

MASTITIS TREATMENT

Many of you will be aware of the shortage of treatments available for mastitis in dairy cows. In terms of broad spectrum treatments there is currently only one tube with a secure supply - Ubrolexin.

All other broad spectrum tubes are currently unavailable, although we have managed to secure a small supply of alternatives imported from Germany and the Czech Republic.



In many cases a broad spectrum tube is NOT required. Investigation of the current mastitis causing bacteria is strongly recommended and if appropriate, a more specific mastitis treatment can be used (such as Orbenin LA or Ubropen - These tubes are still available).

Speak to one of the vets for more information.

NEW WAYS TO CONTACT US

(016973) 42174 - Emergencies (24 hours), order medicines
And for questions about your animal(s)

medicine@wigtonvets.co.uk - All medicine requests
(Farm & Small Animals)

(016973) 41805/41806 - To make a payments or alert us
when you arrive at the practice

info@wigtonvets.co.uk - For everything else

Check our website www.wigtonvets.co.uk & Facebook page for updates

FARM DISCOUNT SCHEME

Excellent discounts on selected drugs / vaccines when accounts are paid before the end of the month.

BELLE VUE VETS NEWS

JUNE 2020



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Hopefully this first newsletter of the summer finds you well and settling into what is likely to be a 'new normal'.

At the moment the practice will remain closed to the general public. Please call our usual number 016973 42174 for all emergencies, to speak with a vet, to order medicine and to arrange a visit.

If collecting medicine at the practice please pre-order on the above number. When you arrive at the practice call 016973 41805 or 41806 and a member of staff will bring your order to you.

**STAY
ALERT** 

**CONTROL
THE VIRUS**

 **SAVE
LIVES**

HUSKVAC

Now is your last chance to order Huskvac for any calves and youngstock likely to be going out to grass this summer.

016973 42174

www.wigtonvets.co.uk

Syke Park, Wigton. Cumbria. CA7 9NE



NEMATODIRUS IN LAMBS

- Latest forecasts indicate a moderate risk for nematodirus in lambs in this area
- It usually occurs when you get a spell of warm weather following colder weather, causing a mass hatching of eggs on pasture
- Affects lambs under 3 months old
- Disease can be severe and sudden
- Profuse watery scour
- High mortality without prompt treatment
- Surviving lambs will take longer to finish
- Worm egg counts are NOT very helpful, as disease is caused by immature worms: talk to a vet
- If possible, move sheep from the infected pasture
- Treat ASAP with wormer: white drenches (e.g. Albex, Rycoben) are fine
- **YOU CAN PREVENT PROBLEMS BY AVOIDING FIELDS GRAZED BY LAMBS THE PREVIOUS YEAR**
- Sheep develop immunity at 3 months: you only get disease if the egg hatching coincides with young lambs grazing



HEAT STRESS IN DAIRY CATTLE

We think of Heat Stress as a problem for cows in the USA or perhaps Saudi Arabia. However, with more cows housed during the summer months, and spells of prolonged hot weather, we need to start recognising that it is a problem right here in Cumbria.

The upper critical temperature of a cow is 25C. If environmental temperature is above this a cow will need to undergo certain adaptations in order to keep cool. They can increase the dispersal of heat by panting, drooling etc. This requires an increase in their maintenance energy requirement meaning that energy will be directed away from production. They will also reduce their forage intakes, decreasing rumination and heat production.

Heat stress can lead to drops in milk yield, reduced fertility due to poor fertilisation rates and increases in SCC and mastitis rates.

Increasing humidity will compound all the effects of heat stress so that cows suffer quicker at lower temperatures. This can particularly be the case in older buildings with poorer ventilation (even in the winter if stocking rate is high).

In the USA, some sheds are designed with water sprayers and fans to keep cows cool in the summer months. What can we do in Cumbria without nipping out to buy some fans??

It is imperative that adequate water is provided as cows will increase their water consumption by up to 20%, drinking around 100 litres/day.

Feeding 60% of the ration between 8pm and 8am, to account for lower feed intakes during the day, and increasing the energy density of the ration may be appropriate. Poorer quality, stemmy forages should be avoided as they increase rumination. Care must be taken to avoid rumen acidosis when increasing energy density and reducing roughage.

Maximise ventilation in existing accommodation

Ensure plenty of shelter/shade is provided at grazing, as cows at grass are not immune to the effects of heat stress.