June 2025 Newsletter www.penbodevets.co.uk/farm



Vaccines Reminder

At all times of year but especially as the weather warms up, please remember to bring suitable containers for collecting vaccines to ensure they stay at the correct temperatures.

Vaccines are available for preorder for the next working day.

> **HOLSWORTHY** Tel: 01409 253418

STRATTON Tel: 01288 353166 **BRADWORTHY** Tel: 01409 241241 CAMELFORD Tel: 01840 213277



Connecting with Our Community at Penbode Farm Vets

At Penbode Farm Vets, we take immense pride in our active participation within the local community and at country shows. We cherish the chance to engage with our clients and friends in a relaxed atmosphere outside our practice.

When you stop by our stand at the upcoming shows, please take a moment to enjoy a chat with us over a cup of tea. We love hearing about your animals, sharing stories, and addressing any questions you may have regarding veterinary care.

We can't wait to see you there!

Penbode Farm Vets Team

Woolsery Show: Monday 28th July 2025 Camelford Show: Wednesday 13th August 2025 Okehampton Show: Thursday 14th August 2025 Ashwater Show: Saturday 17th August 2025 Holsworthy and Stratton Show: Thursday 28th August 2025



All About Eyes By Victoria Pyne-Mercier

BSc, BVetMed MRCVS

Like all animals, the cow's eye comes with its fair share of injuries and conditions. The 3 most commonly seen conditions are described in this article below. For each of these, it is important to remember that the earlier the intervention, the better the prognosis that cow has. It is also important to note that these eye conditions are very painful. Imagine how painful it would be to have an eyelash that you could never remove, or an irritating contact lens you could never correct. Because of this, using anti-inflammatory drugs, such as Metacam and Rimadyl, will help reduce the discomfort and inflammation caused by these conditions.

Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis (IBK, Pink Eye, New Forest Eye)

Commonly known as either New Forest or Pink Eye, IBK is a highly contagious disease predominantly caused by the bacteria *Moraxella bovis*. This bacteria enters the eye through a damaged cornea (front of eye), for example if scratched by long grass, and is spread by vectors such as head and nuisance flies, dust, and through cow to cow contact. The disease is more commonly seen in youngstock during warmer months, but can be found in animals of any age, especially when housed closely in an undersized space. Clinical signs of IBK generally include tear staining on the face, excessive blinking and holding the eye shut, pus and other discharge matting lashes and hair, pain especially when exposed to sunlight, conjunctivitis (inflammation of thin membrane over the eye), and corneal ulceration (an open sore on the front of the eye). Initially a central corneal ulcer will appear and quickly grow over 5-7 days. Ulcers can progress to protruding underlying tissues, purulent discharge, and even perforation of the globe (eyeball) causing permanent blindness. IBK can lead to decreased feed intake and a reduction in weight gain, milk yield, and overall poor performance.



Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis external signs

https://www.msdvetmanual.com/eye-diseases-and-disorders/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis-incattle-and-small-ruminants#Clinical-Findings_v3270173



Infectious Bovine Keratoconjunctivitis corneal ulceration in steers, stain used to highlight ulcer

https://www.msdvetmanual.com/eye-diseases-and-disorders/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis-incattle-and-small-ruminants#Diagnosis_v3270180

Diagnosis of IBK is generally made after clinical examination by a vet who will implement treatment. It is possible for the vet to take a swab of the infected eye in order to identify the causative pathogen, but the bacteria does not always survive on the swab making lab results disappointing.

Prompt treatment is recommended to stop disease progression. Initially, a topical antibiotic cream containing cloxacillin is administered and can be repeated in 48-72 hrs. It is recommended that both eyes be treated, starting with the unaffected eye to help reduce spread. If a case has progressed further, a single dose of long acting oxytetracycline can be administered intramuscularly. Along with antibiotics, anti-inflammatories should be administered to help control pain and reduce inflammation. Affected animals should be removed from the rest of the group and kept indoors with access to feed and water. Severe cases that do not resolve may require an enucleation (removal of the eye).

