



Canolfan  
Milfeddygaeth Cymru

Wales Veterinary  
Science Centre

# NEWSLETTER CYLCHLYTHYR

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Wales Veterinary  
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walesvetscentre



@WVSCAber

## Upcoming CPD

Talking sheep for Vets on  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May** from  
**2.30pm**. Tea and cake will be  
provided after the meeting.

**11<sup>th</sup> June** – Camelids with Karin  
Mueller Cria Care, Management  
of endoparasites, Essentials of  
skin and dental disorders,  
Anaemia and Weightloss and  
the Acute abdomen.

Please get in touch to find our  
more or to book your place.

Please note that the **Modular  
Pig CPD** with Menter Moch  
Cymru continues on 9<sup>th</sup> May but  
the modules are fully booked.



Vets Cymru 28-29<sup>th</sup> June

The programme is out.

Book online:

<https://www.bsava.com/Education/Vets-Cymru-2019>

**Dictyocaulus filaria** lungworm were identified in a yearling ewe that presented with respiratory signs and long-term condition loss. It was one of a group of ewe lambs scanned as barren and put on 'rough grazing'. The owner reported that ewes always lost condition when put on this grazing; this year, 18 had lost condition with nine deaths. The ewe was euthanased and subject to post mortem examination. It had no fat reserves, and no other lesions apart from atelectasis and congestion around bronchioles in the caudal lung lobes that contained large numbers of lungworm. Heavy lungworm infection can result in ill thrift and may have been present in sheep grazing this land. The use of an anthelmintic, effective against lungworm, was advised on the rest of the group.

**Abomasal impaction** was diagnosed in one of two, two-year-old beef heifers that died after being found recumbent and bloated. Post mortem examination of one of these heifers revealed polystyrene balls of diameter 1-2 mm and some plastic packaging in the rumen, but more importantly, in the abomasum which was impacted with this material. It was suspected that this impaction had led to the recumbency and death of both animals over time. It is unclear what the source of the material was but it is believed to have come from a nearby housing estate where insulation work was being carried out. Otherwise, it may have been discarded packaging which was subsequently blown onto the field that the animals were grazing.



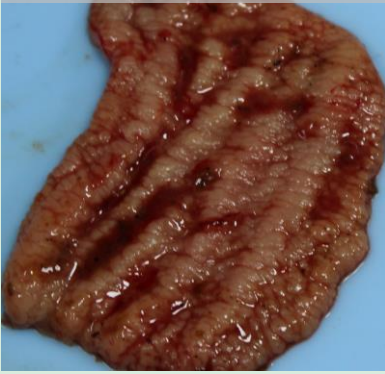
Figure 1. Abomasum, impacted with polystyrene balls

**Hypogammaglobulinaemia and infection with a K99 E.coli** were diagnosed in a four-day old scouring calf, one of four to die over an eight week period in a dairy herd. At post mortem, the calf was dehydrated and died despite various treatments for calf diarrhoea. The importance of colostral transfer was emphasised, as demonstrated in the useful website 'Colostrum Is Gold' – <https://colostrumisgold.org/>

**#ColostrumIsGold**

**A uterine tear** was the cause of peritonitis and toxæmia in a three-year-old ewe presented for post mortem examination. The tear was in the neck of the uterus and resulted from attempted delivery of three rotten lambs. A large number of vaginal prolapses were reported on the farm, which can predispose to ringwomb and retention of rotten lambs. Vaginal prolapse can occur as a result of increased intraabdominal pressure from excess fibre in the diet and/or the

Figure 2. Thickened ileum mucosa



presence of a large gravid uterus and excess fat in the pelvic canal. Condition scoring and metabolic blood profiling of ewes can help to prevent these conditions in the run up to lambing.

**Johne's disease** was diagnosed in a three-year-old ram with condition loss. The ileum was thickened (figure 2) with green liquid contents. There was undigested cereal in the caecum. Acid-fast bacilli were detected in a ZN smear of the ileal mucosa. Johne's in sheep often presents as chronic progressive body condition loss as a result of protein malabsorption.

