

# Practice Tips

Drs. Charles Gardner and Len Lazarrato, *Presiding*

## What Is Your Diagnosis?

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A red and white ten year old Holstein Cow fell while crossing the gutter. She was eight months pregnant and dry for three weeks. The cow had stumbled two weeks before while crossing the gutter. My examination revealed a cow in lateral recumbency, salivating with her tongue hanging out of her mouth. Her rectal temperature was 101.4° F, pulse 100 beats per minute and normal respirations. Rabies is currently active in this area so we handled this animal with that in mind. The herd is vaccinated annually for rabies, IBR, PI<sub>3</sub>, BVD and leptospirosis with killed products. Rectal examination revealed a 3 inch mass along the left ureter. Treatment consisted of intravenous Calcium, Banamine, Antihistamine, B-Vitamins and Rumlax Boluses. No response to treatment was noticed within 18 hours. The rectal temperature increased to 106° F. No further change in signs was noted

in the next 24 hours. The cow was taken to the State Diagnostic Laboratory for necropsy examination.

### What Is Your Diagnosis?

The rabies FA Test was negative. The diagnosis was lymphosarcoma. The most prominent lesions were located in the left lumbar area. The lymph nodes and the caudal flexure of the duodenum were involved as well as the right atrium, diaphragm, omasum, abomasum and the right cervical lymph node. Both kidneys were polycystic, probably from obstruction of urine flow in the ureters.

The fetus was a Perosomus Elumbus with BVD Virus found in fetal tissues by FA examination.

Lymphosarcoma should be considered in the differential diagnosis of most conditions especially in herds with known BLV serologically positive cows as was this herd.

## Use of Plastic Roof Cement to Identify Worked Cattle

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A system of marking beef cattle using plastic roof cement has proven very beneficial over the past fifteen years. The impetus for this idea comes from a large commercial operation in southwestern Virginia. The major benefit of this system is that it allows quick assessment of an animal's status at a glance. Plastic roof cement was chosen because it is easy to apply, highly visible, very durable, and relatively inexpensive. The bottom line is that this system allows for one hundred percent compliance to all herd-health procedures, an obvious benefit to both veterinarian and owner.

Credit for this system must go to Stuart Land and Cattle Company of Virginia, Incorporated, a commercial enterprise of beef cattle, sheep, and burley tobacco. The farm consists of sixteen thousand acres, located in the Appalachian Mountains. The terrain is rocky, rugged, steep mountain land, much of which is wooded and densely

covered with brush, thus making difficult the task of gathering cattle when they are to be worked; consequently, some cattle might not get processed. Due to the company's unique marketing program—they supply cattle for exotic disease research to the United States Government's Animal Disease Center at Plum Island, New York—all vaccinations and health procedures are pre-approved by the government, and there is a serious effort by management to completely comply to all facets of the herd-health program. It was this desire to be sure that all animals are worked that led to the need for a marking system that would identify whether an animal has been processed.

This system is not used as a substitute for individual animal identification; quite the contrary, each animal in the herd is identified in quadruplicate: (1) eartag, (2) tattoo, (3) bangle, and (4) brand. The marking system then is used as an adjunct to, and not in lieu of, individual identification.