

Vet Viewpoint

A regional round-up of key veterinary issues



Barry Cooper

Paragon Veterinary Group
Carlisle, Cumbria

* Working in a

predominantly dairy-based practice, we often see diseases arising during the transition period, with left displaced abomasums (LDAs) being one such example.

There are several corrective techniques described. However, as we attempt to minimise costs while maintaining the highest level of animal care, endoscopic correction has strong benefits and we are routinely conducting more of these.

A keyhole technique is used, performed through a 12mm hole in the cows flank while a camera visualises the target area through an 8mm hole. Advantages to this technique include:

* Minimally invasive

- * Good visualisation without the complications of open surgery
- * Minimal/Nil milk withdrawals
- * Increased milk yields compared with conventional surgery
- * No extra time or cost than standard surgery
- * Faster clinical recovery than right-sided omentopexy



Harriet Ellis

Ardene House Vet Practice,
Aberdeen, Scotland

* Docking and castrating are common practice, but may not be entirely necessary. If lambs are to be slaughtered before June then there is a low risk of fly strike, and pregnancy is not a concern at this young age, neither are essential.

Lambs experience pain from these procedures which may affect growth



WEST END/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

It may not be necessary to castrate or dock lambs slaughtered before June.

rate; avoiding these will therefore prevent any stunt in growth.



Mark Spilman

Bishopton Veterinary Group,
Ripon, Yorkshire

* We are already planning for the breeding season. This means making sure we have enough bull power and that bulls in the team are all capable of good results.

We use bull-side visual assessment of semen density and motility, but also transport a chilled sample back to the practice to run

through our lab to measure the fertility of the semen sample.

As AI becomes more commonplace, it remains necessary to know the fertility of the sire you are using for serving cows too. We therefore also test AI straws through the lab and carry out poor performance investigations in dairy and beef herds.

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A regional monthly round-up of key veterinary issues from members of the XL Vets group.
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