

Sandhill Veterinary Services

Veterinary Care for Game Birds, Poultry and Pigeons



NEWSLETTER – GAME BIRD CLIENTS

SPRING 2015

PROPOSED EU MEDICATION LEGISLATION

In September 2014 draft European legislation was put forward as part of a review of the regulation of veterinary medicines and medicated feeds throughout the EU. As UK controls on veterinary medicines and medicated feeds stem from European legislation, a change in Europe will also affect us.

The key proposals in the legislation include:

Restrictions on the use of certain antimicrobials in the veterinary sector (those that are new or critically important for humans)

Prescriptions for medicated feeds should only be issued AFTER the examination of the animals to be treated.

The preventive use of antimicrobials should not be allowed

The draft legislation as proposed will now go through the European legislative process which may take some time and it may of course be amended in that process.

Not all antibiotics have the same value in treating humans and it is likely that different rules will apply to different classes of drugs.

This subject will be considered in more detail and the implications for the game bird industry discussed at the practice meeting on 14th April.

ADDITIONAL PERMANENT STAFF

Janet Bullock who has worked for the last two years over the summer months, joined us on a permanent basis last October. Like Sandie and Fran, Janet is working part time over the winter months and will work full time during the busy summer game bird season.

PRACTICE MEETING 2015

The practice meeting for our game bird clients is planned for Tuesday 14th April at Topcliffe Village Hall. This will be a joint meeting with Bishopton Veterinary Group clients. Clients of the Minster Veterinary Practice will also be invited to attend.

The first half of the meeting will discuss proposed EU regulations on the restriction of use of antibiotics in game birds and then the meeting will consider some new and unusual diseases seen during the summer of 2014 and will review some of the newer medications available for the coming season.

SANDHILL VETERINARY SERVICES / BISHOPTON VETERINARY GROUP CO-OPERATION

Sandhill Veterinary Services (SVS) and Bishopton Veterinary Group (BVG) have agreed a programme of co-operation and mutual support relating to game bird, fancy pigeon and commercial poultry work.

This co-operation will see Dan King, a veterinary surgeon at BVG, spending time particularly during the summer months, working at Sandhill Vets. Dan's interest is primarily with game birds but he will also be available to help with pigeon and commercial poultry clients as required.

This programme of co-operation and mutual support is intended to give a greater depth of cover to the clients of each practice, and allow each practice to service extra clients in a sustainable way as demand has increased. It is not in any way a preparation for Richard Byas to retire in the next few years, neither is it a takeover of BVG bird clients by SVS. It has been agreed between both practices that pre-existing clients of both SVS and BVG will continue to use the services of their respective practices but allow them to gain from the greater expertise and efficiencies that will ensue.

SANDHILL VETERINARY SERVICES

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At other times by appointment



SOLULYTE

Vetrelite has been a staple over many years to re-hydrate scouring chicks and poults. It is highly effective and is we believe still the best product available. It does however need to be completely

dissolved before going down water lines otherwise the lines are liable to block.

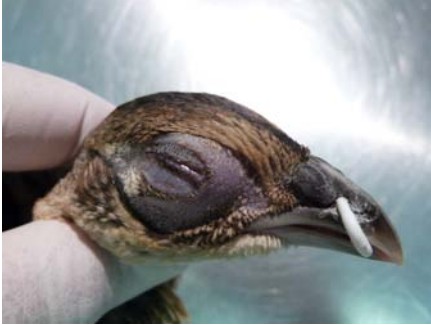
Where clients have problems in using Vetrelite we now have Solulyte available. This is a liquid product that is easier to use, particularly if there is no warm water available to help dissolve the Vetrelite.

Solulyte is available in 5 litre containers from the practice.

'COMPLICATED' MYCOPLASMA INFECTIONS 2014

During 2014 Eco Animal Health sponsored the testing of swabs from pheasants for the presence of Mycoplasma and other organisms and at the practice we did corresponding cultures to identify any bacteria that may be present and contributing to respiratory disease in the pheasant population.

In addition to Mycoplasma, the swabs tested by Eco Animal Health showed that *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* (ORT) was often associated with Mycoplasma infection in pheasants. ORT has been reported as being associated with respiratory disease in reared pheasants with facial swelling – similar to that seen in Mycoplasmosis. It is likely that infection with both Mycoplasmosis and ORT will increase the severity of the clinical signs and will result in birds not responding fully to a single antibiotic treatment.



In addition we isolated both *Mannheimia haemolytica* (previously classified as *Pasteurella haemolytica*) and *Avibacterium gallinarum* (previously classified as *Pasteurella gallinarum*) in our laboratory from different pheasants with signs of 'Mycoplasmosis'. Both these bacteria are associated with respiratory disease in poultry.

These results suggest that we are beginning to see cases resembling Mycoplasmosis that may be multi-factorial and which will need different treatment regimes if they are to be controlled.

This subject will be considered in more detail and the implications for the game bird industry discussed at the practice meeting on 14th April.

GAME BIRD WELFARE TALK

Richard Byas was invited to give a presentation at the British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA) autumn meeting 2014 in Edinburgh on the subject of Game Bird Welfare. The talk gave the vets present an overview of the game bird industry and described the management of the breeding stock, the birds in rear and their entry to the release pens.

Feedback from those present showed that many poultry vets have little idea of how the game bird industry is organised. Whilst many of the diseases of game birds and poultry may be similar the management of disease control in game birds can be quite different to poultry and does require the vet to have a good knowledge of game bird management if appropriate advice is to be given.

ELANCO (JANSSEN) GAME BIRD TONIC / VETSOTONIC

Elanco has stopped production of their Game Bird Tonic – a product they acquired when they took over Janssen Animal Health.

For the coming season we are stocking Vetsotonic as an alternative.



Vetsotonic is available in 1litre containers

Dose: 1ml per litre of drinking water

Cost: £23.00 per litre