



**Coombefield Veterinary Hospital**  
**Farm Department**  
Christmas Newsletter 2015

*The Partners and Staff of Coombefield Veterinary Hospital  
would like to wish all our Clients a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*



***Practice TB Audit – we passed!!***

As you probably have realized from the letters you have received from APHA, TB testing is now organised through XL Farmcare on behalf of APHA. This means that we are now effectively a sub-contractor to XL Farmcare. Nothing much has changed from your point of view in how the testing is arranged and carried out. This month we had an audit by XL Farmcare to assess all our vets during a TB test and to check the mountain of paperwork that we now have to fill in to prove that what we are doing is according to the XL Farmcare guidelines.

We are very pleased to report that we have been allowed to carry on TB testing for our clients!

We would like to thank all the farmers who had to cope with us AND the auditor turning up for their TB test. Thank you for your patience and understanding. We also would like to remind you to allow as much time as possible for us to book your test before the testing window you are given runs out. The available testing slots get booked up quite quickly, so you stand more of a chance to get the date and time you would like by phoning us early.

**OUR OFFICE CHRISTMAS HOURS**

<b>Christmas Eve</b>	<b>8.00 am – 4.00 pm</b>	<b>Tuesday 29th</b>	<b>8.00 am – 5.00 pm</b>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES ONLY</b>	<b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>8.00am - 5.00pm</b>
<b>Boxing Day</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES ONLY</b>	<b>New Year's Eve</b>	<b>8.00 am – 4.00 pm</b>
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES ONLY</b>	<b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES ONLY</b>
<b>Monday 28th</b>	<b>EMERGENCIES ONLY</b>	<b>Saturday 2nd</b>	<b>10.00 am – 1.00 pm</b>

**IN CASE OF ANY OUT OF HOURS EMERGENCIES  
PLEASE CALL 01297 630500**

## **Selective Dry Cow Therapy**

Selective Dry Cow Therapy is where individual cows are selected at the time of drying off to receive either an antibiotic dry cow treatment or a non-antibiotic internal teat-sealant. Most of farms use both products in their cows to both treat and prevent mastitis and high cell counts.

Selective Dry Cow Therapy is now being promoted and incorporated into the guidelines of many UK milk buyers (Arla being the latest one with ArlaGården). It is likely all dairy companies will follow these guidelines and make Selective Dry Cow Therapy part of their requirements in the near future. This approach is to reduce antibiotic usage and prevent of antibiotic resistance.

Antibiotics were introduced to treat existing infections and to try and help prevent new infections during the dry period. However, there is no real justification to treat a dry cow with antibiotics if she is free from infection or did not have any cases of mastitis in her lactation. These cows need to be protected from new infections during the dry period with the use of an internal teat-sealant (like Orbeseal). This has a proven benefit on cell count and mastitis rates in dairy herds across the world.

The criteria for when a teat sealant is used on its own without antibiotics depends on the individual farm and cow. It is possible to set up protocols that make selecting the correct therapy for each cow quite easy. Many of our dairy farms are already using some form of Selective Dry Cow Therapy with great success. All farms will have to have a plan in place in the near future to conform to the current or upcoming guidelines of the dairy companies.

Now is the time to take a look at the dry cow therapy on your farm, and assess what can or needs to be altered to improve the effectiveness (less mastitis, lower cell counts), and costs (lower tube usage, fewer mastitis tubes, less lost milk) of your dry cow therapy approach. Speak to your routine vet or contact the practice to talk about the various options. Selective Dry Cow Therapy makes sense and is vital for the future of dairy farming.



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### **FARM DEPARTMENT INFORMATION**

If you would like to speak to a Farm vet or arrange a visit, please call 01297 630515

Medicines can be requested via email or by telephone

Email: [farm@axvets.co.uk](mailto:farm@axvets.co.uk)