Historically, farmers would have given, or requested for the vet to administer, a small amount of antibiotic into the subconjunctival tissues of the eye. This method relies on leakage back out onto the cornea from the injection site. This has no advantage over an intramuscular injection other than the smaller volume of antibiotic required. Additionally, because this route of administration is not licensed in any antibiotic, offlicense milk and meat withholds would be required before a cow goes back into the tank. This method would also require very good restraint and may be impractical in fractious animals due to risk of perforating the globe with the needle.

To help prevent and control IBK in your herd, consider using insecticide ear tags or pouron insecticides to reduce the number of flies in the cow's environment. Avoid grazing in long pastures to reduce damage to the eye, and avoid overcrowding as IBK is highly contagious between individuals. Outbreaks may occur after introduction of new livestock onto farm, therefore all new stock should be managed separately away from the main herd until their quarantine period has finished. A vaccine is available under Special Import License - please speak with your vet if you would like to learn more.

Bovine Iritis (Silage Eye)

Silage Eye is a common cause of uveitis (inflammation inside the eye) that is thought to be associated with the bacteria Listeria monocytogenes. Any age of cattle can be affected, but is a particular risk for cows feeding on silage or conserved forage. Poor silage that has either been stored incorrectly or has been exposed to air for several days before being eaten provides the ideal environment for *L. monocytogenes* to grow. The *Listeria spp*. is thought to enter the eye when cattle burrow their heads into silage/forage creating an entry wound on the surface of the eye.

Initially, Silage Eye will present with excessive tear staining, increased blinking, holding eyelids shut, pain from direct sunlight, swollen eyelids, and small pupils. Over time small blood vessels will be seen growing over the surface of the eye. As time passes, the eye will become cloudy, and the cornea will gain a blueish-white opaque color. This can further progress to yellow as pus develops, bulges in the iris, and the cow may become blind.

The treatment for Silage Eye is similar to that of IBK, with a topical cloxacillin being prescribed at initial clinical signs, and then moving on to a systemic long acting oxytetracycline if the disease is further progressed. Silage Eye is very painful, and it is recommended to include an antiinflammatory drug at all stages of disease. The prognosis of these animals is fair to good when caught early. Reasons for treatment failure include permanent damage to the iris, cornea, or rarely full cornea rupture. In severe cases, the eye can be surgically removed.

In order to prevent Silage Eye, it is important to look at the cause of disease. To prevent cows from burrowing heads into their feed, big bale silage can be rolled out instead of being placed into a ring feeder, though this may be impractical in many systems. Therefore a better route of prevention is to pay special attention to detail when baling and wrapping silage. This will create the ideal conditions for necessary fermentation and subsequently limit the growth of *L. monocytogenes*. This means repairing any tears that you may find in plastic wrapped bales immediately or recognizing that poorly fermented silage is not only less nutritious but may contain a higher growth of Listeria spp.



Silage eye with a bluish white opacity seen in 3-5d. https://www.nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/cattle/eye-conditions-in-cattle/



Further discoloration and bulging iris https://www.nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/cattle/eye-conditions-in-cattle/

Ocular Squamous Cell Carcinoma (Cancer Eye)

Ocular Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is the most common cancer in cattle, resulting in an economic loss due to condemnation at abattoir and a shortened productive life for that animal. SCC in cattle generally presents as abnormal tissue growth typically emerging from the third eyelid or conjunctival membranes of the lower eyelid. It is believed to be caused by multiple factors including age, lack of pigmentation around mucous membranes, exposure to UV radiation (sunlight), nutrition, heritability, and possible viral involvement. It is important to note that pigmentation will not prevent cows from acquiring a SCC on their conjunctiva or third eyelid as these are rarely pigmented areas. It is uncommon to see this disease in animals under 5yrs old. Lesions will normally start as a white smooth benign plaque that gradually progresses to a papilloma and then to a squamous cell carcinoma (SCC). Tumors may go directly to the malignant stage, and the rate at which this happens will differ from cow to cow. SCC may invade into the eye and orbit (boney eye socket), as well as the parotid and submandibular lymph nodes. Diagnosis is commonly made by a vet on physical exam, but can be further confirmed with sending a sample away for biopsy and histological exam. Clinical signs include initial closure of the eyelid and ocular discharge or tearing caused by the extra tissue rubbing against and irritating the eye. As the disease progresses, it will be common to see the tissue growth, and it may even give off an offensive smell and leak pus.

