

Treatment of Sole Abscesses of Cattle in Missouri

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It has been suggested that one should drain sole abscesses and not bandage the foot. However, the soil in our area is very gravelly and if the foot is not bandaged, the drain hole is soon filled with rock and dirt and the foot abscess breaks out at the bulb of the heel. In addition, bandages of gauze and cotton, or porous tape tend to stay damp and irritate the skin, causing foot rot.

A few years ago when sea sponges were more plentiful, they were recommended for bandaging legs on horses. I adapted a variation for the use of a sponge on a cow's sole abscess and puncture wound. Later, when Technovit acrylic became available, I started blocking the foot also.

First, I locate the puncture or abscess area, enlarge it so that it will drain, and then trim the foot. Then I block the good claw. While the acrylic is hardening I pour 7% iodine into the hole. Then I pour "tamed" iodine (Monodine) on a slightly dampened household cellulose sponge which is then taped to the sole with duct tape.

The tape is put on until it forms a shoe in the claw. The "shoe" is secured with one or two strips of tape around the whole foot. The duct tape does not seem to irritate the skin and I have had it stay on for 10 days or more with no problem.

Removal of Teat Beans

The removal of teat "beans" can sometimes be a problem. Some have been removed surgically and some with various types of forceps. A few years ago, Dr. C. C. Moore of Springfield, Mo. hit on the idea of removing them with a folded wire in much the same way that a wire is used to relieve choke by removal of hedge apples from cows' throats. He has perfected his idea and this little gadget can be acquired by writing Dr. C. C. Moore, 1213 St. Louis St., Springfield, Mo.

I tell my clients not to milk the quarters at the previous milking, but to treat with a broad spectrum antibiotic so that the quarter is sterile and I can locate the bean. After the teat has been scrubbed and dried, the end is rubbed with alcohol. The bean is located by stripping and moved to the bottom of the teat. The wire loop is induced into the teat canal and the bean is worked into the loop. By pulling the handle down, the bean is either pulled out of the teat or cut until it can be milked out.

This took causes very little damage to the teat end. Some tight teat ends may need to be dilated first with a standard teat cannula.

Ten Tips in Running a Mixed Practice with Six Veterinarians and One Million Dollar Gross

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I started the Sheldon Veterinary Practice in Sheldon, IA in 1958. It has grown through the years where we now have 6 veterinarians in a mixed corporate practice, 95% large animal and 5% small animal. Our large animal is divided between dairy, beef cattle, a little cow-calf, and swine, some sheep, and equine. We try to train our clients so they don't ask for one particular veterinarian. However the few that do, know that if they call early in the morning before we go out on our route and specify one of us we will try to honor it. We do have specialists, however, in small animal, herd health, practice management, and some other fields. We also base our practice philosophy on diagnosis and will go to great lengths to obtain that. I think we feel that anybody can treat,

but you'd better know what you are treating. We use our own lab. We use South Dakota and we use Iowa State University. Our lab is equipped with a serometer, cell counter, microscope, bacteriology equipment, and we also have up-to-date x-ray facilities. We do a lot of our own treatment, but we still feel that diagnosis comes first. Speaking of diagnosis, I think there are two things that every veterinarian in a cattle practice should have and use. You're probably going to laugh at this, but you read articles in the magazines where there have been malpractice suits because this particular, inexpensive instrument has been used and also they ask about the temperature on the animal and this instrument has never been used. This is an electric