The *Irish Veterinary Journal*’s Journey to Open Access

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The Editor
History
Irish Veterinary Journal 2009
Severe foot lameness in cattle associated with invasive spirochaetes

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Key Words: Cattle, Lameness, Spirochaetes

One hundred (25%) of 400 cattle on a farm in rural Ireland were affected with a sudden-onset lameness over a period of six weeks. The condition was seen in bulls, heifers and bullocks. Typically, one or two cattle in a pen of 20 presented with severe lameness within 72 hours up to half of the cattle in the pen were similarly affected. The first cases to occur were treated with tepid and warm water sprays, poleys and penicillin and streptomycin. However, the response to treatment was poor and, because of rapid weight loss, a decision was made to cull all affected cattle as they presented.

The condition in any particular animal usually involved a single limb, either fore or hind, and affected animals exhibited a marked reluctance to bear weight on the limb involved. There was swelling of the coronary band, swelling of the digits and development of granulation tissue within the flexures. Spirochaetes were demonstrated on examination of direct smears made from the lesions and Bacteroides melanokogenicus (prev. B. melanocongenus) was isolated on cultural examination. The bacteriological characteristics associated with the condition included a widespread keratinocyte degeneration within which were present numerous brightly eosinophilic intracytoplasmic inclusion bodies. Ultramicroscopical examination of these inclusions suggested that they consisted of amorphous intracytoplasmic debris; viral particles could not be identified. Attempts to demonstrate virus on electron microscope examination of negatively-stained preparations made from lesions and culture virus from all latter were unsuccessful. However, numerous spirochaetes were present within the exudate of affected keratinocytes; a role for these organisms in the aetiology of this condition seems likely.

The Veterinary Record; August 19 1983

Short Communications

Outbreak of acute coenurosis in adult sheep in Ireland

M. L. Doherty, H. F. Bassett, R. Breathnach, M. L. Monaghan, B. A. McElreeen

Veterinary Record (1989) 125, 185

CHRONIC coenurosis is one of the commonest nervous diseases of sheep in Ireland. It is associated with the presence of a mixture of Coenurus cerebralis in the central nervous system. Acute coenurosis which is associated with migration of the larva of this parasite at an earlier stage of its development, is much less commonly diagnosed. Although both experimentally-induced, and naturally-occurring acute coenurosis have been reported in lambs (Frick and others 1965, Druce and Lindsey 1979, Edmonds and Hertlein 1982), the present authors have been unable to find any detailed accounts of the acute disease in adult sheep. An outbreak of acute coenurosis in a flock of adult ewes is recorded here.

The disease was seen in a flock of 150 Wiltshire Cheviot ewes aged between two and four years in which there was no previous history of coenurosis. At the beginning of January 1989, about six weeks before the ewes were due to lamb, there was a heavy fall of snow. The ewes were moved from mountain grazing to a 144 ha paddock where they were fed hay ad libitum from the ground. The feeding area was in one corner of the paddock adjacent to a garden which held three adult labradors; these dogs had never been wormed. Two to three weeks after the sheep were moved, 20 ewes became dull, inappetant, blind and static. Eleven ewes died within two to five days of becoming ill; the others subsequently recovered. Another 10 ewes which became affected the following week were presented to the present authors alive for investigation.

All ewes were examined. Nine were emaciated; five were dull.
Three Broad Groups of Veterinary Scientific Journals

- Specialised disciplinary journals, e.g. *Veterinary Parasitology, Preventive Veterinary Medicine*

- Generalist research journals, e.g. *Veterinary Research, The Veterinary Journal, American Journal of Veterinary Research*

- Journals of national veterinary associations, e.g. *Irish Veterinary Journal*
Many international veterinary clinical journals

• USA: *Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association*

• United Kingdom: *Veterinary Record*

• Scandinavia: *Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica*

• Germany: *Tierärztliche Wochenschrift*

• New Zealand: *New Zealand Veterinary Journal*

• Canada: *Canadian Veterinary Journal-Revue Vétérinaire Canadienne*

• Australia: *Australian Veterinary Journal*
Letter to the President of ‘Veterinary Ireland’ (2009)

The very substantial gap between:

• The world-class aspirations of the Irish veterinary profession and of Irish veterinary science on the one hand, and

• The very poor international standing of the Irish Veterinary Journal

• The need for urgent action to redress this concern, and of a potential way forward
Journal Citations Report 2008 (ISI Web of Knowledge)

