

Case Study: Uterine Prolapse

Last week, whilst on call I was ask to assist with a uterine prolapse.

It is a relatively uncommon call out these days. The cow was able to get up easily and looked very bright. The majority of uterine prolapses result when the uterine muscle has low activity or tone. The main cause is Milk fever.

The best results for replacing a prolapse is for the animal to be down, so not treating a mild milk fever allows the animal to remain down.

With the animal down, and its hind-limbs brought behind it, this tilts the pelvis down allowing the uterus to be replaced without the extreme effort of holding and pushing a heavy wobbly mass.

In this case the animal was going to remain standing! The best method of restraint was to put her into a self locking yoke. The prolapsed uterus was one of the largest I had seen. It was about 3 feet long. Thankfully the placenta had already separated.

So after thoroughly cleaning with mild antiseptic a flat surface at the level of the cows vulva was improvised with the use of a blue barrel with an upturned mineral bucket. This meant that the uterus was not pulling out of the animal as I attempted to replace the prolapse. So after much 'Huff and Puff' I successfully replaced the uterus. I popped the horn out within the cow with an improvised hand

extension, a used wine bottle. I phoned up the client the following day for an update to be told that she was doing really well and it was hard to ever believe that a few hours before she had a huge prolapsed uterus!

Michael Head



**Shepton Veterinary Group Ltd**  
**Allyn Saxon Drive**  
**Shepton Mallet**  
**Somerset**  
**BA4 5QH**

Tel: 01749 341 761

Email: [farm.animal@sheptonvets.com](mailto:farm.animal@sheptonvets.com)

[www.sheptonvets.com](http://www.sheptonvets.com)

**Office opening hours**

Monday—Friday: 8am—5.30pm

Saturday: 8.30am –12pm

**The practice will be closed on Christmas Day,  
Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**

**Our 24 hour emergency service will operate as  
normal throughout the festive season.**

**Emergency Service**

We provide a 24 hour emergency service.

If you need assistance out of our normal working  
hours, please telephone

01749 341 761

If you would like to receive your farm account and this newsletter by email please advise the farm office.



December 2019 Edition

Farm Newsletter



**Directors Focus** “ We wish you all a very merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year ”

I have been fortunate to visit some top performing dairy farms across the UK for Tesco recently. Change and challenges are apparent, notably shifts to using sexed semen to ensure all calves have a market value; investment in greater cow comfort in building design, with rubber matted passageways and fans installed; and efforts to ensure homegrown feeds form the bulk of cow diets. Most noticeable is the change in antibiotic use, and this is apparent at Shepton Vets too. There is more scrutiny of antibiotic use with many milk buyers, as well as Red Tractor,

demanding farm use reports. There is also a requirement for training, and we have been delivering MilkSure and Mastering Medicines courses to ensure compliance. This focus has resulted in a chance for us to review with you the use of antibiotics. In some cases this has resulted in improved treatment protocols to further minimize the risk of milk residues. Most of all it has resulted in reduced antibiotic use. This has come from improved disease prevention, with wide uptake of calf vaccination. It has also come from changes in treatment plans,

with many farms finding anti-inflammatories can be effective for mastitis, and some sick cows benefit from pain relief and oral fluids, and recover without the need for antibiotics. Talk to us, or attend a medicines course to find out more. Most of all, and from all of us at Shepton Vets, we wish you all a peaceful Christmas, some time off with your families, and a Happy New Year. Should you need a visit over the festive period we will, of course, be available....

Paddy Gordon



## TB Meeting 12th December

### TB regulations are changing in January 2020.

The Royal Bath & West of England Society are facilitating a meeting for farmers to discuss the new rules and how it affects your business.

**Thursday 12th December  
10.30am – 2.30pm, in the  
Wessex Pavilion at the Bath  
& West Showground.**

The meeting will discuss: Testing regimes, how and when they are applied, types of TB test used and how they work, movement restrictions, movement licenses, AFUs, Biosecurity and how to better inform your purchasing decisions for animals and also equipment.

For more information email:  
protectbritishfarming@gmail.com

## Events & Training Courses

**Farm Health & Safety Event**  
17th January

**Mastering Medicines**  
20th January 2020  
5th February

**Foot Trimming**  
17th February

**DIY AI Course**  
2nd – 5th March

**Calf Rearing Lunch & Learn**  
18th March

Email: training@sheptonvets.com for more information or to book a space.

