



Cysticercus ovis in sheep carcasses

This is a parasitic infestation that seems to be on the increase, which suggests that dog owners are not treating their animals against tapeworms. We have been hearing of an increase in the number of condemned carcasses in local abattoirs due to the parasite. The Meat Hygiene Service has recently reviewed its guidelines on inspection procedures as there have been some inconsistencies.

In the EU regulations there are no specific provisions for this parasite (unlike requirements for *Cysticercus bovis* which is zoonotic), even though there is a general requirement for meat which exhibits parasitic infestation to be declared unfit. Since *C. ovis* is not a zoonosis countries have adopted their own policies in dealing with this.

After seeking views from industry veterinary representatives on three possible inspection options, the FSA has decided to adopt an inspection procedure and decision process as follows.

Post-mortem inspection procedures

Where, on routine inspection, the presence of a *C ovis* cyst is discovered a detailed inspection of the carcass and head (where present) must be carried out.

Decision on fitness

Viscera with cysts (e.g. head, heart) need to be rejected. Other viscera (e.g. green offal, pluck) may either be rejected or retained until completion of post-mortem inspection; they can then either be passed if the carcass is deemed fit, or rejected if the carcass is deemed unfit for human consumption.

The carcass should be deemed unfit for human consumption and rejected where there are cysts of **C ovis in three or more different anatomical locations**, irrespective of the number of cysts in a single location (e.g. the carcass and unaffected offal may be passed as fit if cysts are only identified in the heart and in the oesophagus, even if there were many cysts there).

When cysts that do not warrant total rejection are identified in the carcass they should be trimmed with partial rejection of affected tissues only.

Lesson for Today



Sometimes we try too hard to get to the greener grass...

In the process, we end up in trouble.....

And when you find yourself in trouble and you're stuck in a situation that you can't get out of, there is one thing you should always remember.....

Not everyone who turns up.....



is there to help you....



TB Tests Another reminder that if your herd is on short interval tests or if you have an inconclusive reactor at a test, we are unable to print off the test sheets for you, even if you are able to sell stock. AHVLA have set up their computer system in this way, and you have to contact them to get a copy of the test.

Rumen Fluke We have come across this diagnosis on a few of our farms recently. These are small maggot like flukes about 1 cm long and red in colour. They occur worldwide and can live inside both cattle and sheep. Rumen fluke use the same intermediate snail host as liver fluke and therefore mixed infections of both rumen and liver fluke are common. They will be found in the same areas as liver fluke, i.e. the wet and marshy parts of the fields. In almost all cases where rumen fluke have been diagnosed they have not caused any effect on health or production. However a small number of severe cases have been reported in the UK and Ireland in both cattle and sheep, where the affected animals showed dullness, dehydration, weight loss, watery scour and bottle jaw (fluid swelling under the jaw). In cattle, disease is usually only seen in younger animals, less than 2 years old. On a very small number of farms in this practice we have suggested treatment as we suspected that they were contributing to loss of condition and ill thrift. The most commonly used liver fluke treatments will not kill rumen fluke, and we would always advise concentrating efforts much more on control of liver fluke as we all know the problems it can cause. The only proven treatment for rumen fluke is oxclozanide but our advice is not to treat unless signs of disease have been seen, and we have ruled out the more usual suspects: liver fluke, roundworms or mineral deficiency.

Car Sticker Competition The winner of last month's competition was Nicola Watkins, who won a box of Rehydion. The prize was kindly sponsored by CEVA Animal Health.

Christmas Opening Hours We will be open during our usual hours over the festive season, apart from closing at 1.30 pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and being closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. There will be a vet on call at all times to cover emergencies.

We would like to wish all our clients a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year from all the staff at Farm First Veterinary Services.