



Canolfan
Milfeddygaeth Cymru

Wales Veterinary
Science Centre

Issue:23 (Dec 2019)

NEWSLETTER CYLCHLYTHYR



*** Save The Date ***

Vets Cymru

26/27th June 2020



**Nadolig Llawen a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda
Happy Christmas and a
Happy New Year**

From us all at WVSC



Carcase submissions for October to December have been low again, for the second year running, compared to 2017 when there was a high incidence of liver fluke. Here is a summary of some of the recent cases at WVSC.

Fluke watch



Fourteen sheep carcasses (over six months old) have been submitted in the last quarter, none have shown liver lesions typical of fluke infection. Over the same period, 17 faeces samples have been examined for fluke eggs, none were found.

Five were positive for *Paramphistomum* eggs. The results suggest a lower risk for fasciolosis this year. Colleagues are still urged to be vigilant and monitor the SCOPS website for further information and advice.

Laryngeal chondritis and purulent lymphadenitis was diagnosed in an 18-month-old Beltex ram. This was one of two rams in a group of five that developed neck swelling, epistaxis and purulent oral discharge. At postmortem examination of one, there was occlusion of the larynx and abscessation of the arytenoid cartilages and purulent tracks leading to abscesses in the submandibular lymph nodes. Laryngeal chondritis is not uncommon in this breed because of the short muscular neck predisposing to the condition, which also tends to restrict airflow.

A **bolus gun injury** was found in a six-month old ewe-lamb. There was a large abscess with a necrotic sinus extending the length of the neck and entering the thoracic inlet (Photo 1). This had caused a pyothorax and the collapse of the right lung. The lamb was one of five that had died over a two week period since receiving a mineral bolus. Other lambs have developed swollen necks and will be examined by the PVS to decide on the best course of action on welfare grounds. It was also recommended that the technique for administering the boluses be reviewed.



Photo 1 - Abscessation & necrotic sinus along neck suggestive of a bolus dosing gun injury

Severe **staphylococcal pneumonia** was diagnosed in an eight-month-old Lleyn ewe lamb, one of two that had died in a group of 40 that had been placed on rented keep. Several in the group had lost condition, these two had developed respiratory signs and recumbency, and one was euthanased for postmortem examination. It had ulceration of the oesophageal mucosa and consolidation and abscessation of the right anterior lung lobe. *Staphylococcus aureus* was cultured from lung tissue. The immunosuppressive effect of tick-borne fever (TBF) was suspected, as this often predisposes to staphylococcal infection in lambs. Removal of the group from the rented keep was recommended, as there were likely to be ticks present carrying the causal organism of TBF, *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*.

Mannheimia haemolytica infection caused the death of a seven-month-old Texel cross ewe lamb, one of three to die in a group of 200 weaned lambs. Echymotic haemorrhages were seen in subcutaneous tissue of the neck and in the thymus and *M. haemolytica* was cultured from mediastinal lymph node. They had received one dose of a multivalent vaccine which was insufficient to protect against disease. A high

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Hooray, we did it! 🎉🏆👏
Our BVD Antigen test is now accredited (along with BVD Antibody) to ISO/IEC 17025:2017, demonstrating competence of testing and a quality system is in place. Please follow the link for more details:
<https://www.wvsc.wales/laboratory-services/>

Trichostrongyle worm egg count also indicated a degree of debility that reduced the animal's immune response. Severe **cerebrocortical necrosis (CCN)** was diagnosed in one of three lambs. All three had exhibited nervous signs varying from blindness to circling and later recumbency. They were euthanased and submitted for postmortem examination. There was little to see grossly, and no autofluorescence of the brain was observed under ultraviolet light. Histological examination of one however detected severe, subacute, laminar cerebrocortical necrosis. The cause could have been a thiamine dependent encephalopathy, sulphate toxicity or vitamin B12 deficiency. Low vitamin B12 was detected in blood samples from others in the group.

Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC) was diagnosed in two, 13-week-old pigs submitted for PME. PRDC is a multifactorial disease involving a combination of pathogens, environmental stressors and various management practices. Approximately 8% of weaned pigs were affected, with laboured breathing and anaemia. At PME there was cranio-ventral consolidation and lung collapse in both pigs (Photo 2).



Photo 2 – Pneumonic lung with classic Enzootic Pneumonia lesions

Pig 2 had gastric ulceration likely to be secondary to a period of inappetence. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* was detected by PCR and histopathology confirmed lesions consistent with mycoplasma infection. *Pasteurella multocida* was cultured and is likely to have been a secondary bacterial invader.

Viral Haemorrhagic diarrhoea 2 was diagnosed in one rabbit where three had died suddenly. Gross pathology included petechial haemorrhages on the surface of the lungs, enlarged spleen and hyperaemic tracheal mucosa. VHD2 was detected in a fresh liver sample by PCR. Vaccination is widely used for prevention of this contagious disease.

Hepatic coccidiosis was diagnosed in a rabbit. It was one of four to die in a small group with weight loss, ascites and jaundice. At postmortem examination, there was evidence of diarrhoea, and the characteristic lesions of hepatic coccidiosis in the liver (photo 3). A wet preparation confirmed the presence of *Eimeria stiedai* the cause of hepatic coccidiosis.



Photo 3 – Liver lesions in rabbit with hepatic coccidiosis

Upcoming CPD Courses for 2020

8th Jan. – **Beef reproduction**
with Dai Grove-White and Karin Mueller

15th Jan. – **Backyard Poultry**
with Ian Jones and Adrienne Mackintosh

WVSC VIOs: Beverley Hopkins & Jon. King
Roger Daniel, Kate Hovers and Ian Davies

Wales Veterinary
Science Centre
Y Buarth, Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion, SY23 1ND



01970 612374



enquiries@wvsc.wales



<http://www.wvsc.wales>



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Please check the eligibility for **free carcase collection** via this website:

ahvla.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp

The suitability of submissions for a postmortem exam. must always be discussed with the WVSC duty vet.