- Fly Control. There are a variety of products including pour-on and spray preparations which are available from us at the surgery.

If you have any questions about summer mastitis or wish to discuss it in more detail please contact the surgery and one of our vets would be happy to talk to you.

A HELLO FROM OUR NEW VET!

We have been lucky enough to welcome Helen to our team of vets at Fair City Vets. She has been brought up working on her uncle's farm, has a keen interest in beef and sheep work and is really getting stuck in, having already been out to several of your farms.

SUDDEN DEATHS AND CLOSTRIDIAL DISEASES

Although clostridial vaccines are more often used in sheep, clostridial diseases can pose just as much of a threat to cattle. We have seen cases of sudden death in growing cattle recently, caused by various types of Clostridia. Clostridial diseases include Blackleg, Black's disease, Pulpy Kidney, Tetanus and Botulism. Although all of these are slightly different they can all result in sudden death, often of the best growing beasts, and are all preventable by vaccination. There are individual vaccines such as for Blackleg and combined vaccines, which usually require two vaccines 4-6 weeks apart. Implementing an effective fluke control programme is also vital in preventing these diseases, with Black's disease being associated with immature liver fluke in late summer and autumn. Please feel free to contact our vets to find out more about the diseases and the vaccines available.



KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE ON BLUETONGUE

Bluetongue is a viral disease that causes swelling of the face and foot lesions in cattle and sheep and can lead to deaths. After the UK outbreak in 2007/08, DEFRA have been carrying out surveillance in the UK and Northern Europe, and have warned of an increased risk later this summer with warm weather and winds bringing midges carrying the disease across from Europe. Much more is now known about the disease and vaccines are available. At present, the UK's risk level remains the same at medium. But if temperatures in Europe increase this risk will increase. Please feel free to contact us if you would like to discuss Bluetongue with one of our vets.

OUR NEW FCVG FARMERS CLUB...PLEASE LOOK OUT FOR INVITATIONS TO OUR FARMERS MEETING!

As a dynamic team of pro-active farm vets we are keen to ensure that we are keeping in touch with you and delivering up-to-date services. This September we will be having a "Project Lamb" meeting, discussing ways of improving flock performance and lambing percentages before tupping begins. Please look out for your invitation coming soon. 7th September, 7.30pm at our Perth branch, please book your place via our Facebook page or email reception@faircityvets.co.uk.

FLUKE

With the warm and wet summer we have had there is a significant risk of high fluke burdens in both cattle and sheep. Fluke (*Fasciola Hepatica*) carry out part of their development in water-snails, which are found in the wettest areas of your fields, and cause infection in cattle through the summer and autumn months. There are three main ways in which fluke can affect the value of your cattle and sheep:

1. Acute Disease

Caused by very high numbers of **immature** fluke and the main sign is **sudden death**. This is only a problem in **sheep**.

2. Sub-acute disease

Caused by high numbers of **immature and adult** flukes and the main sign is **rapid weight loss**.

3. Chronic Disease

Caused by a burden of **adult** flukes and the main signs are gradual **weight loss, diarrhoea and bottle jaw**.

Every farm and every season is different, so flukicide programmes must be dynamic to work effectively and minimise production losses. As we approach the time of housing for your cattle, it is important to think of the best way of treating for fluke. It is most sensible to use a product containing drugs effective against both immature and adult flukes at housing, such as closantel or nitroxynil, then repeating this 6 weeks later. There is resistance developing to triclabendazole-containing flukicides, so using a variety of products in your fluke control programme is worthwhile to minimise the risk of liver fluke becoming more difficult to manage in your stock in the future.

If you would like to discuss ways of managing fluke in your cattle or sheep please contact us at the surgery.