

COOMBEFIELD VETERINARY HOSPITAL NEWSLETTER FEBUARY 2015

Management of Down Cows

This time of year, with slippery yards and cows housed for the winter, there are higher numbers of cows falling down. If a cow has fallen down in a concrete yard and will not immediately get up then the first thing to do is to move them with a bucket onto a deep bed of straw. Cows left on concrete will drop their temperature quickly and get numb limbs within 30 minutes of being down.

Once on soft bedding give the cow a couple of hours to recover from shock and if she is not up within this time then call a vet for advice.

If the cow is unlikely to get up within 24 hours then an Emergency Slaughter Certificate might be the best option. This will depend on a couple of things

1. The injury is an accident that has happened within 24 hours
2. The animal is free from any drug residues
3. The animal has a normal temperature and is deemed fit for human consumption
4. There is an abattoir that will accept the cow within two hours from its slaughter on farm.

If the cow is likely to get up after some recovery time then it is really important that this animal is nursed well. It is all too easy to put the cow in a pen and give it food and water and then leave it. With **excellent nursing** the cow needs to be rolled from side to side every 4 hours. They need to be kept in a small sheltered area with soft clean bedding. Their area needs to be small to control their movement so they do not crawl



Farm Department

and

Equine Clinic

Please call 01297 630515

Email farm@axvets.co.uk

This number is also available from 8.00am to 5pm for booking visits, ordering drugs, etc.

For out of hours (5pm to 8.00am) please call 01297 630500.

FARM INFO

FARM LINE 01297 630515

Medicines can be ordered via email

Email: farm@axvets.co.uk

Normal Office Hours

Monday to Friday	8.00 am – 5.00 pm
Saturday	10.00 am – 1.00 pm
Sunday	Emergencies Only

**IN AN EMERGENCY RING
01297 630500**

around unaided. They should be lifted daily using a chest strap and hip hoist (so long as the hips are not damaged) and watched whilst being held up. They like a solid base under their hind limbs before they use their front legs. **Poor nursing** is when a cow is kept in a wet cold environment on a hard surface and is allowed to crawl around unrestricted. Nursing needs to be done properly or not at all. By day 7 survival rates for down cows are 32% when given good nursing and 6 % with poor nursing.

The use of a floatation tank allows the cow to be completely submerged in warm water, supporting the whole animal whilst allowing the damaged limb to move around— 70% survival rates have been recorded when these are used.

When an animal is walking but is lame it can be transported direct to the abattoir if it is weight bearing on all four limbs and is separated from the other cows in the trailer. It is important to inform the abattoir before arriving with the animal. Any chronically lame cows that have trouble walking will not be welcomed at the abattoir and may result in a law suit on welfare grounds. This is a tricky area because the cow may have walked off the farm well but damaged its self during transport. To ensure some protection against this we advise filming cattle walking into the trailer before you set off as this will provide valuable evidence if ever there was a dispute. If you have an animal that you are unsure of as to whether it can be transported to an abattoir, we are always happy to examine the animal and give advice on the best course of treatment or departure from the farm.

*Congratulations to Honiton Young Farmers for winning
the County Final Pantomime round held at the Exmouth Pavilions*

*Axminster Young Farmers are doing a re-run of their Pantomime
'Shrek Finds His Beauty'
on Sunday 22nd Feb in Axminster Guildhall from 7.30pm*

*Worth £3 to see Mark dressed as Shrek!
and Jack and Laurence dressed as Dames!*



IS YOUR HORSE COOMBEFIELD'S NEXT TOP MODEL?

We decided that in 2016 we would launch our own calendar, full of beautiful pictures.

So every month we will be asking for you to submit your own pictures onto the equine department Facebook page. These could be individual photos, groups of horses, ridden or at rest, seasonal or just beautiful. If you don't know how to do this please send the photo to farm@axvets.co.uk and we can do it for you.

We won't be deciding which to use. The winner each month will be the one with the most likes and shares by the end of the month. Please note only likes on the Coombefield equine page will count.

Only one photograph can be entered per person each month but feel free to enter for all 12 months if you would like to.

The photos must be of good quality (we will ask the winner to e mail or send us the picture as taking it from the Facebook page does not preserve the quality). We do reserve the right to change pictures if the quality is too poor for printing purposes and to remove photos in the unlikely event that they are thought to be offensive.

So get entering and voting.

Good luck!"

