



Next WVSC CPD Club Meeting:

6th October – 7.30pm

Dynamic health planning for seasonal herds/flocks
with Tim Geraghty, SRUC Aberdeen.

Mixed aetiologies were suspected as the cause of death of three, three-month-old calves, in a group of six on a beef suckler herd. **Salmonella Typhimurium Phage type 104** was cultured from intestinal contents of the second case. It had been seen ill, improved with treatment, but then deteriorated again and died. At postmortem, there was a full-thickness ulcer in the terminal ileum with necrosis of adjacent tissue and adhesions to the peritoneal lining (Fig 1). The abdomen was filled with brown liquid.



Fig 1. Necrotic enteritis in a suckler calf.

The first calf that died had a black diarrhoea, but no diagnosis was sought. A third calf died two weeks later, after it had been seen straining and with a rectal prolapse. At postmortem, the large intestine mucosa was thickened and corrugated and the contents a red watery liquid. Culture of intestinal contents did not reveal any salmonellae, but a worm egg count revealed 5,000 coccidial oocysts and 1,100 Trichostrongyle eggs per gram of faeces. The conclusion was that, according to clinical signs of tenesmus and rectal prolapse, the

third calf died of coccidiosis, and possibly the first, as it had a black diarrhoea.

Haemonchosis was diagnosed in two separate goat submissions this month. In the first case a six-month-old pygmy goat presented emaciated with pale mucous membranes. In the second case three of 18 adult goats were affected with bottle-jaw and diarrhoea. One adult goat was submitted for postmortem examination. The barber's pole worms were visible to the naked eye within the abomasum of both submissions (figure 2).



Fig 2. *Haemonchus contortus* "barber's pole"

Haemonchus contortus is a blood sucking parasite found in the abomasum of sheep and goats. Clinical signs seen include anaemia, ill thrift, subcutaneous oedema, exercise intolerance and death. Adult sheep and goats do not acquire any significant degree of immunity, so disease can be seen in all ages. The parasite can produce very high faecal egg counts. Diagnosing *Haemonchus* is important to enable the correct choice of anthelmintic. [Click here for further information provided by SCOPS.](#)

Sheep Scab ELISA now available at the WVSC

WVSC now offers the Sheep Scab ELISA developed by the [Moredun Research Institute \(MRI\)](#) ([Click Here](#))

For more information then please check out the WVSC YouTube Channel [HERE](#)

Please contact us for more details and watch the website for imminent updates.

Hypomagnesaemia was suspected as the cause of death in a three-year-old Hereford cow that was suckling a calf. It had died over a weekend and was submitted on the Monday. The carcass was severely autolysed but had extensive haemorrhage of subcutaneous tissue on the right-hand side. No other lesions were seen but laboratory testing of aqueous humour revealed a marginal magnesium level. The haemorrhage may have been due to agonal struggling. The vet was advised to blood sample a few of the other cows to assess magnesium status in the group.

Cerebrocortical Necrosis (CCN) was diagnosed in a yearling ewe, that was seen recumbent and unable to lift its head. It had liquid diarrhoea, but despite a previous diagnosis of salmonellosis on this farm, culture was negative. Histology of brain confirmed CCN. This disease occurs after dietary upsets. In this case it was possibly associated with a change in diet which can lead to proliferation of thiaminase producing bacteria. Thiamine is essential for brain development and function. In the early stages of disease, injection with thiamine can give improvement in symptoms.

Haemorrhagic typhilitis caused by *Eimeria tenella* was diagnosed in three, three-week-old chicks at postmortem. A total of 30 had died in a group of 100. All birds were in poor condition with caecae filled with clotted and liquid blood. Advice was given on thorough cleansing and disinfection of sheds, as coccidial oocysts can be resistant to environmental conditions and disinfectants.

June 2021

Vets Cymru

Online

Môr o addysg | CPD by the sea

Canolfan Miledygaeth Cymru
Wales Veterinary Science Centre

The recordings from Vets Cymru 2021 Online are now available to all on YouTube [HERE](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLedhjSKQbbPST1qFxr7RPX93b886IIMkL)

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Vets Cymru 2022 - Save the date now

17th - 18th June 2022 at Aberystwyth University.

Johne's disease was the cause of severe condition loss in a two-year-old ewe. Since shearing she had rapidly lost condition and developed chronic diarrhoea despite being treated with a flukicide and anthelmintics. The ileal and ascending colon

was thickened and looked corrugated. A kinyoun smear confirmed the presence of acid alcohol-fast bacilli and Johne's disease was confirmed with an antibody ELISA on serum.

Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (OPA) was diagnosed in a two-year-old ewe presented for postmortem examination. It was one of four seen to be losing condition in a commercial flock. At postmortem, 80% of both lungs consisted of grey solid tissue, and there was copious white froth in the trachea. Histology confirmed OPA.

Urolithiasis was suspected in a two-year-old ram that was found dead. Initially the ram was seen



Fig 3. Incised urethra revealing haemorrhage and trauma occluding the lumen

with a stiff gait, it was found dead a few days later. The owner was unsure whether it had been urinating.

On postmortem examination there was at least 16 litres of urine in the abdomen and bruising around the kidneys. No hard uroliths were identified, but both ureters were thickened, and there was severe trauma and narrowing of the lumen at the level of the sigmoid flexure.

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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.