- USA: Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association (1.8), 17th (out of 135 journals)
- United Kingdom: Veterinary Record (1.2), 41st
- Scandinavia: Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica (0.90), 57th
- New Zealand: New Zealand Veterinary Journal (0.89), 59th
- Canada: Canadian Veterinary Journal-Revue Veterinaire Canadienne (0.86), 61st
- Australia: Australian Veterinary Journal (0.80), 63rd
- Switzerland: Schweizer Archiv fuer Tierheilkunde (0.71), 69th
- The Czech Republic: Veterinarni Medicina (0.66), 75th
- Hungary: Acta Veterinaria Hungarica (0.62), 79th
- Poland: Polish Journal Of Veterinary Sciences (0.47), 92nd
- Brazil: Pesquisa Veterinaria Brasileira (0.43), 94th
- South Africa: Journal Of The South African Veterinary Association (0.40), 95th
- Chile: Archivos De Medicina Veterinaria (0.33), 105th
- The Netherlands: Tijdschrift Voor Diergeneeskunde (0.31), 106th
- Israel: Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine (0.26), 114th
- Belgium: Vlaams Diergeneeskundig Tijdschrift (0.22), 116th
- Austria: Wiener Tierarztliche Monatsschrift (0.21), 117th
- Serbia: Acta Veterinaria-Beograd (0.17), 119th
- Ireland: Irish Veterinary Journal (0.14), 121st
- Venezuela: Revista Cientifica Facultad De Ciencias Veterinarias (0.09), 131st
- India: Indian Veterinary Journal (0.06), 134th
2006-2009

• A major revamp of the website, with all peer-reviewed articles from 2006 being freely available. Further work on the website is planned for December 2009

• Submissions to major article citation services, including PubMED and Google Scholar

• PubMED application was unsuccessful, specifically as a result of the *Irish Veterinary Journal*’s low quality measures.

• The *Irish Veterinary Journal* tracked by Google Scholar, Thomson Reuters (including the Web of Knowledge and Current Contents), CABI and Scopus.
Issues if the *Irish Veterinary Journal* were to consider a move to a large publishing house:

- Whether there would be an interest in taking on the Irish Veterinary Journal, given its very low standing

- Whether *Veterinary Ireland* would be able/willing to end its ongoing relationship with IFP Media

- Whether Wiley, or an equivalent, would be willing/able to continue the news/continuing education sections in the Irish Veterinary Journal (These sections remain an important part of the *Australian Veterinary Journal*)
Issues if the *Irish Veterinary Journal* were to consider an ‘open access’ model, within the BMC stable:

- *Interest in taking on the Irish Veterinary Journal, given its very low standing*

- *BMC requirement to commit to publication of at least 24 articles each year, which may prove difficult*

- *Whether BMC would have objections to a peer-reviewed insert, based on material posted on the BMC website in the new professional journal*

- *Whether authors are able/willing to pay the ‘article processing charge’*

- *‘open access’ publication is increasingly a stipulation of national and international funding bodies*

- *Article processing charges are a legitimate inclusion in most grant applications*
Irish Veterinary Journal sees major increase in impact factor

In a significant milestone for veterinary science and research in Ireland, the Irish Veterinary Journal, featured in the pages of this publication, has seen a rise in its impact factor to 1.71. The new impact factor was detailed in the recent Journal Citation Report 2013, and the achievement has been heralded by BioMed Central as one of the standout success stories in this year's ratings. The new impact factor for the journal, calculated based on open access content alone, is up significantly from last year's 0.43. It sees the Irish Veterinary Journal, founded in 1946 and published by Veterinary Ireland in association with BioMed Central, move up from the third quartile to the first quartile in the Veterinary Sciences category.

Michael Doherty, Editor-in-Chief of Irish Veterinary Journal, explained the size of the improvements the journal has seen in recent years: “Before joining the BioMed Central family in 2011, the Irish Veterinary Journal sat on...”
Important Relationship with ‘Animal Health Ireland’
Irish Veterinary Journal Goes Open Access (March 2011)
CalfCare
A nationally consistent message
Underpinned by the best-available science

Calf health from birth to weaning. I. General aspects of disease prevention
Ingrid Lorenz\textsuperscript{1}, John More\textsuperscript{2,6}

Abstract
Calfhood diseases have been part of the disease picture of both pre- and periparturient calves and further nursery rearing calves.

