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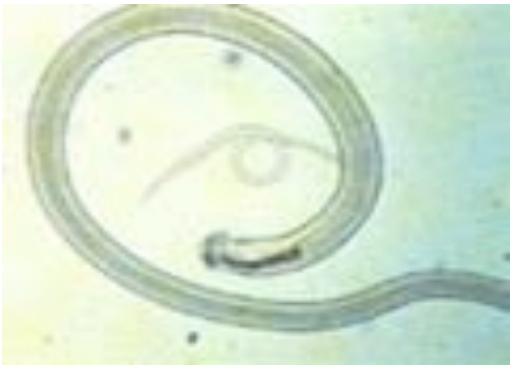
NEWS

THE GLENTHORNE VETERINARY GROUP
EXCELLENCE IN ANIMAL CARE

Do I really need to worm my dairy herd?

Cull studies have shown that nine out of ten adult dairy cows were infected with gut worms, mostly the worm Ostertagia ostertagi pictured below:



Whilst not producing obvious clinical signs of infection gut worms act to significantly reduce appetite and dry matter intake through damage to cells in the gut wall.

In trials worming dairy cows has been shown to improve fertility and increase milk yields by up to two litres per day.

There are variations in response to worming probably due to different levels of worm infection between herds.

There is now a new way of detecting worms and their approximate numbers in adult cows -the Milk Ostertagia ostertagi test or MOO test!

This is a free test on a bulk milk sample which will give a reliable measure of parasite infection in your dairy herd and whether worming will be cost effective.

Please ask one of the vets about this test or bring your bulk milk sample into the Farm office- there is a short questionnaire to fill in about worming history etc.

Which wormer and when?

If the MOO test shows that treatment is needed then there is only one wormer with zero milk withdrawal - Eprinex.

Eprinex is a weather proof pour on which works against all worms, mange and lice.
The timing of the worm treatment can be tailored to your individual herd circumstances.

For the all year round calving herd a good time to treat is just after calving when the cow's nutritional demands are at their highest.

For the spring calving herd treating just before turnout will maximise grazed intake and potentially improve conception rates within a tight serving period.

Worming the autumn calving herd at housing has the added benefit of providing lice and mange control.
Due to our membership of XLvets we can offer a very competitive price on the Eprinex range-please ring for a quote and help support our 365 day 24 hour pharmacy!

Liver fluke problems in cattle on the rise!

The MOO test sample can also be tested for exposure to Liver Fluke which is becoming an increasing problem nationally, with 40% of farms in England affected.

The increased prevalence of liver fluke problems is being blamed on greater movement of infected cattle around the country, which together with mild wet winters and warm damp summers favours the life cycle of the fluke.

Liver fluke in cattle tends to be a chronic disease with decreased appetite, loss of body condition and a drop in milk yield and fertility.

Unfortunately there is no fluke treatment with a zero milk withdrawal so cows have to be treated during the dry period.