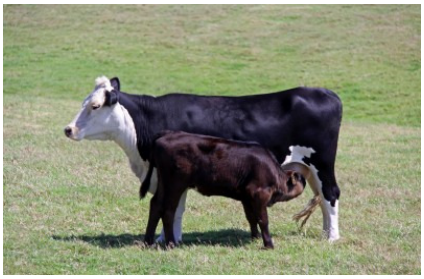
NWL
NationWide Laboratories

Newsletter

May 2010

Calf IgG testing in colostrum management



Faecal samples sent to our Leeds lab confirmed that the neonatal calf scour problem on a particular farm was caused by rotavirus infection. The farmer was understandably perturbed because his cows had been vaccinated for rotavirus after a previous round of investigations. It was suggested that blood samples should be taken from six young calves to check IgG levels as an indicator of the passive transfer of maternal immunity.

Instead of the relatively crude assay of Zinc Sulphate Turbidity(ZST) units, we measure the actual IgG concentration. Serum IgG should be more than 15 g/l where colostrum absorption is adequate. Levels below 10g/l indicate inadequate absorption of colostrum.

Four of the six calves tested had IgG levels < 10 g/l, with two having results < 2.0 g/l. Improvements in colostrum management were advised with the expectation that overall calf health should improve markedly. This case highlights just how useful IgG testing can be in the investigation of calf disease!

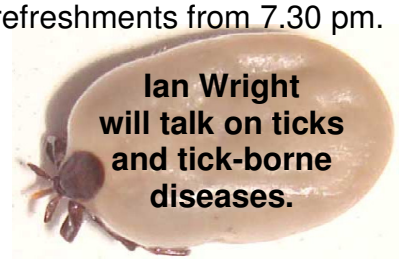
Win an FDC 4000i in-practice analyser!

Following our very successful UK launch of the FDC 4000i clinical chemistry analyser at BSAVA Congress, during May we are offering our clients the chance to win an analyser for their practice.

To enter the competition, simply contact the team at Poulton on 01253 899215 before the end of May 2010 to book a demonstration.

NWL Clin Path Club

The next meeting will be at the Village Leeds South Hotel at 8.00 pm on Thu 27 May 10, refreshments from 7.30 pm.



Spring Bank Holiday

NWL will be closed on Mon 31 May 2010

High dose trilostane and adrenal hyperplasia

NWL Leeds received samples recently from a dog with hyperadrenocorticism (HAC) seen as a second opinion by our client practice.
The dog arrived at the practice on a dose rate of 8 mg/kg trilostane(*Vetoryl*®) three times daily. A recent ACTH stimulation test at the previous practice suggested that control was inadequate, but the dog was weak and miserable.
Our client practice took advice from Dechra and reduced the dose to 8 mg/kg once daily and the dog made a marked clinical improvement. ACTH stimulation tests were then performed at 5 and 22 hours post pill.
The results of both tests still suggested poor control.
Our MD, Dr Peter Graham, an expert endocrinologist, was able to advise. By comparing work done in the UK and Australia it has been proposed that, in more aggressively treated cases of pituitary dependent HAC, upwardly spiralling trilostane dose rates can occur in response to ever increasing levels of ACTH, as all remaining negative feedback on the functional pituitary mass is lost.
A more gradual approach, with small dose increases is recommended to reduce the risk of upwardly spiralling doses.
Currently, the dog is clinically well on an even lower dose rate of 4mg/kg once daily.

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