

# Coccidiosis in Calves

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# What is coccidiosis?

Parasite that sits in the intestinal cells.

Damages the gut lining of small and large intestine.

- Diarrhoea: mucous  $\pm$  blood
- Straining and pain
- Weight loss



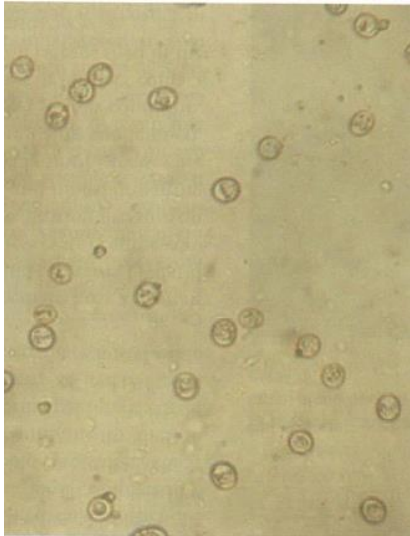
**“PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”**

Plan for health with your vet - get a veterinary health plan

**NADIS**

*Animal Health Skills*

# How do calves get coccidiosis?



## Coccidia spread via faeces

- Calves infected when they eat contaminated feed/water
- Oocysts can survive in environment for two years



**PREVENTING COCCIDIOSIS...**



## What are the main risk factors for coccidiosis?

### High oocyst challenge

Faeces in water or food supply

Dirty conditions

Heavily stocked

Older calves previously in environment

### Susceptible calves

Up to 8 months of age

No previous exposure to coccidia

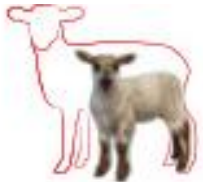
Environmental stress

Nutritional stress

# What causes the signs?



- Coccidia enter intestinal cells, divide and multiply.
- Release ruptures cells.
- Severe damage – loss of mucosa.
- Significant time to recover.
  - Particularly if reinfection



**...COULD HELP YOU DRAW HIGHER RETURNS**



# Coccidiosis – what should you do about it?

1. Recognise the clinical signs – these are almost diagnostic (particularly in housed calves).
2. Faeces can be used for diagnosis.
3. Treat early and effectively.
4. Focus on prevention.
5. Know the key risk factors – keep feeding and water troughs clean.



# Treating coccidiosis

- Affected calves are best treated with toltrazuril
  - single dose oral treatment
  - treat all animals in group
- Authorised for use in housed calves only
- Use diclazuril in calves at pasture (or house)
  - may need repeat dose (14 days)



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**CONTACT YOUR VET  
ABOUT COCCIDIOSIS TODAY!**





# Prevention of coccidiosis

- This is crucial – need to prevent subclinical losses
- Toltrazuril / diclazuril
  - Treat after exposure
- In feed coccidiostats (e.g. decoquinate)
  - May get losses when removed
- Improve hygiene





# Thank you for participating in this webinar



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