

TERN VETS LTD

"Supporting British Farming"



DECEMBER 2014

Selective Dry Cow Therapy

Until recently, the advice to farmers has been to adopt a blanket dry cow therapy approach, i.e all cows receive an antibiotic cow tube plus sealant at drying off regardless of the individual somatic cell count (SCC) history of that animal. However, current views on the matter have changed and prophylactic use of antimicrobials is no longer seen as a responsible use of veterinary medicines as it can theoretically promote the development of multi-resistant bacteria.

The aim of dry cow therapy is two fold; to cure any existent infections at the time of drying off as well as prevent any new infections getting hold during the dry period. Cows with low SCC (<150) at drying off do not "need" antibiotic treatment as they are uninfected. The use of a teat sealant alone should be adequate to prevent further infections during the dry period **if applied in a surgically clean manner to an uninfected cow**. Cows with a high SCC in the final 3 months of lactation can then be targeted for treatment with antibiotics.

This approach has a number of benefits, firstly research shows there is a significant reduction in number of cases of clinical mastitis in the next lactation. The theory behind this is that uninfected cows given an unnecessary intramammary antibiotic not only kills the harmful bacteria but also kills the natural microflora in the teats which protect the teats from colonisation by "bad" bacteria. Secondly there are huge financial benefits to this approach both from reduced tube usage and a future reduction in clinical mastitis.

Each farm has different bugs, different patterns of mastitis and different challenges from SCC versus clinical mastitis so it is important that your dry cow protocol fits with your farms challenges.

Please speak to your vet about how we can help you get the most out of your dry cow therapy and tailor a plan suited to your farm, your cows and your environment. This will then need to be monitored to make sure your protocol is proving to be beneficial.

FINAL FOND FAREWELL TO MIKE!

Thank you for all coming to the Red Lion last month - Mike had a great send off! His final day at the practice before embarking on retirement is Wednesday 31st December and there's an open invite to all our clients to pop in to the practice that day for a farewell drink! We're open until 3.30pm that day and look forward to seeing you there.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mike for all his hard work here at Tern Vets and wish him and Janet all the very best for a happy, healthy retirement together.





OFFICE NEWS:

We're very sorry to be saying goodbye to **Claire** this month - she's following her husband and his job up to the far corner of Scotland so we wish her all the very best with their new adventures!



We're delighted to welcome a new vet into the team - some of you will have met **Tom Jackson** already. He graduated from and is from Hodnet so knows the local area. He's particularly interested in.....and in his spare time enjoys shooting and rugby. ****insert picture maybe??**



We're pleased to be welcoming **Paula** back from her maternity leave in January - she's looking forward to getting stuck back in and catching up with you all!

DRUGS UPDATE:

TYLAN:

Currently out of stock due to an ongoing manufacturing delay. We will let you know as soon as we have it back in stock for you! Make sure you speak to your vet about suitable alternatives in the meantime.

LEPTAVOID-H:

Another one out of stock at the minute. There are alternative Lepto vaccines for those of you who are desperate for annual boosters/heifer start up courses but we'd normally advise to booster before turn out in Spring to maximise immunity with seasonal peaks in pasture exposure.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE OPENING HOURS 2014

Mon 22nd Dec: 0830-1800 (drug orders by 4pm please)

Tues 23rd Dec: 0830-1800

Wed 24th Dec: 0830-1530

Thurs 25th Dec: CLOSED *emergencies only*

Fri 26th Dec: CLOSED *emergencies only*

Sat 27th/28th Dec: 0830-1200 then *emergencies only*

Mon 29th Dec: 0830-1800

Tues 30th Dec: 0830-1800

Wed 31st Dec: 0830-1530

Thursday 1st Jan: CLOSED *emergencies only*

Normal opening hours resume from Friday 2nd Jan.



We'd like to take this opportunity to say Merry Christmas to all our clients, and hope you have a happy and prosperous 2015.

Tel: 01630 656300

