

VIRGINIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE

EXTENSION DIVISION - VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE AND STATE UNIVERSITY - BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA 24061

VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
REGIONAL COLLEGE
OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE

VIRGINIA VETERINARY NOTES



April 1981

No. 4

WHAT'S INSIDE - - - -

Meetings.Page 2

Foot-and-Mouth Disease.Page 2
Confirmed outbreak on Isle of Jersey & Isle of Wight.

Domestic Rabbits.Page 2
Facts about rabbit behavior and management.

Brucellosis in VirginiaPage 3
Herds quarantined for Brucellosis

Practice TipsPage 3
Induced lambing, Ringworm treatment and Pinkeye.

King Ranch.Page 4
Facts about this largest U.S. ranch.

Reproductive Disorders.Page 4
New approaches to mare infertility.

Success Is No Accident.Page 5
A step for improving communication.

Night Blindness in the Appaloosa.Page 5
Recently recognized problem in horses.

Comparison Table.Page 6
Equine night blindness and recurrent Uveitis.



Kent C. Roberts
Extension Specialist
Equine & Companion Animals

MEETINGS

Update: Dermatology - William H. Miller, D.V.M.
Central Virginia VMA - General Medical Building
Mary 14, 1981 - Richmond, Virginia

Pet Dentistry for Veterinarians - Charles A. Williams, D.V.M.
Northern Virginia Community College - Loudoun Campus
June 10-11, 1981 - Sterling, Virginia

FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE CONFIRMED ON ISLE OF JERSEY AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Foot-and-mouth disease, a costly and debilitating disease of cattle, sheep, goats and swine, has been confirmed on the Isle of Jersey and the Isle of Wight, U.S. Department of Agriculture officials said today.

The Isle of Jersey is one of the Channel Islands, off the coast of France, but governed by Great Britain. The Isle of Wight is just off the southern coast of England.

According to John Atwell, deputy administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, type "O" foot-and-mouth disease has been identified in both outbreaks by the Animal Virus Research Institute in Pirbright, England.

Six cows and a bull have been destroyed on the Isle of Jersey, Atwell said. The Isle of Wight outbreak involved a farm with 166 head of cattle. An additional 47 cattle and 354 hogs were exposed to these cattle. All have been destroyed. Necessary sanitary procedures have been carried out to prevent further spread of the disease.

Atwell said an emergency order is being issued removing the Channel Islands and Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man) from the list of countries recognized by USDA as free of foot-and-mouth disease. This will result in a ban on imports of cattle, sheep, goats, swine or their products from these areas.

NEWS

U.S. Department of Agriculture
March 23, 1981

DOMESTIC RABBITS

There are many breeds of rabbits, and they have many uses. The market for rabbit meat is steadily increasing, and this versatile small mammal is gaining popularity as a pet and as a producer of meat and fur.

Ranging in size from 2 to 12 lbs., rabbits have an average life span of 6 to 7 years. It is best to house adults separately on wire

with protection from drafts and weather extremes as well as predators.

There are two rabbit chows available; one a 13-15% protein and the other a 16-18% protein. The higher protein diet is recommended for accelerated breeding programs, while the lower protein is adequate for pet rabbits and those in laboratories. Overfeeding and obesity are common problems and can inhibit breeding. A constant supply of clean fresh water is important.

Coprophagy is normal in rabbits most often at dawn when a softer fecal pellet is produced. It is believed that this practice improves digestive efficiency.

Does are polyestrous and induced ovulators. Sexual maturity normally occurs at 5 months in does and 6 months in bucks. Gestation averages 31 days with a range of 28-35 days, and pseudo-pregnancy is not uncommon. Litter size is 4-10 bunnies which are weaned at 6-8 weeks of age. The birth process is called kindling.

Stuart L. Porter, V.M.D.
Small Mammal Short Course
Blue Ridge Community College
November 1980

BRUCELLOSIS IN VIRGINIA

As of March 31, 1981, Virginia had a total of 31 herds of cattle quarantined for Brucellosis. There are approximately 39,000 cattle herds in the state. North Carolina has no herds quarantined out of some 50,000 herds in that state.

Florida (907), Louisiana (784), Mississippi (984), Texas (2,351), Arkansas (509), and Oklahoma (622) are the leaders in Brucellosis quarantine.

PRACTICE TIPS

Induced Lambing

Eighteen milligrams of dexamethasone administered intramuscularly in ewes at terminal pregnancy (145+ days) will induce lambing within 48 hours. It is also of value in ewes developing ketosis that are not responding to propylene glycol therapy.

