



Newsletter

August 2020

We hope that you and your families continue to stay well. Harvest will be getting underway by now so hoping the weather is fair. This month we have an update on the situation regarding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic and how that is affecting the way we work. **In addition to this article I'd like to draw your attention to the enclosed flyer regarding hospital cases.** Paul also gives us an update on current drug supply issues.

COVID-19 update

With the ongoing challenges facing us all over the next few months, it is prudent that we provide some updated guidance to our farm clients. The RDSVS will, as always, endeavour to put the welfare and care of each and every animal at the top of our agenda. However, it appears inevitable that there will be some disruption to the provision of routine services.

As it stands, the Vet School is slowly returning to normal albeit with reduced service capacity and limits on building occupancy. As has been the case since lockdown began we will continue to operate farm animal clinical services as close to normal as possible. The guidance below is based on the information we have on 23rd July 2020 and outlines our current plan for the provision of services. We will be reviewing this on regularly and are available as normal to discuss all cases:

- Our reception staff will be manning the phones as normal. Due to Ali's working pattern Wednesday afternoon phones will likely be manned by a vet until Equine reception are back on site – as of yet we have no information as to when this might be. Please be tolerant of the vets when they aren't as efficient as Ali!
- Reception will take orders, e-mails, and phone calls as normal and forward to the relevant clinician for approval.
- There will continue to be no access to the farm reception or pharmacy and orders will be left on the table in the porch. For this reason we must insist that all orders are phoned through in advance so that they can be prepared and left out safely. If you think of extra items you require when you get to the practice please still phone these through from your car.
- As the porch is an entry and exit point for the building we would strongly recommend that face coverings are worn when collecting orders and that you use the hand sanitiser provided.

- The Farm Animal Practice will continue to undertake routine work but with social distancing recommendations in mind.
- Students will be returning to the vet school in August/September, however we will not be bringing them out onto farms for the foreseeable future.
- We are happy to provide as much remote support as possible for all cases, even if we cannot see the case.
- If you, or anyone on your farm is showing any symptoms such as fever or coughing, has been in contact with a known Covid-19 positive person, has recently travelled to a high risk area, is immunocompromised, suffers from any long term illness or meets any of the guidelines for self-isolation we ask that this information is made known to the receptionist or vet at the time of booking.
- All vets will have their own face coverings to wear if they feel social distancing recommendations are not able to be met. Likewise if you would like our vets to wear their mask while on your farm in all situations please do tell us – we won't be offended.
- We ask all clients to abide by the recommended hand washing advice and to ensure they have washed their hands before interacting with staff, and to keep 2m away from staff when possible.

Mastitis treatment updates

Continued manufacturing issues with lactating cow tubes (and some other drugs)

Some of you may have noticed recently that there has been sometimes been a change in the product that we have supplied you for conditions that you have seen before. For the last year there have been multiple manufacturing issues for a lot of our commonly dispensed products. When this happens we try to source an identical product made by another company, however with some drugs they are all made in the same factories or rely on the same key

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ingredients so when there is a problem with this aspect we may opt for an alternative product. The products that we advise will still be effective but it is important to be aware of the possible differences in dose, duration of effect, administration route and most importantly, withdrawals, of these different products. If you are unsure please do give us a call to confirm.

One of the main issues we are currently seeing is a problem in the supply of intramammary antibiotics for lactating cows as a treatment for mastitis. The majority of the products that we commonly stock have been unavailable for several months. We currently stock two lactating cow intramammary products so we thought it would be useful to provide a brief summary of their characteristics. If you do have a case of mastitis in one of your cows it is useful to take a sterile milk sample and pop this in the freezer, then if we fail to achieve a clinical cure with the treatment course we are still able to perform a culture and sensitivity test to identify the bacteria involved. As and when the situation regarding these manufacturing issues changes we will let you know. If you have any questions in the meantime please contact one of the practice team.



Trade name	Contents	Recommended Course	Withdrawal		Effective against
			Milk	Meat	
Mastiplan	Cephalosporin 300mg Prednisolone 20mg	1 syringe infused into affected quarter immediately after milking, repeat at 12 hour intervals for four consecutive milkings	13 hrs (5d)	96 hrs (4d)	<i>Staph aureus</i> CNS <i>Strepagalactiae</i> <i>Strep dysgalactiae</i> <i>Strep uberis</i> <i>E.coli</i> * *if sensitive to cephalosporin
Ubropen	Benzylpenicillin 600mg	1 syringe per affected quarter once daily after a milking. Continue for 3-5 days.	6d	3d	streptococci or staphylococci species sensitive to penicillin If Staph. Aureus suspected should be used alongside an appropriate parenteral antibiotic

One of our final year students is conducting a survey as part of their research project into Maedi Visna control in sheep flocks. The questionnaire is aimed at commercial sheep farmers in the UK. It will cover general questions about their sheep business and then specific questions regarding their opinion on a "foundation" MV accreditation scheme. There are

15 questions and it should only take about 5 minutes to complete. Any help you can provide will be greatly appreciated. The link for the questionnaire is provided below.

<https://edinburgh.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/src-project-the-opinion-of-farmers-on-buying-and-selling>