

Calf-Link



Issue 4, 2018



Welcome to our next issue of Calf-Link! In the last week there have been large numbers of calves welcomed into the world, so it is a good time to ensure everyone is familiar with the upcoming changes to the animal welfare regulations, as they relate to calves. From the 1st October THIS year, it will be illegal to remove tail switches. From next year, local anaesthetic must be used to provide pain relief when debudding.

Debudding

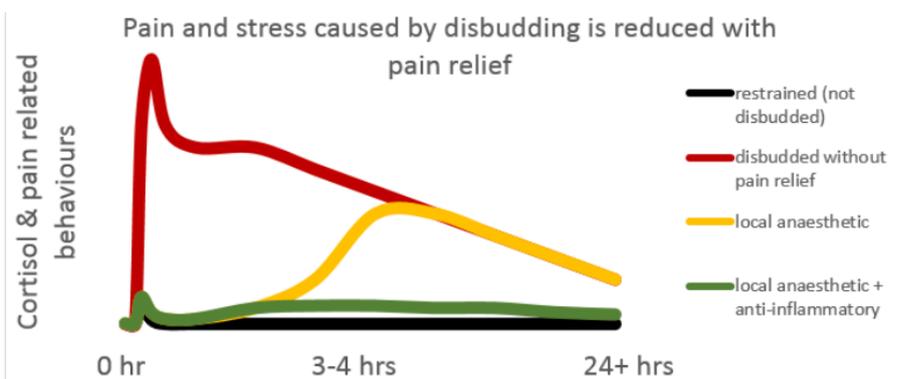
Debudding, is the removal of the horn buds in the calf to prevent growth of damaging horns. This is an invasive and painful procedure which is best performed between 2-6 weeks of age. This is because the horn bud is attached to the skull by 8 weeks, so removal is a more major and painful process with increased risk of the horn regrowing. At Clutha Vets, we are able to provide a pain-free and efficient debudding service that includes:



- 1) **Sedation:** to provide pain relief and ensure the calves are easily handled.
- 2) **Application of a local anaesthetic nerve block:** to ensure there is no feeling in the tissues around the horn bud.
- 3) **Use of a hot iron:** to cauterize and remove the horn bud.
- 4) **Checking:** we then check for navel, cheek or ear tag infections, umbilical hernias and extra teats. We treat where necessary and provide you with a record. We are also able to ring bull calves if required and take blood samples for BVD.



Additional pain relief: Studies have shown that calves grow faster in the 15 days post debudding if they receive anti-inflammatories (pain killers). We think there are significant benefits in giving calves a long acting anti-inflammatory injection at the time of debudding, shown in the graph below.



Top Tips!

- Get your DNA testing, tagging or vaccinations done easily while the calves are snoozing under their sedation!

This year's competition is for your top calf rearing tips and pearls of wisdom. Each week we will publish a pertinent pointer and all contributors will go into the draw to win a handy chilly bin packed with goodies. Message 027 5500 505 with your tip and the reference "CalfLink" and be in to win!

Other benefits:

- We can book in a standard weekly time to visit and debud all eligible calves
- No farm staff need to be present as we have a full team, including a vet, at each job.



Remember to check out our facebook page
- facebook.com/CluthaVetsCalfLink