



October 2022

Calf Scour

If you have scouring calf(s) under three weeks old, then we can perform a rapid in-house diagnostic check to make sure they receive the right treatment. The kit rapidly detects the four most common bugs that affect this age group:

- *Rotavirus*
- *Coronavirus* (not that one!)
- *E. coil*
- *Cryptosporosis*



Across the summer this year, all but one of the checks carried out on scour samples came back as positive for Rotavirus. This matches with the expected prevalence through the UK, as Rotavirus is the most common cause of calf diarrhoea.

Pain relief, regular oral fluids and deep clean bedding will give you the best chance of getting your calf(s) through. Scour causes death through dehydration – prevent that and you have the highest chance of success!

- **Do not withhold bucket milk or isolate beef calves from their mothers**
 - o Milk contains the protein and fats the sick calf needs to fuel its immune system
- **Do supplement with drenches of electrolytes and water in between milk feeds**
 - o Housing a scouring beef calf with its mother (isolated from the rest of the herd) for 48hours to allow intensive rehydration can make all the difference
 - o **Give 1-2L of electrolyte, four to eight times a day** – essentially the more frequently the better, they will be losing a HUGE volume of fluid through scouring
 - o 'Electrolyte mixes' are simply balanced doses of salts and sugars designed to rehydrate the calf
 - o Be careful to check the volume of water needed to dilute the sachet or gel you are using, getting the proportion wrong can actually do more harm than good
 - o Drenching with water alone will mean your calf is likely to scour for longer than if using electrolyte mixes, but is still much better than just giving milk
- **Do isolate the calf**
 - o From the rest of the herd with its mother or by at least one empty pen buffer zone
- **Consider giving pain relief**
 - o Viral diarrhoea is very uncomfortable, and providing pain relief increases the chance of the calf getting up to feed

A scouring calf with a strong suckling reflex could easily be 5-6% dehydrated. Once a calf is looking weak with slightly sunken eye but still sucking it is 6-8% dehydrated.

By the time a calf cannot stand and has cool extremities it is in a very serious condition - with a dehydration level of 10-14% as death generally occurs at 14% dehydration.

Calves with a weak suckling reflex, that are weak or recumbent require fluids put directly into the vein in order to rehydrate, as their gut is unlikely to be able to absorb water or nutrients.



We would recommend carrying out this intravenous fluid therapy at the practice, but IV fluid boluses can be given on farm under certain circumstances.

Medicine Handling Courses

Having a member of staff on your farm who holds a qualification in medicines handling gained since October 2016 is now a Red Tractor **requirement** for all livestock holdings.

Our high-quality small group training is delivered by vets and is Red Tractor Accredited. Topics covered include storage, administration, types of medication, antibiotic usage, and medication disposal. The price is inclusive of all learning resources, certification, goodie box, lunch and refreshments.



Dates:

- **Monday 21st of November 10:30-12:30**

Price: £55 ex VAT per person

Location: Lifton Community Centre, Park Wood Rise, Lifton PL16 0LA

Please call the surgery to book a place.

Welcome Our New Vet Charlotte

Charlotte graduated from the University of Surrey this summer and has made the move to Castle Vets to make the most of the wide variety of species the practice treats. She has a particular interest in sheep, with many springs spent in the Pennines lambing Swaledales.

Having lived in Falmouth previously, she is enjoying her return to Cornwall, and spends her spare time making the most of the stunning beaches, paddleboarding up the rivers or hiking across the moors.

Upcoming Cattle + Sheep Meetings

Upcoming Flock Club Meeting:

Barry Gubbin and family are kindly hosting our next meeting, based around what to do with your tail-end lambs this year. We will also discuss new thinking around treating sick ewes with fluids.

Vet Tim and Selekt Pump technician Tina will be holding the meeting on **Tuesday October 11th, 11am-1:30pm**

Lunch and refreshments will of course be provided, and any interested non-club members are welcome to attend, there will be a fee of £25 per farm (not per person).

Brendon Farm, Boyton, Launceston PL15 8NU Grid ref: SX259 946



Upcoming Meeting:

Achieving net zero for agriculture - *how cows are integral to achieving farming's elusive goal*
Hannah Jones from Farm Carbon tool kit will be leading a farm walk and talk at William, Chris and Ali Dawes' farm to discuss this hot topic.

Langford farm is truly mixed, with a herd of South Devons, a flock of sheep and a dairy herd – so a great farm to have a look around.

“Learn about how to measure and manage carbon on your farm and find out how you can get involved with the Farm Net Zero initiative taking place in Cornwall over the next five years.”

Wednesday October 5th, 11am-1:30pm with lunch and refreshments provided. Any interested non-club members are welcome to attend, there will be a fee of £25 per farm.

Langford Farm, Tavistock PL19 8QQ



TB Advisory Service

The Government has released a new wave of funding for free vet visits out to farms to advise on ways to minimise the likelihood of TB breakdowns and come up with plans on how to limit their impact if they do occur. Vets Andy and Helen are trained up and we urge you to take this chance to access free advice and recommendations tailor made to your farm – just give the surgery a call to enquire.



TB Advisory Service

The TB advisory service offers free visits to discuss TB risk on farm, and offers four simple cost effective, practical recommendations based on the risks identified.

The TB Advisory Service has been running for 4 years, funded by the rural development program for England (RDPE) 98% of Farmers that had a free farm visit said the recommendations at the end were useful and 90% rated the service as excellent.

Defra is now funding the TB Advisory Service for the whole of England, previously it was only available for farmers in the high risk and edge areas. This new funding also allows those farming other TB susceptible species (camelids, deer, goats, pigs and sheep) to have visits not just cattle keepers.

The top 5 recommendations from previous visits include using badger proof water and feed troughs, fencing off badger setts from cattle, using the website www.ibTB.co.uk to look up a sellers TB history prior to purchase and putting up wildlife cameras to identify what badger activity is in the farm yard and where to prioritise badger proofing measures.

If you would like to access the service either call the practice or contact TBAS directly.

For hints and tips on TB biosecurity you can follow them on social media:

W	tbas.org.uk
T	01306 779410
E	info@tbas.org.uk
f	@TBAdvisoryService
🐦	@TB_Advisory
📷	@tbadvisoryservice

