



# Word From The Herd

## Louisa Veterinary Service

Fall Newsletter 2017 - Our 1<sup>st</sup> Digital Edition!

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[www.LouisaVetService.com](http://www.LouisaVetService.com)

### Introducing New Members of the Herd...

#### Jess White

Jess just recently joined our office team. She has worked in the veterinary field for the past 8 years and is excited to stay in the field through large animal now. She lives in Fluvanna county with her husband and her wonderful daughter, 2 awesome dogs, chickens, goats, cattle and a sheep. When she is not here she enjoys spending time with her family, doing whatever her daughter decides is fun for the day, running her dogs, being outside and helping on the farm. Jess has a love for agriculture and is always eager to learn more! She looks forward to meeting you if she hasn't already.



#### Lucy Lamb

Baby Lucy just turned 1 year old on August 5<sup>th</sup>. She is growing and changing every day now! I really appreciate all your thoughts and prayers after her early entry into the world. Thank you all for your patience over the past year. Also, thank each and every one of you who brought by diapers, baby supplies, and clothes, I assure you they have all been put to use. Lucy always wants to be outside and loves animals, so I'm sure you all will be seeing her out and about more often.

### Pinkeye Vaccine Update

The regional pinkeye vaccine has a new addition. In June we were able to acquire a strain of *Mycoplasma bovoculi* to add to our original *Moraxella bovis* and *Moraxella bovoculi* strains. This addition is very exciting because we have identified that many cattle in our region have *Mycoplasma* in their affected eyes, however, it's extremely difficult to grow.

How do you know if you have *Mycoplasma* pinkeye in your herd?

- ✓ You see pinkeye cases in the seasons with no flies, even in the winter
- ✓ You have newborn/young calves with pinkeye
- ✓ You bring in cattle from multiple sources
- ✓ Your pinkeye cattle seem to be unresponsive to antibiotics

If you want to confirm a case of *Mycoplasma* we can culture the eye. If you feel you have *Mycoplasma* in your herd we recommended vaccinating with the regional pinkeye vaccine in the Spring and the Fall.



### New Diagnostics at LVS...



We are proud to offer Point of Care Diagnostics with the Abaxis VetScan HM5 and VetScan VS2. The HM5 is a fully automated, five-part differential hematology analyzer which gives us a Complete Blood Count (CBC) for multiple species. The CBC gives information regarding presence of infection, possibly the type of infection, and presence of anemia. The VS2 is a state-of-the-art chemistry analyzer. We run the Large Animal Profile which is ideal for herd health assessment and monitoring. It's used as a prognostic indicator and diagnostic tool. It gives information regarding liver and kidney function as well as Calcium, Magnesium, and Phosphorus levels. By offering Point of Care Diagnostics we are able to have the results in-hand same day.

## New Case of the Day...

Dr. Davis was presented with a 7 year old Nubian Buck. Over the past 3 months, the buck in question has developed a large mass on the outer aspect of the right ear. Although this mass appears to be non-painful, it is causing the buck to head tilt to the right; the head tilt, plus the ever-growing size and mysterious origin warranted the removal of the mass.

### WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT GOATS AND EAR BUMPS?

At first glance when pairing a goat ear and a lump, the first differential would be an aural hematoma. Goats commonly acquire hematomas on ears due to head shaking or trauma from fighting. However, the mass in this case differs because it is not soft, but hard and has a history of a progressive increase in size.

The next differential would be a parasitic abscess. A bite from a tick, fly, mite, warble, ked, louse, etc. has the potential to produce an extreme reaction in any mammal. This extreme reaction or allergy is just an exaggerated immune response produced by the body and can be caused by many sources. If an abscess were present you would expect to see drainage from the abscess site. However, the mass in the case of the Nubian buck does not present with drainage.

Finally, this leaves the most likely cause, a neoplasm aka tumor. Tumors are just an abnormal growth of tissue, and this abnormal growth can be 'good' or 'bad'. Listed are the three most likely causes of the tumor in this case:

**MELANOMA** is a form of cancer that is made up of the cells that produce pigment in skin. Common places for these tumors to arise include: anus, vulva, eyes, ears, and rarely internal organs.

**SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA** of the skin is a form of cancer that is made up of the outer muzzle, horn stumps, and ear.

**HEMANGIOMA** is a form of cancer that is made up of blood vessels. These tumors can arise anywhere on the body.

### TREATMENT AND OUTCOME?

The mass was surgically excised using sterile technique, and sutures were placed at the site of removal. Two weeks later, the sutures were removed and the site was healed with no evidence of reoccurrence.

A special shout out to Specialist Mike Piercy deployed in Afghanistan.

Mike completed training at Fort Sam Houston in Texas as a Combat Medic. He is also enrolled at The Ohio State University completing a degree in Health Sciences to further his education toward a Physician Assistant. He is the youngest son of Mike and (our very own LVT) Karen Piercy.

We send him our thoughts and prayers for his bravery in service to our country!



## Upcoming Event



Fluvanna Cattlemen' Group Meeting - "*Setting Farm Goals for 2018*"

A questionnaire will be filled out and discussion to follow with Dr. Melinda McCall and Dr. Lesley Davis, Louisa Veterinary Service

Wednesday, November 1st - Dinner at 6:30 pm Provided by BI/Merial  
Meeting at 7:00 pm

Extension Office Building  
Fluvanna Community Center  
5725 James Madison Highway  
Fork Union, VA 23055