

Fluid therapy for Adult cows

Katie Harrower



Toxic Mastitis

Toxic mastitis occurs most commonly in freshly calved cows, but can also occur at any point in lactation or as a result of poor hygiene at drying off where bacteria have been introduced into the udder in the drying off process.

The cow shows systemic signs of disease when the infection in the udder causes a release of toxin into the cows' blood stream. Prompt treatment of these cows is very important and involves quarter stripping, fluids, NSAIDs (eg Metacam) and antibiotic therapy to target the bacteria in the udder, and those that have potentially made it into the bloodstream.

The use of antibiotics in treatment, is controversial, as only a small percentage of cows have live bacteria make it into their bloodstream that antibiotics would target – it is the toxin that causes the disease.

The most important part of the treatment is fluid therapy, which may be administered orally or intravenously (the solution to pollution is dilution), and NSAID, intravenously to counteract the effects of the toxin – as this is the process that will actually result in the cows death.

Metritis

Metritis refers to infection of the uterus that affects all three layers of the uterus and causes the cow to show systemic signs of disease including fever, depression and reduced feed intake. This usually occurs within a few days of calving.

Metritis is different to endometritis or 'whites' where infection resides only in the mucosa (most internal layer) of the uterus and the cow shows no signs of systemic disease. Endometritis usually occurs after 3 weeks post calving.

Treatment of metritis is broadly similar to that of toxic mastitis where fluid therapy is vitally important alongside NSAIDs and antibiotic therapy tackle the toxin present. Treating cows likely to develop metritis (difficult calving, retained foetal membranes, twins, fat cow-thin cow) with 3 days of aggressive oral rehydration therapy can reduce the requirement for antibiotic treatment in these animals.

Ketosis

Ketosis occurs when the demand for energy outweighs the amount a cow is able to consume in her daily intake. When she is unable to keep up with energy demands the liver is unable to process ketones which are produced as part of a normal metabolism and ketone levels build up. High ketone levels then suppress a cows appetite and slow down their rumen function making the condition a continual cycle if not addressed.

Ketosis can occur in two forms/time periods:

Secondary ketosis occurs mostly in fresh cows who are suffering from another transition disease, eg metritis, LDAs or severe mastitis. The ketosis in these conditions needs to be treated alongside the predisposing disease.

Primary ketosis can occur later when the cow has reached peak milk yields. This generally occurs around 4-6 weeks after calving in high yielding cows and can occur without any other predisposing disease in this scenario.

More uncommonly we can also see cases of 'nervous ketosis' where the cows can show neurological signs including marked behaviour changes, weakness and compulsive licking/chewing.

Treatment of all types of ketosis in cows involves changing their metabolism pathways to allow the liver to start processing the ketones again. This is achieved with frequent oral administration of propylene glycol, liver support such as Vigophos and drenches such as 'off-feed' to help stimulate the cows appetite.

We can provide training for using a stomach pump to deliver fluids, or if you would like to purchase one for your farm.

Friars Moor
Livestock Health

Exploring soil health

Making a start on understanding and measuring your soil health.

With guest speaker
Dr Elizabeth Stockdale
25th March 2021
13:00pm by Zoom

To register your interest, any questions and to receive log in details, please call or email the farm office for registration details.

Tel: 01258 472314 Email: farmoffice@friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk

www.friarsmoorvets.co.uk

Congratulations Julian!

Farmers Weekly hosted their week-long festival of British farming recently to celebrate farming's successes and a chance to see and hear about the achievements of more than 40 of the best farmers in the land.



We are so proud of Julian for winning the Livestock Advisor of the year award #FWAwards 2020.

Many congratulations Julian!

Lube-eaze™

Obstetric lubricant for farm animals
a new solution to an old problem



With Lambing and Calving season well underway, we are excited to bring you a new lubrication product. Some of you will have seen us using the silver foil packets over the last 2 years while they have been in development.

Each sachet contains powdered lubricant which is activated on contact with fluids. The external layer of the sachet dissolves entirely. The silver packaging is entirely biodegradable. Much easier to carry around in your pocket 'just in case' than a bottle of lube (but do not put it in the washing machine in your pocket!)

Dates for your Diary 2021

Mar 4th
2pm-4pm
By ZOOM

Farm Animal Veterinary Schools Careers Talk

Secondary school students and anyone interested in a career in veterinary medicine. To register your interest, to submit any questions and to receive the login details please email:

careerdevelopment@friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk

March 25th
1pm
By ZOOM

Exploring soil health

Making a start on understanding and measuring your soil health.
Speaker: Dr Elizabeth Stockdale

March 24th
1pm-5pm

Online Lambing Course

£50

April 23rd
9am-2pm

AI training course:

The first part will be online, followed by the 1:1 practical training on your farm
£500

To register, either ring or email the office to book your place & to receive the login details.

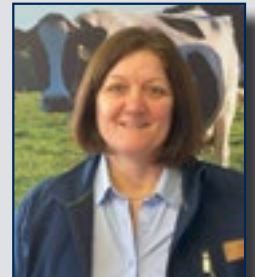
Bulk Milk Testing for Bovine TB - Julian Allen

For a number of years a team from Edinburgh University and a company called Surefarm have been working on a diagnostic test for bovine TB known as Enferplex. The test was originally developed for use on blood samples from individual animals but there is hope that it could also be used on bulk milk. This could assist with TB surveillance in dairy herds and could potentially reduce the amount of traditional TB testing required - something we would all like to see!

In order to validate the Enferplex test, bulk milk samples need to be collected before and after TB tests so that test results can be compared before and after removal of reactors. To this end, Surefarm has teamed up with NML and Farmcare UK (who coordinate all statutory TB testing) to facilitate automatic collection of bulk milks at the appropriate time. A farmer's permission is required before their samples can be tested and you may, or may already have, received a letter from Surefarm asking for this and giving more details about the research.

Friars Moor has been involved in early stage sampling for this project and we believe it could be an exciting development. We would like to encourage clients who are interested, to get involved by granting permission for their samples to be used. Please speak to any of the vets if you have any questions or would like for more information. Thank you!

Staff News



This month we welcome to the farm department Tweka who is covering Daisy's maternity leave in the farm office and Louis who joins our vet tech team.

Louis is ROMS accredited to carry out mobility scoring and will be helping out in various other roles with our existing foot trimmers and vet techs.

As a lot of you will be aware, Veterinary Director Julian Allen will be retiring from the practice in April. Unfortunately due to Covid restrictions we are unable to have a leaving party, however, we would still like to offer you the opportunity to wish him well, by signing his leaving card. The link for the electronic card is <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/a10b66ebce22faa> or if you would rather avoid the technology, we will happily transfer your message into the card if you email what you would like to say to; farmoffice@friarsmoorlivestockhealth.co.uk