R. D. Scoggins, D.V.M.
Veterinary Professional Topics, 1980
University of Illinois

Ringworm Treatment

Ringworm in cattle can be controlled by using captan (Orthocide Garden Fungicide 50%, Chevron Chemical Co. Ortho Division), a spray

mixture of 0.45-0.5 lbs. captan to 20 gallons of water. Apply at 400-450 lb. pressure using an average of 1.5 gallons of solution per animal. It should be repeated several times. Topical application of Chlorox and Thiabendazole mixed with DMSO is also a good treatment for ringworm.

Veterinary News
Utah State University
March 1980

Pinkeye

From a hardware store, purchase canvas from a roll and also contact cement in a tube that fits into a caulking gun. This contact cement is a glue used to glue paneling to studding in home construction. The price is right, and the patch stays on.

Dr. Don Hudson
University of Nebraska-North Platte
Nebraska Extension Newsletter
August 1980

KING RANCH

The King Ranch, Kingsville, Texas, comprises 823,403 acres which is an area larger than Rhode Island. There are approximately 60,000 cattle, 1,700 Quarter Horses, and 450 people on the Ranch. There are 2,200 miles of wire-mesh fence 59 inches high. Water is provided by 350 wells, and the land carries an average of one cow per 9 or 10 acres. The Santa Gertrudis cattle were developed at the Ranch and are a 5/8 shorthorn, 3/8 Brahman cross.

REPRODUCTIVE DISORDERS

Intrauterine therapy has long been the standard for treating mare infertility. However, evidence is accumulating that this may not be the best method. Many products are found to be very irritating to the endometrium. For example, the tetracycline group of antimicrobial agents may do more damage than good.

Many mares have benefited considerably from repeated short cycling via prostaglandin-type products. This, accompanied by indicated reproductive surgery and an evaluation of the mare's nutritional plane with indicated adjustments, can do much to improve a problem mare's fertility. Be sure to evaluate the mare's overall physical condition and muscle tone and make adjustments if necessary. At present, uterine biopsy appears to be the best aid in prognosing the problem mare's future.

Mare owners need to be reminded of the mare's normal breeding season. Problem mares are best not bred until May, and they should be in proper condition at that time.

Dr. R. D. Scoggins
University of Illinois College of
Veterinary Medicine

SUCCESS IS NO ACCIDENT

It has been said that there is nothing as sweet to the ear as the sound of one's own name. We can all make good use of this possibility by using a person's name when speaking to them. Frequent use of a client's and their pet's name is reassuring and courteous during conversation.

The use of impersonal pronouns when referring to people and their animals doesn't improve public relations. Thoughtfulness is appreciated, and using people's names when speaking to them is an excellent way to show it.

See if this approach doesn't work for you in your daily contacts.

Kent C. Roberts, D.V.M.
Companion Animal Extension Specialist

NIGHT BLINDNESS IN THE APPALOOSA

Equine night blindness (ENB) has been reported with increasing frequency in the Appaloosa breed. A much lower incidence is reported in other breeds. A growing awareness of ENB has brought forth a need to educate the horse owner in the differences of signs between ENB and "moon blindness" (uveitis).

The presenting signs of a night blind horse may be relative to multiple traumatic insults all relating to events occurring at night. The owner may also comment on the unwillingness of the horse to move from the pasture at night or move at all in the darkness without running into objects.

The ocular examination of these horses may be essentially normal. A few animals may have questionable globe size, others display unusual strabismus dorsally, and most have no visual impairment in the daylight. Some of the horses display a poor menace when stimulated dorsally. Maze testing showed a striking difference between visual ability in light versus dimness. Manifestations of ENB include a wide range of visual disabilities; these range from partial day and night visual impairment to complete night visual impairment. The electroretinographic results correlate with the clinical signs; the b-wave amplitude is decreased and occasionally the b-wave has negative polarity. Histologically, the retinas have appeared normal with both light and electron microscopis studies. Future retinal histochemical, spectrophotometric and enzyme studies may provide additional information on the visual deficit.

The ENB horse compensates with age and the owner's awareness to light the darkness for the horse's benefit. A sibling occurrence of ENB suggests a recessive inheritance.

(See Table 1 - Page 6)

W. C. Rebhun, D.V.M.
R. C. Riis, D.V.M., M.S.
College of Veterinary Medicine
Cornell University

Table 1

	<u>Equine Night Blindness</u>	<u>Recurrent Uveitis</u>
Breeds affected	Appaloosa	All Breeds
Clinical signs	Spookiness at night Injuries at night Abnormal eye position faulty day vision	Excessive lacrimation Photophobia Scleral injection
Ophthalmic exam	No abnormalities	ACUTE: conjunctivitis, keratitis, hypopyon, uveal inflammation CHRONIC: synechiae, abnormal pupil shape, cataract, luxated lens, vitreous opacities, uveal inflammation, retinal detachment
Course	Nonprogressive	Recurrent, may progress to blindness
Cause	Hereditary	Immune reaction (Onchocerca, Leptospira)
Treatment	None	Symptomatic (to control inflammation, infection)

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