Early cases that only involve the third eyelid can be treated by surgically trimming under local anesthetic. Removal of larger growth can be attempted under local sedation, but there will be a chance the carcinoma has spread in an area that is not easily reached and may therefore grow back. Any regrowth will vary between individual cases. Removal of the eye and surrounding tissues may be required in advanced cases. After any treatment, all aniamls should be monitored for any signs of regrowth at the surgical site or new lesions at another site. Other therapies may be available to high value animals, but these are reported to have variable results. While difficult to control, culling bulls with ocular SCC is recommended due to the possible heritability of this disease. It may also be helpful to purchase cattle with pigmented skin, but again this is only one of the risk factors of this condition.



Squamous cell carcinoma in cattle https://www.msdvetmanual.com/eye-diseases-and-disorders/neoplasia-of-the-eye-and-associated-structures/ocular-neoplasia-in-cattle

A note on cattle enucleation...

An enucleation is the removal of an eye for the continued health and welfare of an animal. In severe cases of the diseases discussed above, enucleation may be the only treatment option available. The procedure itself is done standing, using plenty of local anesthetic, and a small amount of sedation if required. While removing an eye may seem like an extreme procedure, when done correctly and supported with an extended course of antibiotics and anti-inflammatories, cows tend to cope well. They quickly become accustomed to only having one eye as they are usually familiar with their surroundings and will use their herd mates as helpful guides. Choosing to perform an enucleation may help to extend that cow's productive life as, post-healing, the surgery has little impact on her ability to get back into calf. In cases of a purulent SCC, it is possible that a posthealing cow could be well enough to walk onto a trailer and be transported. Call your vets with any further questions about the enucleation procedure or aftercare.

References

Ocular Neoplasia in Cattle

ByRalph E. Hamor, DVM, MS, DACVO, University of Florida, College of Veterinary Medicine Reviewed/Revised Mar 2022 | Modified Sept 2024 https://www.msdvetmanual.com/eye-diseases-and-disorders/neoplasia-of-the-eyeand-associated-structures/ocular-neoplasia-in-cattle

Infectious Keratoconjunctivitis in Cattle and Small Ruminants (Pinkeye, Infectious Ophthalmia)

ByJohn A. Angelos, DVM, PhD, DACVIM-LAIM, Department of Medicine and Epidemiology, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis Reviewed/Revised Apr 2024

https://www.msdvetmanual.com/eye-diseases-and-disorders/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis/infectious-keratoconjunctivitis-in-cattle-and-small-ruminants

Eye Conditions in Cattle

Author: Phil Scott BVM&S DVM&S DIPECBHM CERTCHP DSHP FRCVS Reviewed: Emily Simcock BSc(hons) BVSc(hons) MRCVS PGcert (Ruminant Nutrition) 2019 Published: 2010 https://www.nadis.org.uk/disease-a-z/cattle/eye-conditions-in-cattle/

Mastering Meds Course

with Matilda Herridge-Nowell

> Tuesday 3rd June 2025 10am - 11:30am

> > At the Penbode Market Hut, Kivells Market, Holsworthy



One of the Red Tractor standards recommends that at least one member of staff has undertaken training on a veterinary-run course and holds a certificate of competence.

What will be covered:

- Appropriate use of medicines
- Correct administration of medicines
- Correct medicine storage and record keeping

Attendees will receive a Certificate of Competence

If you would like to attend, please contact your local branch to book your space or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk

Cost per person for this course is £30 (ex VAT)

Anyone residing in Devon can apply for funding from the DARTT Devon Agricultural & Rural Training Trust or contact Jay and she can help you apply.

THREE DAY DEFRA APPROVED DIY AI COURSE

30th Sept, 1st Oct & 3rd Oct 2025

The three day DEFRA accredited course is very 'hands on', with the first day of theory taking place at our kiosk at Holsworthy Market and then back to the Holsworthy branch and the remaining two practical days taking place on farm



We will be running an Artificial Insemination (AI) course, aimed at enabling you to perform 'DIY' AI for your own herd. The three day DEFRA accredited course is very 'hands on', with the first day of theory taking place at our kiosk at Holsworthy Market and then back to the Holsworthy branch and the remaining two practical days taking place on farm. Previous students have seen huge success in their DIY AI on farm.

