



Upcoming CPD Courses

Camelid CPD on Tuesday 11th June with Karin Mueller MVSc DCHP DECBHM MRCVS

***Streptococcus dysgalactiae* caused a fibrinous pericarditis** in an adult ewe, where three had died in a group of 100 purchased 18 months previously. At post-mortem examination, there was a fibrinous pericarditis (Fig.1) and multifocal kidney infarcts (Fig. 2).



Figure 1. Fibrinous pericarditis

S. dysgalactiae was cultured from the pericardium and is more commonly associated with joint ill in young lambs.

The farmer commented that he'd had a large number of joint-ill cases in lambs in 2018, but no laboratory diagnosis had been sought.

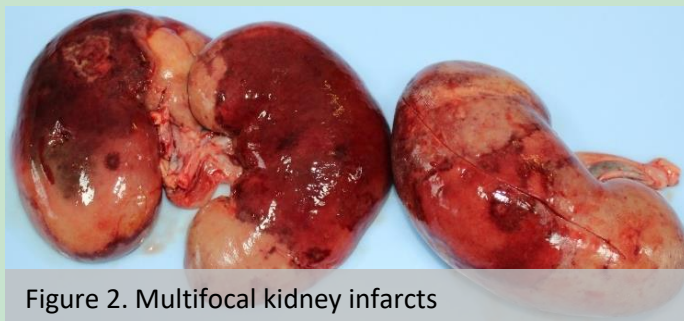


Figure 2. Multifocal kidney infarcts

Hyperplasia of the thyroid gland was detected by histology in two of three calves that were born dead over a 10-day period. The two calves were submitted for post-mortem examination. Both had large swollen heads, with prominent submandibular oedema. The thyroid glands from the two calves weighed 44.4g and 22.7g respectively (Fig. 3). Thyroid hyperplasia can be caused by iodine

deficiency, or ingestion of goitrogens that suppress iodine absorption.

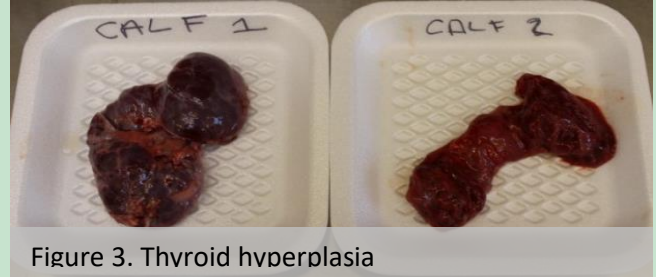


Figure 3. Thyroid hyperplasia

Vitamin D deficiency (rickets) was diagnosed in a yearling ram lamb that was euthanased for post-mortem examination. The animal was observed to have lateral deviation of the lower forelimbs, when returned from rented keep. Post-mortem examination was unremarkable apart from this abnormality. Histological examination noted moderate to severe physal osteochondropathy and aberrant endochondral ossification, which confirmed rickets. It is thought that carotenoid pigments within grass inhibit vitamin D metabolism, and the reduced UV light over the winter period decreases vitamin D synthesis in the skin; both contributing to lower Vitamin D levels in the animal.

Haemolytic anaemia was diagnosed in three lambs that had recently died. At post-mortem examination of one these, it was jaundiced and had watery blood. Histology confirmed cholestasis with presumptive haemosiderosis. All three lambs had received cow colostrum soon after birth. Cow colostrum may contain antibodies which bind to lamb erythrocytes (red blood cells), leading to extravascular haemolysis. It is therefore preferable to void this practice and use stored sheep colostrum if required.

SAVE THE DATE

AberTB Conference Tuesday 17th September,
Aberystwyth University

What's in a Name?

We need your help to find a new name for the newsletter.
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Arthritis and endocarditis caused the death of a one-year-old castrated bull. It had been lame and inappetent before death. Two other deaths had occurred, with several showing signs of lameness. At post-mortem examination, there was an endocarditis, purulent arthritis in the left hock and peritonitis.



Figure 4. Endocarditis

Trueperella pyogenes and *Streptococcus* sp were cultured from the hock joint. The infected hock joint is likely to have been the primary focus of infection, with haematogenous spread of the bacteria to the heart causing endocarditis and the generalised peritonitis. (Fig 5).

An unusual presentation of **Marek's disease** was detected in an adult hen from a small backyard flock. Six birds had shown signs of dyspnoea, inappetence and lethargy before the submission of this hen for post-mortem examination. It had a generalised peritonitis with a mass of white tissue adjacent to the ovary. The lungs were consolidated with numerous yellow foci. Histology confirmed lymphoma in the ovary and lung consistent with Marek's disease. The respiratory signs were likely to be caused by marked involvement of the lung, and the white mass was identified as necrotic tissue associated with the ovarian lymphoma. Marek's disease is a ubiquitous infection with the virus spreading rapidly to uninfected birds and persisting for long periods in the environment. Infected birds continually shed the virus, which can persist for over a year at room temperature in secretions and feathers. Control is based on management, cleansing, disinfection and hygiene.

Porencephaly was diagnosed in three lambs, where 17 had shown neurological signs, including blindness, tremors and ataxia. All three had relatively small cerebrums and an excess of cerebrospinal fluid (Fig.

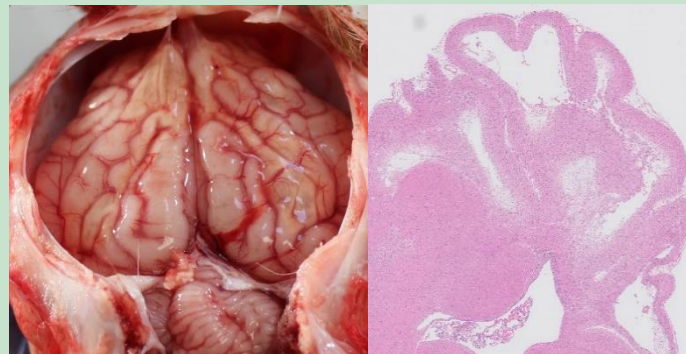


Figure 5. Porencephaly gross appearance and histology

6). Negative energy balance in ewes during pregnancy can predispose to this condition. Further questioning of the owners revealed that no fibre had been fed to these ewes in the run up to lambing, and there had been cases of pregnancy toxæmia, which is a sequel to negative energy balance.

Disease alert Two outbreaks of **Blackleg** have been diagnosed at the WVSC in the last two weeks. Vaccination against this disease is inexpensive and prevents the high mortality seen in these cases. One farmer lost 22 housed young bulls that had been fighting and therefore bruising each other. The spores of *Clostridium chauvoei* are ubiquitous, even housed animals are at risk.

Compiled by Bev Hopkins, Roger Daniel, Dan Luxton, Catrin Hope, Jon. King. Histology by Mark Wessels (Finn Pathologists) & Alex Schock (APHA)

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



01970 612374



enquiries@wvsc.wales



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Please check the eligibility for **free carcass collection** via this link:

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

The suitability of submissions for postmortem examination must be discussed with



Visit the beautiful Welsh coast on 28-29 June for two days of mixed practice CPD and traditional Welsh Twmpath

Exciting new event!