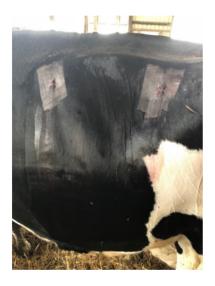


# January 2019 NEWSLETTER

## Laparoscopic DA Surgery

We are pleased to announce that we are now offering the latest type of DA surgery available - laparoscopic surgery in a standing cow. Instead of making a large incision to accommodate the veterinarian's arm, this new procedure requires only two small incisions, about an inch apiece, on the left side of the cow. The surgeon uses an eyepiece to look inside the abdomen and place a toggle into the abomasum, and a long needle to tack it on the right side of the cow. There is less incisional pain, less disruption of the abdomen, and less gas introduced inside the cow, which means recovery is much faster. Veterinarians in Germany have been performing DA surgeries like this for 10 years.





#### Drug Storage notes:

Texas A&M University recently did a study to evaluate excessive temperatures reached in veterinary trucks and the impact on drugs stored in hot veterinary trucks. It was a good idea, because veterinary units get hot in the summer. They checked five common products including a GnRH product, a prostaglandin product, Flunixin, Xylazine, and an antibiotic at temperatures up to 100 degrees for up to 120 days. The products all maintained their efficacy throughout the experiment. I don't think this was meant to encourage poor drug handling, or to say it's OK to keep drugs on the truck dash (temps of 140 degrees probably reached), but it does indicate these molecules are pretty stable, and the temperatures on the label are suggested by manufacturers with no actual research, just meant to cover your back side. The take home is use a little common sense with short term errors.

#### **Sharps Containers:**

This is written for both clients and Waupun Vet employees and partners. Sharps containers are reasonable expensive. They are expensive to purchase, and they are expensive to get rid of because the industry assumes that every needle in every red box is contaminated with AIDS virus. Needles, scalpel blades, and suture needles are common items to place in the boxes and this makes sense. But we find syringes, syringe cases, broken drug bottles, and recently a partially eaten sandwich in them. Syringes without the needles can be discarded by farmers in their regular garbage. The same is true for broken glass bottles, even on farm broken blood tubes that contain bovine blood can go in the garbage. Remember it is garbage. A bloody steak is not an AIDS risk.

I personally always removed the covered needle from the syringe, then pulled the needle from the cover and just placed the needle into the sharps container. With just needles and scalpel blades it takes forever to fill a sharps container. Employees should be instructed to never open a sharps container to sort for anything, including syringes to condense the box. Also, if you don't like your wife's sandwich, don't discard it in the sharps container. Smile 😔 When farms were small the stall barn gutter tended to be the catch-all for garbage. Sometimes it was paper towels but on some farms milking liners and plastic gloves ended up in the gutter. And on quite a few farms, leftovers from the kitchen table ended up in the gutter, right next to the steel plate when you first entered the barn. So as a vet, you were always viewing yesterday's meals as on first arrival. If you were a farm dog, this was a really good deal and contributed greatly to canine obesity. But on one farm in particular that had a really nice border collie, both my partners and I noticed that the dog never ate the leftover food. This became a side topic of jokes about the wife's cooking. So we offered the dog treats and she readily ate them. The big joke was if the dog wouldn't eat the cooking from the house, whether any of us would be willing to eat a meal if offered or would we be too busy. Fortunately, I never had to make the decision.

Waupun Veterinary Services has had to become much more aggressive on its credit policy. Overdue accounts will immediately be placed on cash only with a payment plan required and discounts applied to the outstanding bill. Failure to establish a payment plan will require full payment of the outstanding bill before any service is provided. This will require a trip to the Veterinary office during business hours before

A Reminder, Using Cattle Prod: In 1978 my first cattle prod looked almost the same as today's hand held prods, except it was in an all metal case, and there was side trigger. When you squeezed the prod a small fly wheel inside the case spun and created the voltage for the shock. If the shocker got wet at all, the shock went through your hands instead of the two prod electrodes, so the first time you squeezed it you did it gently to create a low voltage just in case the inside of the prod was wet. Fast forward to today and we all have to realize that using electric prods is considered cruelty. The F.A.R.M. program recommends only using electric prods to get animals to attempt to stand. Electric prods are not to be used to move animals. Too often prods are used because cows want to move at half the speed of humans and humans want cows to move faster. This is no longer acceptable. Remember that there is probably someone videotaping everything you do.

\*\*Zoetis has sold an acid product called Hoof-Tec for several years to enhance foot bath effectiveness. It is being removed from the market. If you use Hoof-Tec we may be able to drop ship the product, if still available, at a significant discount. \*\*

### IBR or Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis: The disease

is named for the severe pneumonia this virus causes, but just as important, the virus causes abortion in unvaccinated animals. All the modified live combined 8way or 9way viral vaccines used today contain great protection from this disease. In fact, the protection is so good that the virus and the disease have not been found in Wisconsin in over 10 years. However, what has been happening is that the vaccine is causing abortion in unprotected animals. The vaccine is so effective at causing abortion that I used to use it when producers had a jumper bull get in with their young heifers. Lutalyse was available, but cost \$30.00 a head so when a jumper bull got in with the heifers I would just vaccinate the heifers and recheck them a month later to see if any were still pregnant and then use Lutalyse, but I almost never needed it. This only worked if the heifers hadn't been vaccinated prior. Fast forward to now and if a heifer doesn't get vaccinated correctly, (either because the vaccine doesn't get into the heifer, or the vaccine is mishandled, or the heifer is too young), and then the producer gives a modified live booster to the unprotected pregnant heifer two weeks later she is an open heifer. The simplest and safest strategy is never to give modified live vaccines to pregnant animals. Use your vet to set up a program that is simple for you to implement but doesn't put animals at risk of aborting from a modified live vaccine.