



# Tern Vets Ltd

JULY 2016

PUTTING CARE INTO PRACTICE

## CONTACT US:

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## OFFICE HOURS:

Mon-Fri 08.30-18.00

Sat 08.30-12.00

Your dedicated farm  
team available 24/7



## Drugs Update



There has been a number of adverse events following the use of the new drug "Velactis" in dairy cattle in Europe. Velactis contains Cabergoline which rapidly stops milk production in cows giving a lot of milk at the end of lactation. Velactis has affected a number of cows by making them lie down and then unable to get back up, as well as some deaths. Most of these adverse reactions happened within 8-24 hours after injection and some cases have responded to treating them as a milk fever case. The product has now been recalled until further investigations are carried out. For those of you who have already purchased the drug, please give us a ring on 01630 656300 and we can advise you on what to do next.

As always, if you have any worries over an unexpected reaction to a drug please phone and let us know so we can report it to the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

## Beef Check

We have secured funding for 10 blood tests to look for signs of common infectious diseases (BVD, Lepto and IBR) that can cause economic losses, infertility and poor calf health in infected beef herds. We would like to try and make sure we are utilising our time on farm effectively, and this is something that can be done at the same time as the TB test free of charge. We can also add in testing for Johnes, Neospora and Fluke at the same time but these tests will incur a charge. Please mention it to Michelle if you are interested when you book in your TB test.

## Office News

Alex is delighted to announce the safe arrive of her baby girl "Lilia Rose" on 23rd June. Alex and Lilia are doing very well at home, and she is hoping to be at the Newport Show on 9th July for a catch up.



# BVD Free England

BVD Free is an industry-driven initiative to eradicate Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) from England. The BVD Free elimination programme is designed to ensure PI cattle are identified and removed to slaughter. The aim is to increase the number of herds from which the BVD virus has been eliminated, working towards regional and ultimately national elimination. When the vast majority of the cattle industry is taking action to control BVD and moving towards elimination, BVD Free will ask policymakers to consider recommending to Ministers that legislation to ensure all cattle herds take action should be put in place i.e. make a national BVD Elimination programme compulsory. The BVD Free Scheme will launch on July 1, 2016 and the voluntary phase will run for at least 2 years. Please speak to your vet about BVD on your farm and how to get involved.

## What is BVD?

**BVD is an extremely expensive and time consuming disease to deal with on farm. Its effect on cattle means that they may fail to reach peak performance, have a lower immunity (so suffering more respiratory and infectious disease) and have poorer fertility. We cannot afford to ignore it.**

### How do I know if I have BVD on farm?

Tell-tale signs can include:

- Unexplained ill-thrift
- Poor fertility performance with increased barren cow rate
- More unexplained abortions than normal
- Calves scouring and having more pneumonia than expected
- Sick calves responding poorly to veterinary treatment

### How does BVD spread?

BVD is commonly spread from infected dams to their unborn calf, through the semen of infected bulls and from nose to nose contact with infected carriers. Vaccinating can help control the disease - but will not eradicate the disease in infected stock - so you might be vaccinating and still have BVD on your farm.

### Understanding the spread of BVD animal to animal

#### Naive

Virus infects susceptible non-pregnant animal

#### Infected

Animal becomes acutely infected and sheds virus for up to 2 or 3 weeks.

#### Immune

Animal mounts immune response and eliminates infection.

### So what can I do about BVD on farm?

Managing BVD is a simple process you need to follow in conjunction with your farm vet. There are four key steps to addressing BVD on your farm.

#### STEP 1 Planning

**What am I investigating? How big is my problem? What is it I'm seeking to achieve?**

Do you know if BVD is a problem for you on farm? Set a goal with your vet as part of your herd health plan, to know what your herd status is, decide what you'd like it to be, and know how you're going to get there.

#### STEP 2 Investigating

**What is my herd status and how do I identify individually infected animals?**

Knowing your herd's status will give you the information to help select the most appropriate controls to use on your farm. Bulk milk samples and / or youngstock bleeds help show whether BVD is a concern for your farm and whether you need to do more tests to fully understand where the problems lie.

#### STEP 3 Controlling

**What do I need to do to control BVD in my herd?**

When you know whether you have BVD, or any PI animals on farm you can take steps to remove PIs, set up a vaccination strategy and ensure you have biosecurity controls in place.

#### STEP 4 Monitoring

**How do I know if my control programme is working?**

To make sure your control programme is working, regularly check the status of your herd. Talk to your vet today to discuss BVD control on your farm.



Once again, Tern Vets are proud to be supporting Newport Show and we would be delighted to see you on our stand for drinks, nibbles and a natter on Saturday 9th July.