### **Oestrus ovis** or nasal bot fly infection

was diagnosed in an adult crossbred ewe. Three ewes were affected with neurological signs leading to recumbency and difficulty with breathing. Post mortem examination of one ewe that was euthanised, revealed 15 maggots of the nasal bot fly in the nasal cavity, that had caused a severe rhinitis and sinusitis. The life cycle includes the adult fly laying larvae on the nose, the larvae then migrate into the nasal cavity giving rise to a variety of clinical signs. Adult maggots (figure 3) are usually sneezed out onto pasture where they pupate and develop into adult flies that complete the life cycle. Neurological signs are associated with the maggots migrating through sinuses near the brain, giving rise to the condition commonly being called 'false gid'.



Figure 3. *Oestrus ovis* bots retrieved from nasal cavity

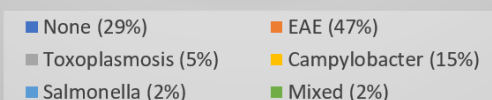
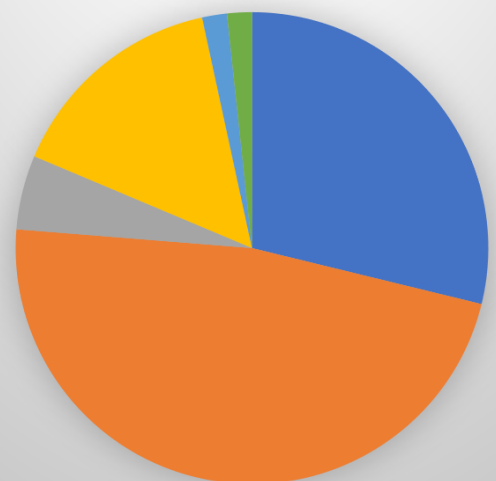
**A summary of other cases includes, traumatic reticuloperitonitis** in a two-year-old dairy cow that presented with acute respiratory signs. A screw was found in fibrin adhesions between the reticulum and diaphragm. **IBR** in a dairy cow where six deaths occurred in a 300-cow herd over a two-week period. **Torsion of the mesentery** in a six week calf fed milk replacer. **Ovine pulmonary adenocarcinoma (OPA)** was diagnosed in an adult ewe seen coughing before death. **Mannheimia** sp pneumonia and fibrinous pleurisy caused the death of a two-week-old lamb, one of four to die in a 300 ewe lock.

### **Ovine abortions January to March 2019**

Fewer lamb abortion samples at the WVSC this year, however the diagnostic rate is the best since opening in 2015. The usual suspects have been diagnosed (see chart). Enzootic (chlamydial) abortion can only reliably be diagnosed by submission of placenta for microscopic examination of stained smears, or by PCR. Failure to submit placenta greatly reduces the chances of a diagnosis. For those cases with no infectious cause identified non-infectious causes can be considered such as pregnancy toxæmia.

**Disease Alert Nematodirus Forecast** Areas of Wales are now at Very High Risk of Nematodirus infection in lambs on the SCOPS Forecast. <https://www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast/> The recent rain following a cold spell and dry weather may result in explosive outbreaks of diarrhoea in young grazing lambs. Farmers should be aware and monitor their lambs for signs of a black scour and treat immediately. There is also a risk of nephrosis in diarrhoeic lambs with nematodiosis, which can result in high mortality.

Ovine Abortion Diagnoses at the WVSC for 2018/19 lambing season (Overall diagnostic rate 61%)



#### Lambing Season Abortion Highlights for 2018/19:

- Higher EAE diagnosis compared to previous years
- Lower toxoplasmosis diagnostic rate this year
- Best ovine abortion diagnostic rate since opening in 2015

Compiled by: Roger Daniel, Bev Hopkins, Jonathan King and Dan Luxton