Keywords: Calf health, prevention, periparturient calves

Calf health from birth to weaning. II. Management of diarrhoea in pre-weaned calves
Ingrid Lorenz\textsuperscript{1}, John More\textsuperscript{2,6}

Calf health from birth to weaning. III. housing and management of calf pneumonia
Ingrid Lorenz\textsuperscript{1}, Bernadette Earley\textsuperscript{2}, John Gilmore\textsuperscript{3}, Ian Hogan\textsuperscript{4}, Emer Kennedy\textsuperscript{5} and Simon J. More\textsuperscript{2,6}
Bulk milk ELISA and the diagnosis of parasite infections in dairy herds: a review

Mary Sekiya, Annetta Zintl and Michael L. Doherty

Abstract
The bulk milk enzyme-linked immune sorbent assay (ELISA) is a rapid and inexpensive method of assessing herd exposure to pathogens that is increasingly being used for the diagnosis of parasite infections in dairy herds. In this paper, with the dairy herd health veterinarian in mind, we review the principles of the assay and the recent literature on the potential role of bulk milk ELISA for the diagnosis of ostertagiosis, fasciolosis, parasitic bronchitis due to cattle lung worm and neosporosis. It is generally accepted that assay results reflect exposure to the parasite rather than the presence of active infection. Bulk milk ELISA can be a useful tool for the veterinary practitioner as a component of a herd health monitoring programme or in the context of a herd health investigation. It can also play a role in regional or national surveillance programmes. However, the results need to be interpreted within the context of the herd-specific health management, the milk production pattern and the parasite life cycle.

Keywords: Bulk milk ELISA, Dairy herds, Parasite infections, Ostertagia, Fasciola, Dictyocaulus, Neospora
Considerations on BVD eradication for the Irish livestock industry

Damien J Barrett¹, Simon J More², David A Graham³, Joe O’Flaherty³, Michael L Doherty⁴ and H Michael Gunn⁵

Abstract

Animal Health Ireland has produced clear guidelines for the control of Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) infection in Irish cattle herds. In the course of developing these guidelines it was clear that a framework for regional and/or national BVD control would be required to increase the uptake of BVD control at farm level and reduce the overall prevalence of the disease. This paper assessed the economic impact of BVD, epidemiological aspects of the disease to its control, models of BVD control, international experiences of BVD control programmes. The technical knowledge and test technology exists to eradicate BVD. Indeed, many countries have successfully and others are embracing control of the disease. The identification and prompt elimination of PI cattle will form the basis of any control programme. The trade of such animals must be curtailed. Pregnant and potentially pregnant carrying PI foetuses pose a significant threat. International experience indicates systematic, well coordinated programmes have the most success, while voluntary programmes can make good initial progress but ultimately fail. The farming community must buy into any proposed programme, and without their support, failure is likely. To buy into the programme and create such a demand for BVD control, farmers must first be well informed. It is likely that stemming economic loss and improving productivity will be the primary motivator at individual farm level.
The National BVD Eradication Programme - Information for Veterinary Surgeons

Information on the voluntary phase of the national BVD virus eradication programme in 2012
2013 JCR: first IF based solely on OA content, Q3 to Q1 in Veterinary Sciences

“This very significant milestone reflects the world-class aspirations of the Irish veterinary profession and of Irish veterinary science.” Editor-in-Chief – Professor Michael Doherty
• Number of published articles is increasing year on year.
Ireland: Irish Veterinary Journal (1.178)

- USA: Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association (1.8), 17th (out of 135 journals)
- United Kingdom: Veterinary Record (1.2), 41st
- Scandinavia: Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica (0.90), 57th
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Venezuela: Revista Científica Facultad De Ciencias Veterinarias (0.09), 131st
India: Indian Veterinary Journal (0.06), 134th
Journal Citation Reports: Veterinary Sciences

1. Veterinary Research, IF: 2.815
2. BMC Veterinary Research, IF: 1.777
3. Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica, IF: 1.377
4. Onderstepoort Journal of Veterinary Research, IF: 1.26
5. Irish Veterinary Journal, IF 1.178
6. Experimental Animals, IF: 0.965
7. Revista Brasileira de Parasitologia Veterinaria, IF: 0.869
8. Journal of Veterinary Medical Science, IF: 0.782
9. INRA Productions Animales, IF: 0.726
10. Italian Journal of Animal Science, IF: 0.718

Irish Veterinary Journal ranks within the top 5 Open Access Veterinary journals in Web of Science.
Author satisfaction 2013-2015

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11 submissions in September 2014 is a record for the journal

In 2015, Irish Veterinary Journal received 94 submissions and published 30 articles, an increase of 7% from last year.
Some key factors

• Editors used their full contact network to bring in submissions

• Editors contributed some of their best work to the journal, prioritising it over higher impact options

• Advocacy using printed material, posters, postcards

• Built partnership with Animal Health Ireland: key papers on BVD eradication, calf health, diagnosis of parasitic infections in cattle
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Go raibh míle maith agaibh / thank you for your attention