## Multimin

Multimin is a unique prescription only combined trace mineral injection for cattle containing: zinc, copper, manganese and selenium. Designed to supply trace minerals to correct clinical or subclinical deficiencies of these four trace minerals which can arise during critical phases of the production or breeding life cycle.

The trace minerals in Multimin are key to the body's immune system and crucial components of the antioxidant enzymes required to combat oxidative stress. Many factors including, poor oral bioavailability from feed and forage, oral antagonists, variable intake and high excretion under stress can lead to inadequate levels of available trace minerals. During periods of high demand in the production cycle e.g. calving, lactation, breeding and vaccination a trace mineral gap can develop which significantly impacts performance.

Administering Multimin for use ahead of these key periods will rapidly boost the trace mineral status of cattle. It provides a new, fast acting, easy and accurate means to boost trace mineral supply, and help improve the performance of their cattle. Available in 100ml PET bottles, Multimin is conveniently licensed for use in dairy and beef cattle of all ages.



## Mobility Scoring as part of our Vet Tech Service

Poor mobility in dairy cows can be costly to your farm, due to lost milk sales, cost of treatment and lost productivity.

To comply with Red Tractor Assurance, it is recommended that mobility scoring is conducted on the whole milking herd every six months.

Our Vet Tech Service can mobility score for you, helping you improve lameness on farm and meet Red Tractor standards.

Benefits of our mobility scoring service are:

- The early detection of any mobility problems.
- The ability to prioritise cases for treatment.
- An increase in the awareness of herd foot health and farm staff motivation to improve herd mobility.
- It is suitable for all herd types and situations.
- Help create a mobility scoring protocol stipulated by Red Tractor
- Can be annual, bi-annual, or quarterly – to suit your needs.
- Comply with Milk Contracts and Red Tractor standards.
- Benchmarking – Investigate accordingly (Low or high).
- Our Vet Tech Jess is ROMs accredited (Register of Mobility Scorers).

Our Mobility Scoring service is a set at a fixed price of £75 + VAT per visit, which includes a report after each visit.

If you would like more information or would like to book a visit please contact Jess in the office on 01749 341761.

## Farmer Focus:

The House family joined the practice approaching eighteen months ago. It was all change not just in Veterinary services but from milking in a herringbone parlour, to robotic milking. This transition took place over last Christmas with the three Fullwood robots commencing operations in the new year. The first almost instantaneous change was how so much more quiet the animals became. I write this having just returned from the House Family's open day – they I am sure were proud of their hard work and dedication in going into robotic milking, it was a really impressive display of how all the team have contributed to the success story.

The approach taken by us is to involve all the team here in providing a comprehensive service. I carry out the day to day support on the farm with a weekly routine. Jess has been providing support through the Youngstock Service including weighing to target growth rates and vaccinating. We have rationalised the use of medicines and have significantly reduced antibiotic use. The robots have helped by providing conductivity readings. Anti-inflammatories, such as Metacam, are used as a first line treatment in Mastitis. This rationale of using anti-inflammatories has also been used in calf pneumonia.

We have also provided MilkSure training and I carried out a DIY AI refresher course on a very dedicated new member of staff, Fizz. It also served as a reminder to more established members of the

team in case they had fallen into any bad habits.

There is no denying that there have been challenges during the transition. Understanding a completely new software package has not surprisingly taxed everybody's grey matter. Many cows inseminated during a period of heat stress subsequently lost their calves. They were re-inseminated by the Hereford Bull that had been fortuitously running with the herd, resulting in cows calving 8 weeks later than expected.

Even the younger generation of the family have been involved in the practice. Charlotte spent a week with us including time with Jess. Charlotte was inspired and now is thinking of becoming a veterinary technician (watch out Jess she wants your job)!  
Michael Head



## Team Shepton: Jess Nurse

I've been one of the Vet Tech's at Shepton for roughly 18 months and have enjoyed every second of being part of the Shepton Team. Around trying to fit in horses, playing rounder's and helping out on farm at home, my main focus at the moment is my role within YFC. In May 2020 my YFC group will be hosting the Annual Somerset County Rally at the Royal Bath and West Showground. At the moment we are in the process of gathering sponsorship money, booking DJ's, and thinking up crazy competitions for everyone to enjoy on the day.

If you fancy a trip down memory lane to relive your days as a young farmer, then join us on May 2nd 2020.

