



GAMEBIRD NEWSLETTER 2012

A happy and hopefully prosperous New Year to you all.

Hopefully this newsletter will provide new information and refresh ideas on familiar conditions and diseases of our game birds. Firstly I would like to draw your attention to a day meeting which I am sure will be both informative and interesting to all. Further details will follow shortly but make a note of the date and book your place.

An Introduction to Game Bird Health and Welfare

14th March 2012 10am to 4pm

At Wood Vet Group

A full day course to include

- Anatomy and physiology – inc post mortem demonstrations
- Common diseases and their relevance to management and biosecurity
- Health and welfare legislation

Refreshments will be provided

Please phone Wendy Watts or Sue Welsby on 01452 543999 to book a place or e-mail largeanimal@woodvet.plus.com

Water fowl and lead shot

An incident arose in late summer last year of lead poisoning in ducks being reared on a lake in close proximity to a clay pigeon shoot, highlighting the importance of and real possibility of lead poisoning in water fowl.

Mycoplasma infections

Mycoplasma gallisepticum (Mg) as we are aware can affect many body systems in the bird and is capable of causing respiratory disease in its own right and coupled with other Mycoplasma, and other bacterial and viral species produces that most frustrating of conditions infectious sinusitis. As with most diseases prompt recognition and action are key to control. Water hygiene plays a vital part and we have also had good response to medication with Aivlosin. Please give the surgery a ring at the first sign of trouble.

Mg also has a major role in the kidney condition (coronavirus nephrosis) with severe disease only being a factor when we have a combination of the coronavirus and Mg. A condition which can produce frustrating and niggling losses during the stressful laying period

Hexamita (Spiroucleus)

The most significant disease affecting game birds with the potential to produce very high losses and debilitate birds so severely that they can hardly fly. The range of effective treatments has increased however biosecurity and minimising faecal contamination, the principle route of transmission is key. Again prompt diagnosis and treatment is key as once significant muscle depletion from the keel bone has occurred recovery is very difficult and protracted. These extreme birds are effectively starving to death and additional glucose supplementation over and above 'normal' game bird tonics/fluids has been shown to significantly increase survival.

Coccidiosis

Baycox or amprolium – those of you wishing to use amprolium this year, whilst it is easier to source, we would appreciate an idea of requirement early in the season.

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.
- We hope to send many reports by e-mail this year, so current addresses will be important.

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