

## Professional Veterinary Services for all Livestock Species

### CVP Large Animal News

#### Post Movement TB Testing

The new post movement TB testing rules that came into place on the 6<sup>th</sup> April, means that some animals will soon be eligible for testing.

Animals bought from a high risk area (HRA or TB 1 area) into our low risk area (LRA) must remain on the first farm they arrive on, for at least 60 days, and must be TB tested between 60 and 120 days before moving.

Exemptions for cattle going to slaughter within this time frame do exist.

The aim of this post movement testing is to increase the chances of picking up any TB positive cattle at an earlier stage. The majority of TB reactors we encounter in Norfolk and Suffolk are animals that have been brought in from high-risk areas, with no evidence of spread between herds by wildlife. By increasing the amount testing of these high-risk animals, and doing so at an early stage, will hopefully identify these animals so they can be removed before infecting other cattle within the herd or near-by wildlife.

If a reactor is found and confirmed then the normal restrictions to that the reactor herd will apply, as will the radial tests in near-by herds.

It is the responsibility of the farmer buying in these cattle to arrange the post movement testing. We get no notification of any cattle that have moved from a HRA to a LRA or what holdings they are on. Due to the increased amount of TB testing that the practice is doing, please notify the practice of any upcoming testing that you may require. Florin Conduruta, a qualified vet, will be joining us shortly and will be doing the majority of the TB testing work.

Post movement tests can be done at the same time as Tracer tests or other surveillance tests if they fall into the testing window, but please let us know if there are extra animals you need testing. These tests will not be charged a visit charge.

**We will be charging a reduced visit fee of £25+vat and a reduced hourly fee of £95+vat, for post movement testing that is booked in with at least 3 weeks notice.**

Please ensure that animals are presented in a safe manner and that you have suitable crushes for the size of animals being tested.



## Bull MOT time!

For spring calving herds, it is getting towards the time that the bull will be introduced to the breeding herd.

Making sure he is fit for the job of getting cows pregnant is vitally important. Studies have shown that around 20% of bulls are sub-fertile. This does not mean that they will not get cows pregnant, but the calving will be more drawn out with more barren cows.



By doing a bull breeding soundness exam before the bull is introduced, allows us to exam the external genitalia and to collect a sample of semen and exam that. We can then check to see that he has enough normal sperm, with the ability to swim in the right directions.



Having a tighter calving pattern, increases the average weaning weights of the calves. This has knock-on health benefits of calves all being a similar size at housing, enabling management diseases such as pneumonia to be dealt with better. Selling stores of similar sizes is also more profitable.

If you would like more information on bull testing, please phone Steve.

## Them Pesky Flies

With the weather warming up, now is the time to be on the look out for flystrike in all species. Sheep are obviously the most susceptible (in fact one of my ewes had some small maggots at shearing), but anything that gets clacked up in faeces can get strike. Other areas where strike can occur are around the prepuce of males if there is an urine scalding or in the feet of cows, sheep and goats especially if digital dermatitis or footrot is present.



Signs of Strike:

Constant tail wagging.

Sheep nibbling at flanks/tail head

Foot stamping

Animals becoming isolated and depressed.

Flystrike is an obvious welfare issue, so prompt treatment is vital. Shearing/dagging affected areas. If you find animals with strike treat the maggots with SPOTINOR directly to kill them. Targeted worming strategies will help to reduce faecal staining helps.

## SUMMER OFFER;

Spotinor - £160 for 2.5L (other sizes available)

Dose 10ml/cow + 5ml/Sheep