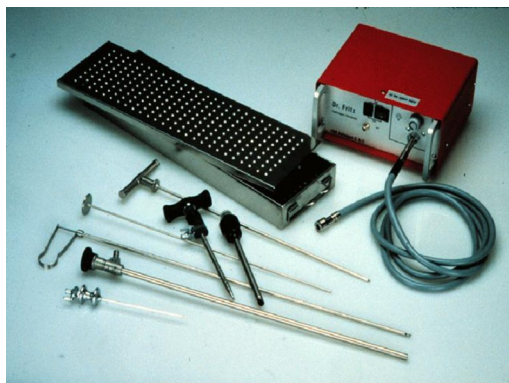


Shepton Vets Newsletter

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Even better DA (twisted stomach) repair!



We have invested in a laparoscope, so that we can offer the most advanced approach to DA repair. Laparoscopic correction of DAs is key hole type surgery, where we use an endoscope (long lens) to identify the displaced abomasum and place it back into its correct position. This procedure is a bridge between the toggle and the surgical approach. It combines the best of both worlds; we can see where the abomasum is, release the gas and then stitch it in the right place but without submitting the animal to the

risks and complications of open surgery.

The reason we decided to follow this approach is that recovery rates are reported to be superior with the best return to milk production when compared to other approaches. Although our success rates



with toggles and surgical correction are very high, we feel that the increasing value of both cows and milk mean that there will be a demand for this procedure. It also has the advantage of less trauma for the cow!

We are one of the first practices in England to carry out this fascinating procedure. Sotirios had the honour to spend three days with a leading Dutch vet, observing his approach – a fantastic experience indeed.

New Team Members following practice expansion

Robert Blaszczyk

We are delighted to tell you that we have appointed Mr Robert Blaszczyk as a dedicated TB tester starting in early November. Robert is Polish, he is charming, polite and speaks very good English. He has previously been working in farm practices in Salisbury and in North Devon.



Our TB testing workload has increased year on year and having one dedicated person to test will help us maintain a service that meets demand.

Kate Sadler

Many of you will have met Kate Sadler, who joined the practice in July.

Kate graduated from Glasgow in 2009 and has been working in a very mixed practice in mid Wales, where she became very proficient with calving beef cows and caesarean sections. She is particularly interested in fertility work and calf rearing.



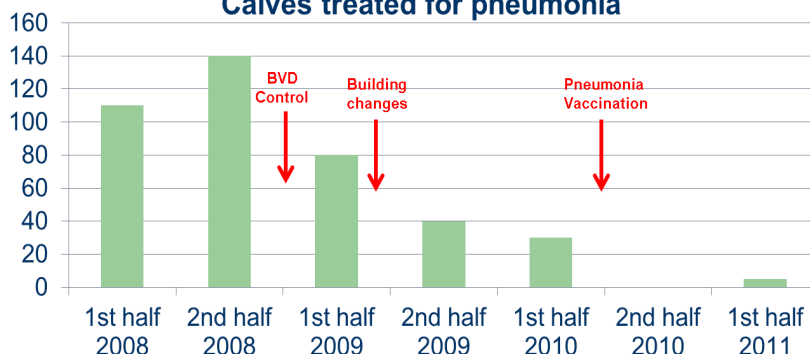
Disease Control Campaigns

PNEUMONIA

Calf pneumonia is obvious in more severely affected animals but often the whole group is affected to varying degrees, reducing feed intake and feed conversion.

The costs of pneumonia include treatment, reduced weight gain, labour and death. The average cost of a single pneumonia case in a dairy calf is **£43** and £30 for each other in the group.

Calves treated for pneumonia



Vaccination helps reduce the severity and/or number of cases. A more rounded approach looking at all the preventative strategies available will save a lot more money and lives in the long run.

The chart above shows how continued efforts pay off with fewer treated calves, reduced medicine costs, improved health and reduced mortality. We continue to provide assessments on farm allowing individual risks to be identified and dealt with.

On Tuesday 8th November Oliver Tilling will discuss calf pneumonia at the first winter meeting of Shepton Dairy Discussion Group at Pilton Working Mens Club.

LAMENESS



Michael Head has been busy reducing lameness with the SWHLI Scheme covering 70% of costs. Participating herds receive locomotion scoring, two one to one consultancy visits looking at causes, prevention and treatment, and a group meeting.

So far 15 farmers have enrolled in this one year programme at a cost of £25 per month. One farm has already seen a 50% reduction in the number of lame cows from prevention measures and earlier and improved treatment and so there are substantial benefits for the cows and the farm. Contact the practice if you want to join this programme

BVD ERADICATION

BVD causes reduced fertility, early embryonic death, abortions, poor calf health and reduced immunity. Most herds limit these effects through vaccination. 27 practice farms committed to a BVD eradication programme in 2007 through a research project with the Royal Vet College.

We found a third of farms had persistently infected (PIs) animals which act as BVD reservoirs shedding virus throughout their lives. These PIs were culled and the herd became free of BVD. On average each herd had four less abortions (£2,500 saving) and improved calf health. We can use SWHLI funding to help other herds to control and eradicate BVD. Ask us for details.

THE HIGHEST FREE STANDING MOUNTAIN IN THE WORLD 'MOUNT KILIMANJARO'

Michael (Spike) has just returned from Mount Kilimanjaro and he is hosting an evening talk about his trip on **Thursday 10th November**. The evening will be held at Croscombe Village Hall starting at 7.30pm in aid of East African Appeal and The Cancer Treatment and Research Trust (CTRT).

Please contact Michael or Cathy to let them know if you wish to attend.