

WOOD VETERINARY GROUP



GAMEBIRD NEWSLETTER 2011

As one season draws to a close, we need to start planning for the coming breeding and rearing periods, of the new season. There are some new products available, some shifting in disease patterns and the old “core” diseases which still challenge so much of this industry.

Code of Practice for the Welfare of Game birds Reared for Sporting Purposes

As you are all hopefully aware this code of practice became law in the January 2011 in England, with the Welsh government also having just recently published their version of the code. From this January anybody not following the code will be at risk of prosecution etc. The code can be downloaded from the DEFRA website at www.defra.gov.uk/news/2010/07/22cop-gamebird

Sinusitis

Often one of the first problems of the year, seen at catching up, handling, fitting of spectacles, and brails can act as a route of cross infection so hand hygiene is essential, and any affected bird should be culled to try and reduce disease transmission on confinement. Water hygiene is paramount in reducing spread of this condition and as such nipple drinkers are preferable. A new game bird licensed antibiotic for the treatment of sinusitis has recently been launched, called Aivlosin, this antibiotic has good activity against Mycoplasma, often the primary cause of sinusitis.

Coronavirus Nephrosis

Every year this condition causes problems in laying birds on a number of units. It usually produces a sporadic low level mortality in good condition birds especially towards the middle/end of the laying period. It is usually precipitated by stress, and if cock birds are affected can have significant impact on hatchability.

Poultry infectious bronchitis vaccines do provide a degree of protection; two doses of vaccine are administered three weeks apart with the second dose 10 days before the onset of lay. The first vaccine MA5 is given by eye drop/water with the IB4/91 strain also administered in a similar way 3 weeks later. If drinking water is used skimmed milk must be used as a buffer.

Hexamita

Denegard has become established as the treatment of choice for this condition, but as with all medication a prompt diagnosis and treatment will improve the chance of success and hopefully avoid the all too regular occurrence of poor condition birds with good skeletal growth and feather but little flesh, that we see every September.

Salmonella

A familiar disease which appears to be having a resurgence over the last couple of years. There are various “strains” of Salmonella usually causing significant mortality in young chicks. Besides the obvious public health issues, good personal hygiene and disinfection is essential to help reduce spread on a unit. Thorough cleansing and disinfection at the end of rear will reduce risk of carry-over from season to season. We have also identified *Salmonella pullorum*, a particularly significant species as it is transferred from hen to chick via the egg, and with carrier hens it becomes very difficult to control on a unit.

Amprolium

If you intend to use amprolium for coccidiosis control this year please place any orders early as special import licences are still required.

Post-Mortem Submissions

- Please phone in advance to enable better co-ordination of your requirements, laboratory and vet time.
- Please do not take any post-mortem material into the main reception area, but leave it in your vehicle.
- Report to Reception first and a member of the laboratory staff will meet you outside the post-mortem room to take your submissions and a detailed history.

GAMEBIRD MEETING – EARLY NOTIFICATION

We will be having an evening meeting in early March at the Animal Hospital, Quedgeley, Gloucester further details and invitations to follow.

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