



NationWide Laboratories

Newsletter

June 2009

Is it Pancreatitis?



Is pancreatitis more common in dogs these days or are we just better at diagnosing it?

It is useful to remember that pancreatitis is often not present in isolation.

Newer tests for pancreatitis have given us greater confidence in its diagnosis but our colleagues in specialty practice are recognising that all too often the investigation of a suspect pancreatitis case has stopped with the finding of a positive test result.

Examples of missed diagnoses include GI foreign body and inflammatory enteropathies.

The next time you have a positive pancreatitis result, consider whether an idiopathic or dietary origin is an appropriate final diagnosis or whether further investigation is needed. We are reminded of this by a paper presented at ACVIM Montreal this month reporting a 78% diagnostic specificity for the best test in our diagnostic repertoire for acute pancreatitis in dogs, canine pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity (cPLI). We are sometimes asked whether a cPLI test will add diagnostic value when a regular total serum lipase result is already available. The answer is, "it depends on the total lipase

result you already have!" NWL Poulton has performed a retrospective study comparing lipase and cPLI results in the dog and found that less than 2% of canine samples with lipase results <500IU/L and 85% of samples with lipase results >1000 IU/L gave positive cPLI results. The percent positive increased to 100% for samples with lipase results >1500IU/L, so there is indeed value in cPLI assay where total lipase is mildly or moderately elevated.

Campylobacter fetus Infertility in Cattle



Campylobacter fetus remains an increasingly common and widespread infectious cause of infertility in cattle.

Genital campylobacteriosis causes a mucopurulent endometritis which is often not clinically obvious. The attendant early embryonic deaths and irregular oestrus cycles result in prolonged calving intervals for affected cows. Actual abortion is not commonly seen in affected herds.

Venereal transmission is the main way in which infection is spread, although contaminated bedding and instruments pose potential risks.

The classic way infection is introduced into a herd is via a hired, borrowed or shared bull.

It is amazing how many farms consider they run a "closed" herd, but introduce a bull, i.e. half the herd, without taking any biosecurity precautions at all!

Vaccination is an effective method of control, alongside using artificial insemination, and treating and vaccinating in-contact bulls.

The VLA and SAC are able to provide specialist sampling kits for cases of suspect genital campylobacteriosis and should be your first ports of call.

Next, call us! NWL Leeds is licensed by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to manufacturer Emergency Vaccines. Each vaccine is herd specific, made from organisms recovered from individuals within the herd, under a VMD licence.

It takes 6–8 weeks for NWL to manufacture a *C. fetus* vaccine. As the organism is difficult to isolate, it is advisable to ensure that any cultures recovered from a herd are suitably stored for inclusion in the vaccine.

The next NWL Clin Path CPD meeting is at 8.00 pm at the Holiday Inn Leeds Bradford, Tong, on Thursday 25 Jun 09. NWL Director of Pathology, Jane Miller, is talking the title

Cytology of skin and subcutaneous tissues.

For further details, please contact Kate Fazakerley at NWL Poulton, 01253 881035.