

Dearest Clients/Friends,

My Family and I would like to thank you all for the love and support you have shown us following the tragic death of our lovely daughter Teal. The support has been amazing and we are very grateful and appreciative.

We will be having a private cremation on the morning of Wednesday 8th July. This will be followed by an open service to celebrate Teal's life at Hambleden Church at 11.45am (RG9 6RX) and a reception at St. Katherines Parmoor (RG9 6NN).

It would be great to see you there so we can share a hug and a word. This would save me having to do it on farm at a later date. If you would like to come and give your condolences please do not dress in black. Teal would like colour in her ceremony.

Once again thank you for your kind words, support and love at this very difficult time.



Teal Emilia David

27th May 2009 – 27th June 2015

Forever With Us

Your Friend

Evan

RETAINED FOETAL MEMBRANES

Usually, once a cow has calved, the placenta begins to detach from the uterus, uterine contractions continue and it is expelled allowing the uterus to shrink and the cervix to close. This 'cleansing' should take place within 12 hours of birth. Failure to do so is referred to as retained fetal membranes (RFM) or retained cleansings.

Normal cleansing is a process poorly understood and which is easily disrupted. Just about any deviation from the norm can lead to RFM; twins, calving difficulty, abortion/stillbirth, uterine prolapse, caesarean, milk fever, mineral deficiencies, etc. Around 5-10% of cows suffer RFM, but this figure can be much higher on some farms.

RFM becomes a critical condition in horses after just a few hours; conversely, cattle are comparatively hardy and most tolerate the condition without ill effects for several days after calving. Unfortunately, a proportion of cows develop severe bacterial infections and go on to develop toxæmia and septicaemia. The symptoms of reduced appetite, fever, dehydration and a foul smelling vaginal discharge can progress rapidly so cows must receive urgent veterinary treatment.

Historically, physical removal of the retained placenta was the mainstay of management for RFM if they still remained 5 days post calving. However, studies have demonstrated that this may bring no significant benefits and can potentially do more harm than good, with additional damage and more severe infections in the uterus.

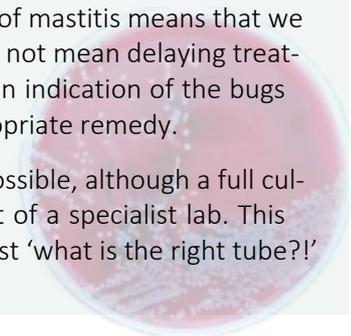


Therefore, management of cows with RFM should centre on close observation, followed by treatment of infections with injectable antibiotics and anti-inflammatories as necessary. So after calving, monitor your cow, her appetite and, if practicable, her temperature (<39.4.°C/103 °F); if worried talk to the vet about treatment.

CULTURING YOUR MASTITIS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY

Giving us a pre-treatment sample for any case of mastitis means that we can culture whatever is in the milk. This should not mean delaying treatment, but 24-48 hours later we can give you an indication of the bugs present and guide you towards the most appropriate remedy.

Modern culture plates are making this more possible, although a full culture and sensitivity test still requires the input of a specialist lab. This means we can offer much better advice, not just 'what is the right tube?!'



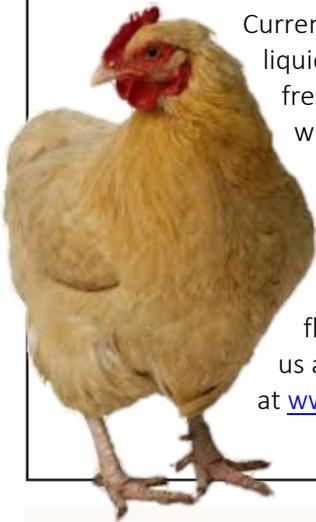
BACKYARD POULTRY - DROPPINGS AND WORMING

What do normal chicken faeces look like? 2 types of droppings may be seen, the first type most commonly seen is firm brown faeces with a white urate cap. The second should look like caramel in colour and consistency and this is normal caecal droppings. A normal chicken will pass this looser faeces 1-3 times daily and this can be misidentified as diarrhoea.

Take a look at what is normal in your flock. If diarrhoea does develop it can be due to a number of things. Gut parasites, bacteria and viral causes are the most common culprits, but diet and other systemic disease can also cause an imbalance to the gut flora. We will often ask you to bring in a sample for us to look for worm eggs and coccidia.

Adult worms need to be present in the gut for there to be worm eggs in the faeces, however early larval stages can also cause gut damage and disease. So a negative worm egg count does not always mean your birds are worm free. If we suspect it, we will treat it. We will also want to talk to you about their diet, water source and worming history. And we may send a sample away for analysis, especially if there are a number of birds unwell.

The 2 licensed ingredients for worming backyard chickens in the UK are flubendazole and fenbendazole. The former ingredient, flubendazole, is licensed for poultry in 2 formulations ;Flubenvet and Solubenol.



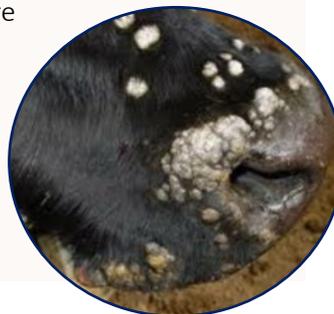
Currently we can only source Solubenol, a white pasty liquid which needs to be mixed into water, made up in a fresh solution daily for 7 days. Flubenvet 1% powder will hopefully be available again at the end of June; this is mixed into the food daily for 7 days. Both of these products have a zero day withdrawal for eggs.

For further information on worming regimes and flock monitoring and management you can speak to us at the practice or there is also helpful advice online at www.chickenvet.co.uk

JUVENILE WARTS (Papilloma Virus)

All cattle under the age of three years could get this disease. The virus causes warts, which grow in four types: tag shaped, stalked (a narrow base and a larger body), squat (raised wart with a wide firmly fixed base) and flat (frequently over-looked as they are smaller and less noticeable). The warts could reach the size of a tennis ball in some cases!

Treatment? The warts are more of a unsightly appearance issue rather than a serious physical problem, as the tumours are benign. Unless the animals affected are show animals and/or the wart isn't in a sensible area (testicles, teats of a heifer which is due to calve etc.), the best approach is to let the animals develop natural immunity and the warts will fall off on their own...



DON'T TOLERATE SLOW TRACK COWS

For a long while we have been promoting the idea that if you get the bit before calving right (the dry cows) and the bit after calving right (up until conception) that you can relax for the remaining 8-9 months of the year.

Cows who are managed appropriately in this vital 90 day period will be more productive, live longer and suffer less illness than those who become fat, stale, mastitic and ultimately suffer from poor lactational performance and poor fertility.

Cows who calve down at the right body condition score, not hindered by sub-clinical mastitis, endometritis or other reproductive diseases will be on the fertility fast track, ensuring that they are back in calf in a timely manner and so don't get the opportunity to become fat next time either.

Cows who end up on the slow track – becoming fat, suffering disease and failing to conceive will remain on the slow track and can lead to the 'cycle of doom', whereby animals who should not be kept in the herd are kept, just to maintain yields, with ever worsening results.

The 'Vital 90' initiative is targeted at ensuring your cows don't enter this cycle, and remain as fast track cows, improving farm profits!