



*** Save The Date ***

Vets Cymru 2020

26/27th June

A nine-month-old ram lamb died due to **head trauma**. At PME a large blood clot was found within the cranium and sinuses. The history suggested it may have been fighting with other young rams before being found dead.



Figure 1. Large blood clot on the brainstem

Spinal abscesses were found in two yearling lambs submitted after developing incoordination and sternal recumbency. At PME abscess tracks were found deep in the subcutaneous tissues dorsal to the cervical spine leading to large abscesses in the spinal canal. The likely cause was use of a non-sterile needle during vaccination.

Listerial encephalitis was the cause of head tilt, depression and dribbling in three ewes. PME of one of the ewes was largely unremarkable apart from very dry rumen contents. The cause was confirmed by histology of the brain. *Listeria* is commonly found in spoiled silage and the bacteria enters the brain through cranial nerves from the oral cavity.

Listerial abomasitis was confirmed by histology in an 11-month-old texel lamb that presented as a sudden death. There were patchy haemorrhagic

areas in the abomasal mucosa at PME. Abomasitis due to *Listeria* is a sporadic problem often resulting from feeding silage contaminated by infected soil. *Listeria* can also cause nervous disease, septicaemia and abortion in ewes and goats.

IBR causing a severe, subacute, fibrino-necrotising and suppurative tracheitis was diagnosed in a one-year-old steer where many animals had been euthanased due to severe respiratory disease. At PME the laryngeal and tracheal mucosa was hyperaemic with necrotic plaques and areas of ulceration.



Figure 2. Severe tracheitis in a one-year-old steer

IBR is the commonest cause of severe tracheitis seen. Vaccination of susceptible cattle with a live vaccine given intranasally can be effective in the face of an outbreak such as this.

Ovine pulmonary adenomatosis (Jaagsiekte) has been diagnosed in three separate submissions in the past month. The first was a single ewe that had been found drooling excessively. At PME there were copious amounts of white froth in the trachea

and there were irregular grey firm areas within the left caudal lung lobe.



Figure 3. OPA affected lung tissue

The second submission was a ten-month-old ram lamb; at PME there was consolidated lung tissue with fibrin overlaying the caudal lobe. There was a white circular firm lesion around 5cm in diameter in the caudal lobe.

The third was a five-year-old ewe that was euthanased due to severe dyspnoea. The secondary infection was very severe with multiple large abscesses. Approximately 90% of the left lobes were firm and white. In all three animals' 1cm³ samples of fixed lung tissue were sent for histological examination to confirm disease.

Catastrophic haemorrhage was the cause of death of a ten-month-old beltex ram-lamb. At PME there was a large blood clot weighing 0.94kg in the right pleural cavity with no sign of trauma. Similar cases have been reported by the University of Bristol previously. ([Click here](#)). Unfortunately, autolysis prevented any further investigation in this case.

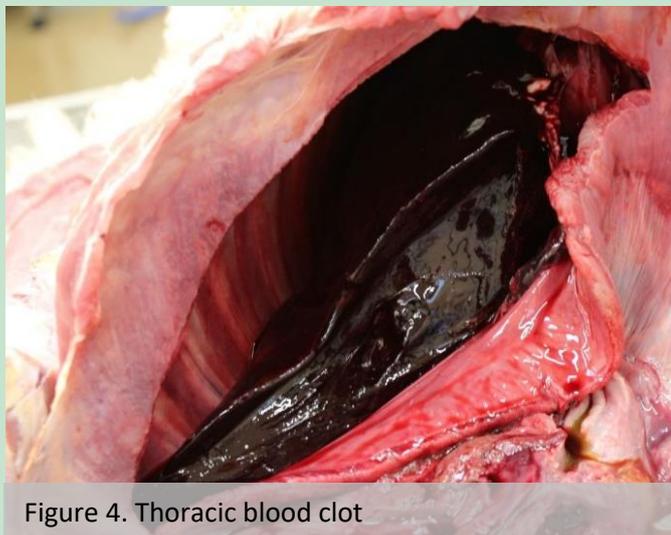


Figure 4. Thoracic blood clot

Bovine abortion

We saw an increase in bovine abortion submissions in December with different infectious causes:

- ***Campylobacter fetus venerealis intermedius*** was isolated from the foetal stomach contents of a suckler calf. *Campylobacter* spp can be linked to venereal infection where the bull is the most common source of infection.
- ***Trueperella pyogenes*** was cultured from the foetal stomach contents of a dairy foetus. This was the seventh abortion from a New-Zealand style dairy herd. *T. pyogenes* is a known cause of abortion but not considered as a significant infectious risk to other pregnant cows.
- ***Salmonella Dublin*** was the cause of an abortion where three had aborted in four days. Prevention of salmonellosis is by vaccination. General methods of prevention include good hygiene and maintaining a healthy herd.

Samples taken routinely to investigate bovine abortions include foetal stomach contents, placenta, thymus and brain. The commonest causes of infectious abortion should be diagnosed from these samples.

New CPD Calendar

Our CPD Calendar includes BSAVA and Iechyd Da CPD events. If you'd like your CPD event included please [contact us](#).

WVSC CPD can now be booked online

CPD Coming up – Cattle Lameness with George Oikonomou – includes a farm practical

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

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Please check the eligibility for **free carcass 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.