



**LINWOOD**  
VETERINARY SERVICES

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## **OCTOBER 2009 NEWSLETTER**

### **Clinic News**

Dr. Christina Mohos is up and running in her new practice (Wellington Equine Services). She will not be providing services north of Highway 89. We wish her the best of success and will refer any Equine calls within her practice area to her. Her contact number is 519-846-1800, and e-mail address is [info@wellingtonequine.ca](mailto:info@wellingtonequine.ca)

We have decided to not provide Equine services from Linwood Veterinary Services. This decision was very difficult but we feel our expertise is in Bovine and Swine. With the pressures that the Ontario red meat industries are under we feel that our full focus in those industries is required more than ever.

### **Swine**

The federal announcements regarding government guaranteed loans occurred October 2, 2009; access to these loans are through various lending institutions. To receive the loans a farm must show a viable business plan. Swine herd health is an integral part of your long term viability. If you need any assistance in formulating a plan or a written assessment of current herd health we will do everything we can to help.

As a cost cutting measure swine herds have stopped using Lepto, Parvo, Erysip vaccine in multiparity sows. We have some recent information on Parvo titers in some herds showing that Parvo virus is not circulating and sows are showing no antibody titers. This is a somewhat surprising situation and does put these herds at risk of a Parvo outbreak. It would be a very good time to reinstate Lepto, Parvo and Erysip vaccinations. Call the clinic for product choices and price differences.

## **Bovine**

### **Pneumonia Treatment – An Update**

In this time of changing weather, we are bound to see an increase in pneumonia cases. In order to understand how to successfully treat pneumonia, one must first remember that treatment is not directed at killing one bacterial agent but rather at managing a disease complex that involves the interaction of bacteria, viruses, and the immune system's response to these infectious agents. The purpose of antibiotics is to kill or inhibit the growth of bacteria and therefore, these are an integral part of managing BRD (Bovine Respiratory Disease). However, much of the irreparable damage to the lung is caused from the immune system's response to the infection.

In the process of the immune system responding to infection, a series of mediators are released that ramp up the body's response causing the cardinal signs of inflammation: redness, swelling, pain, and heat. Anti-inflammatories are used to block these mediators in order to prevent long term damage. Classes of anti-inflammatories include corticosteroids (ex. Dexamethasone or Predef 2x) and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories or NSAIDS (ex. Banamine or Anafen). There are two phases in the inflammatory process – the destructive phase where most of the immediate damage is caused and the repair phase in which the healing occurs. NSAIDs block mediators in the destructive phase of the inflammatory cascade whereas corticosteroids block mediators from both the destructive and repair phases of inflammation.

Clinically, this means that the response to treatment will be different between corticosteroids and NSAIDs. The ability to reduce fever is equal among both. However, a comparison of using antibiotics alone to using antibiotics plus dexamethasone in the treatment of BRD revealed a higher relapse rate when using antibiotics plus dex. Conversely, a study comparing the use of antibiotics alone to antibiotics plus flunixin (ex. Banamine) showed that the addition of an NSAID reduced the relapse rate.

The benefits of using an NSAID in treating BRD include reduced pulmonary congestion, reduced fever, reduced coughing, reduced relapse rate, and reduced residual lung damage. Intervet has recently released a product called Resflor that combines Nuflor and Banamine conveniently in one bottle. Please contact the clinic for details or to place an order.