



Dear Client,

In Milk Chlortetracycline Prescription

On the 1st January 2013 our right as Vet Surgeons to prescribe Chlortetracycline in milk powder has been removed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). The VMD is the government body responsible for medicines use in farm animals and pets. Since 2009 we have had a special dispensation allowing us to sign a prescription.

The decision by the VMD is based on the science that chlortetracycline is not fully available to the calf as the high calcium levels lock up the antibiotic.

The VMD suggest the use of injectable Chlortetracyclines (Alamycin LA) or incorporating Chloromed Oral Powder ® into water or calf cake to single animals or small groups. This product is available from the practice.

Our position is that although other antibiotics are available to prescribe into calf milk replacer we are reluctant to change as we feel that the tried and tested antibiotic which works well against pneumonia on our farms is Chlortetracycline.



We are awaiting results of a challenge to VMD through our British Veterinary Association.

Lastly we are aware that the feed industry is selling “medicated” milk with a range of products which help the general health of calf. Our advice is to check carefully what is being offered at what price and question how they work.

Cattle Vaccination

1. Hoose

Bovilis Huskvac – Hoose continues to be a problem in young stock in their first season at grass but over the last thirteen years we now see nearly half our outbreaks in adult dairy cows.

The vaccine regime is two doses four weeks apart with the last dose two weeks before turnout. These animals can be treated with wormer bolus or long acting injection provided it is two weeks after the final dose of vaccine. Another vaccine schedule is to delay the Huskvac to the pre-turnout period of the second season at grass.

Price - £8.40 per animal (two doses).

2. BVD/Leptospira/IBR

These three viral diseases continue to cause problems in both dairy and beef herds and routine vaccination is a wise precaution in most herds.

Fluke

This continues to be a major problem in sheep flocks, dairy and beef herds. The combination of poor winter feed along with this parasite results in chronic ill thrift and poor milk quality. If any farm is worried please contact us as previous year dosing regimens are proving to be insufficient.

Looking forward to next summer the prospect of acute fluke in lambs or ewes is again likely to occur unless it is an extremely dry summer.

This is because (1) the two wet summers causes a build-up of infective stages on pasture that can overwinter. (2) eggs from livestock can contaminate the ground on turnout unless fully treated.



Those farms with acute fluke last autumn should discuss their fluke dosing schedule with us as a further dose in May will help. Also the fencing off with electric netting of the wet areas of the fields or drainage where the sheep picked up the disease last year should be considered.

SureCalf Scheme

The SureCalf Postvacc scheme is running again this spring and requires two doses Rispoval 4 in the autumn and a single Rispoval IBR vaccination four days to eight weeks before sale day.

