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Abstracts

A survey of caesarean operations on cattle in general veterinary practice

J. H. Cattell, H. Dobson

Veterinary Record (1990) **127**, 395-399

The animal most frequently requiring operation for dystocia in this survey of 133 cases was the Friesian/Holstein heifer. In 38 per cent of cases the reason for surgery was an oversized calf and in 84 per cent the operation was performed on the farm of origin. The majority of the dams were operated on while standing, using a left flank incision, and under paravertebral or field infiltration with local anaesthetic solution. Exteriorisation of the uterus did not appear to be essential except when the calf was dead. Ninety-five per cent of the calves alive in utero and 91 per cent of the dams survived, although 30 per cent of the dams suffered ill-health afterwards. In nine cases neither dam nor calf survived. The fertility indices of those which were rebred were not markedly affected, but milk production was reduced by an estimated 12 per cent of the potential yield.

Bovine endometritis: Comparative efficacy of alfaprostol and intrauterine therapies, and other factors influencing clinical success

R. D. Murray, J. D. Allison, R. P. Gard

Veterinary Record (1990) **127**, 86-90

A comparative study of the treatment of 306 severe, moderate, or mild cases of bovine endometritis was carried out over two calving seasons. The cases were treated with alfaprostol, or an intrauterine antibacterial preparation, or with a combination of both therapies. There was no significant difference between the efficacies of these treatments, and a single injection of alfaprostol was effective in 74 per cent of the cases treated. The effectiveness of the treatments was related to the degree of self-cure of the endometritis after parturition, the luteal activity at the time of treatment, and farm management factors affecting the health and condition of the calving cows.

Clinical efficacy of chlortetracycline hydrochloride administered in milk replacer to calves

J. C. Braidwood, N. W. Henry

Veterinary Record (1990) **127**, 197-301

Two similar groups of 14 calves were housed and fed identically in individual pens on a calf-rearing farm. The groups were balanced for weight and immunological status as determined by zinc sulphate turbidity values. When an outbreak of enteric and respiratory disease occurred one group was treated with 20 mg chlortetracycline hydrochloride/kg body-weight daily for seven consecutive days, by adding the active ingredient to the milk replacer, while the other group was left untreated. Both groups received additional therapy as required. The calves were examined daily during the period of treatment and the clinical observations were assessed and analysed statistically. There was a significant difference between the clinical scores of the two groups on the second day of treatment ($P < 0.5$) and on all subsequent days ($P < 0.01$) indicating that the calves receiving chlortetracycline hydrochloride were less affected by the disease outbreak. The abnormal enteric and respiratory signs were associated with several potential pathogens including bacteria, viruses and protozoa. The treatment was therefore effective against enteric and respiratory disease involving several organisms.

Sympathico-adrenal effects of endotoxaemia in cattle

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Veterinary Record (1990) **172**, 11-14

Intradermal injection of 46 μg *E. coli* endotoxin had no effect on the plasma cortisol and noradrenaline concentrations of four dairy cows. Mean values were similar to normal values reported in the literature. Intravenous injection of 75 μg of endotoxin on the following day caused a massive increase in plasma cortisol concentrations which lasted for seven hours. Plasma noradrenaline concentrations increased rapidly after the intravenous administration of endotoxin and remained high for at least one hour. A possible relationship between endotoxaemia and the pathogenesis of acute laminitis is discussed.