



## FESTIVE HOLIDAYS

ALL 3 BRANCHES WILL BE CLOSED

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> December

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> January

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

ON CALL VET WORK ONLY

## COLOSTRUM TRANSFER; THE CORNERSTONE OF CALF SURVIVAL

**Calves are born without any antibodies to infection and rely completely on colostrum for antibodies** as well as

vitamins A and D and energy to dry themselves and keep warm. The highest levels of antibody are found in the first milk after calving. Colostrum populates the calf's immune system and protects it from the many infections in its environment until its own immune system begins antibody production at 3 weeks of age

### HOW TO GET GOOD COLOSTRUM TRANSFER

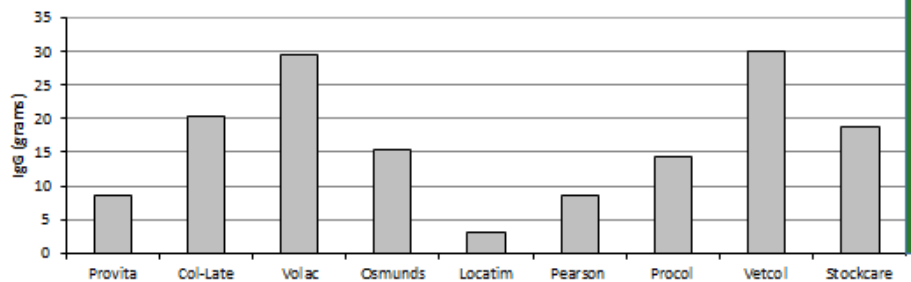
- Feed calves 10% bodyweight of good quality colostrum within 6hrs, split into two feeds, first within 30mins
- Cleanliness of colostrum collection and calving pen strongly affects how well the calf absorbs the colostrum
- Temperature of colostrum should be 38-40 degrees, if too low the colostrum goes into the rumen and degrades! If heated AT ANY POINT above 49°C the ANTIBODIES ARE BEING DAMAGED so do not make/defrost with boiling water, or microwave for more than 10-15 seconds between stirrings.

• If quality cow colostrum isn't available use **Immucol Platinum Colostrum** this is a like for like colostrum REPLACER, no other artificial colostrum on the market contains adequate IgG to prime the immune system fed alone, each batch is tested for antibody level, disease control and meets all a calves nutritional needs, this is a replacer not just a supplement.

**FOR A FUNCTIONING IMMUNE SYSTEM AN AVERAGE CALF NEEDS A MINIMUM OF 90g IgG (ANTIBODY)**

**Immucol Platinum: 84 -120 g of IgG** →

Immucol platinum is the **ONLY** true colostrum REPLACER in the UK  
Immucol platinum comes in individual foil sachets ready to mix and feed and is in stock at the practice.



## TWIN LAMB/PREGNANCY TOXAEMIA

A high risk condition to ewes carrying two or more lambs in either very low or very high body condition. A combination of the increased energy requirements in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy, and the physical space occupied by the growing lambs can leave ewes in negative energy balance. This forces breakdown of fat for energy, which can produce excessive ketones resulting in toxaemia and in some cases fatty liver syndrome. Note that a high fluke burden will exacerbate this even more and increase chances of fatalities.

Prevention is much better than cure for pregnancy toxaemia, so it is advisable to scan ewes and group according to both body condition and number of lambs and feed accordingly. An excessively fat ewe is as high a risk as an underweight ewe, therefore it is important to monitor all ewes for weight loss and appetite towards the end of gestation, and supplement feed accordingly to ensure that at risk ewes are caught and treated before becoming clinical. Often an episode of stress can precipitate cases e.g. sudden weather change.

**CLINICAL SIGNS; Separation from the group, Inappetence, Head pressing, Disorientation/blindness, Tremors, Recumbency**

Treatment for early cases include daily administration of twin lamb drench (usually propylene glycol) and support; once lambled the ewe may not be able to support all or any of the lambs. More progressed (recumbent or inappetent) cases may need veterinary treatment with injectable glucose solution and other supportive drugs. In some cases induction of early lambing or c-section may be the only way to not end with both a dead ewe and lambs. Please call the practice for advice on any cases/outbreak.





# IMRESTOR – FOR REDUCTION IN POST CALVING CLINICAL MASTITIS

Earlier this year Elanco launched Imrestor; **an immune stimulant** licensed to reduce cases of clinical mastitis. Imrestor is NOT A VACCINE and it is NOT AN ANTIBIOTIC.

The immune system is split into two branches, the innate immune system, and the adaptive immune system. Imrestor works on the innate immune system which is the first line of defence against pathogens. Neutrophils, a type of white blood cell, are a major component of the innate immune system, they are one of the first cells to respond to infection and the predominant cell type in mastitic milk. Crucially around calving, cows have a period of immune suppression where there is both a reduction in numbers and function of neutrophils, this ranges from a 25-75% drop depending on the animal. Imrestor works by signalling the bone marrow to produce more neutrophils providing a vital boost to the immune response.

- Imrestor is an immune stimulant which boosts this innate branch of the immune system.
- Imrestor has been demonstrated to reduce clinical cases of mastitis in the first 30 days post calving by 26%.
- Neutrophil function is also vitally important in the prevention of a number of other periparturient conditions such as Retained Fetal Membranes and Metritis. Therefore it is possible Imrestor may have a beneficial effect on the incidence of these conditions.

Imrestor comes in pre packed syringes that have to be kept in the fridge. It is given under the skin 7 days before calving (a range of 3-17 days before calving is acceptable) and again at calving. If you have any questions about Imrestor or would like any more information please contact the practice.

## DAIRY FERTILITY BENCHMARKING MEETING

**Wed 8th February 2017**  
**Fenwick Hotel 19.30**

Advance notice that we are holding another benchmarking meeting by popular demand. We will anonymously compare the fertility performance of our clients herds where we have access to fertility data. There will also be a short talk on the importance of enhancing the immune system of the cow over the transition period (3-weeks pre-calving to 3-weeks post-calving). We now know that many health and fertility issues are connected to the immune status of the cow over the transition period.



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