You may be eligible for funding from the DARTT Devon Agricultural & Rural Training Trust please ask us for more details or visit their website.

To book you space please call your local branch or email jay.waylen@penbodevets.co.uk Must be over 18 years of age Cost is £495 +VAT



Penbode farm vets are very excited to launch the new Small Holder Scheme and create an engaged and supportive community.

When putting together this club we tried to decide what would be most helpful for our smallholder clients. A personalised health plan performed at your free annual prescription check should be the perfect opportunity to go through with your vet every aspect of animal care and management so that throughout the year you can refer back to it for guidance.

Our new Whatsapp group for members is a new quick and easy way to get in touch with the team but also an opportunity to connect with other like-minded people and our newsletter aims to be a varied mix of topics across all species with handy information.

So, who are we?

At the forefront of the Smallholders Club are our vets Matilda and Lewis.



Matilda

"Despite most of my work focussing on commercial cattle and sheep businesses, I have always had a keen interest in smallholdings and the variety of animals they can entail. Having owned chickens almost my entire life I have a strong interest in all things poultry. I also have an interest in pigs, goats and even pigeons with a background in commercial pig farming. I am also a member of the Goat Veterinary Society. Creating this scheme has been a pleasure for me and I hope to be able to support our smallholder clients in improving the care of their animals and achieving their goals. I am excited to work with you all".

Lewis

"While whole herd medicine is an essential and enjoyable part of my career as a farm vet; I particularly enjoy the aspect of individual animal treatment that comes with the time and care often seen amongst smallholders. I have a particular interest in the less common animals sometimes seen on farms and backyards like alpacas, goats, deer and even the truly exotic like meerkat and wallabies. One of the best parts of being a vet is interacting with and getting to know farmers and smallholders to achieve the best outcome for their animals; this is something I look forward to really pushing in the smallholders club with regular checks in, group chat contribution and frequent talks and meetings to provide the best possible care".



Our Smallholders Club is aimed at those who:

- Run a smallholding of sheep, cattle or other farm pets.
- Are new to keeping farm animals.
- Would benefit from our vaccine and wormer splitting service.
- Would like to learn more about medicine, preventative care and treatment.
- Own goats, alpacas, pigs, poultry and other non-conventional farm species.
- Want to join our community of other like minded smallholders.

If you are already a member of one of our other clubs, you may find you're even better suited to the Smallholder Club.

Only £15 per month by Direct Debit. To sign up or for more information please call your local branch or scan the QR Code below.



Penbode Champion Dairy Club

For just £66 Ex Vat p/m

Penbode Champion Dairy Club Free routine fertility call outs. For all pre-booked fertility work

Reduced Price Farm Medicines

Reduced hourly rate. up to 20% off normal Penbode rate

Digifarm Herd Health Analysis. Free access to our new and exclusive farm health monitoring service.

Herd Health Review. Your routine vet will conduct your annual health and performance review and make recommendations as to how this can be improved.

Antibiotic Reduction Report. We'll work with you to understand how we can refine and reduce your antibiotic usage on farm.

Johne's Control Plan. We will analyse your test results, carry out a Johne's risk assessment and complete your Johne's Plan and Action Johne's Declaration.

BVD Control Plan. We will analyse your test results and provide you with a BVD control plan for your farm.

Milksure Top Up.~ We will complete the MilkSure top up process with you and your farm staff.





FARMING EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY FUND

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ITEMS:

- Crushes
- Handling systems
- Hutches
- Ventilation systems
- Badger proof equipment
- Disinfection units

Many more items... APPLICATION WINDOW **29th May - 10th July**

A new round for the Farming Equipment & Technology Fund has just been announced and will be open for applications on the 29th May. Similar set up to the previous rounds:

- Grants range from £1,000 to £25,000 (% of cost varies by item)
- Three themes available: Productivity, Slurry Management and Animal Health and Welfare
- Applications will be scored and each theme has rules for scoring
- Application window 29th May 10th July

You can find out more information here:

https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2025/05/07/farming-equipmentand-technology-fund-2025-guidance-now-available/ "

