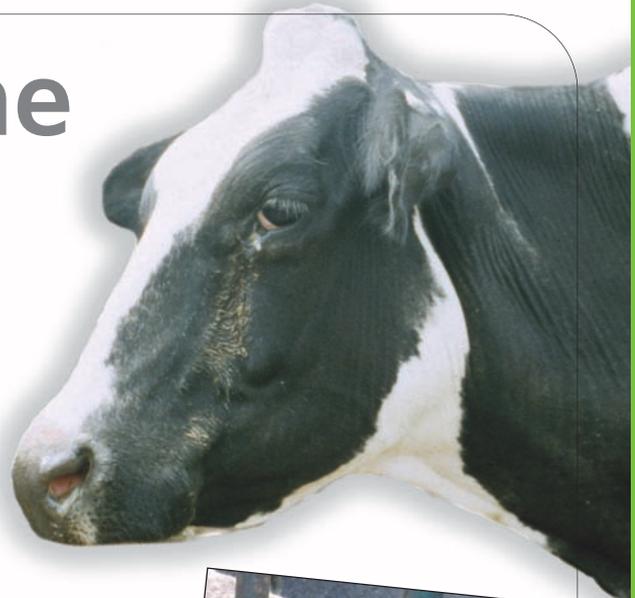


Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis

IBR

IBR is the most obvious clinical disease associated with infection by Bovine Herpesvirus 1 (BoHV-1). IBR is a disease of the upper respiratory tract which varies in severity, depending on the strain of virus involved and other factors which may influence the immune status of the animal. In severe cases, damage to the upper airways may lead to pneumonia and sometimes death. BoHV-1 infection has also been associated with infertility, abortion, high temperatures and milk drop.



CLINICAL SIGNS

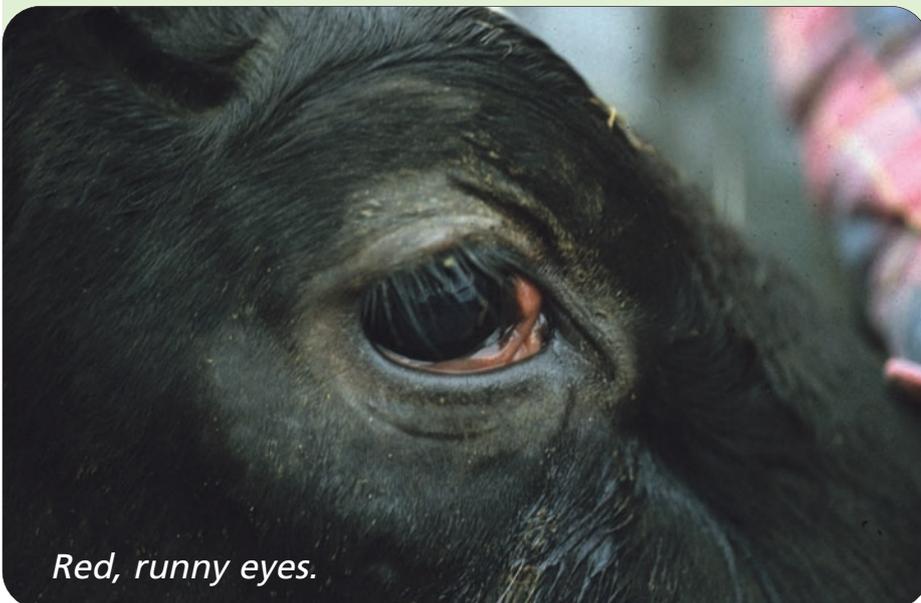
The classic signs of clinical IBR include:

- A high temperature.
- Roaring respiration.
- Coughing due to inflammation and damage within the upper airways.
- A red, crusty nose with a variable but often thick, pussy discharge.
- Red, runny eyes.

The severity and number of these signs can vary widely and they are not all always seen.

The disease can progress to a severe pneumonia if debris from the inflamed upper airways is inhaled.

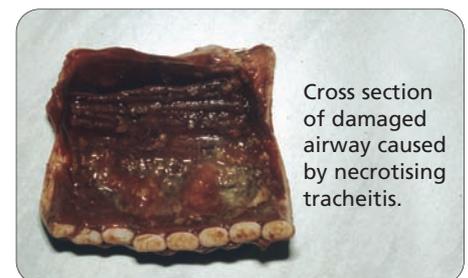
If you spot symptoms or sense there is something not quite right, call in your vet as early as possible and find out what your IBR status is.



Red, runny eyes.

TREATMENT

Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are perhaps the most important part of IBR treatment as they minimise the damage to the upper airways and make the affected animals feel better.



Cross section of damaged airway caused by necrotising tracheitis.

Broad spectrum antibiotics are also often given to protect against secondary bacterial infection.

Nursing should not be forgotten.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Most animals infected with BoHV-1, assuming they recover, remain latently infected for life. The latent virus can be reactivated at any time, usually precipitated by stress, to spread and cause more disease.

Managing stress is important in controlling IBR. When housed, animals should be kept at an appropriate stocking density in well ventilated, dry buildings. Access to good quality food and water should be ensured and other infectious disease, particularly BVD, should be controlled.

Vaccination can play a useful role in the control and prevention of IBR. Many different vaccines, both live and dead are available to protect against disease and the choice of which to use should be made carefully following discussion with your vet.

Whichever vaccine is chosen, it is important that it is administered carefully in accordance with data sheet recommendations if it is to be effective.

Marker Vaccine The use of 'marker' vaccines allows laboratory testing to be used to distinguish antibodies raised as a consequence of vaccination from those raised following challenge by the disease. It is important to recognise that vaccination with a marker vaccine will not prevent antibodies being formed against field-strain virus if a challenge occurs.

Biosecurity Herds free of BoHV-1 infection and those trying to remain free of infection must pay attention to biosecurity, particularly when animals are introduced onto the farm. Farm boundaries must be secure to prevent nose-to-nose contact with neighbouring animals of unknown health status.

Testing When testing quarantined animals for the presence of antibodies to BoHV-1, all animals that test positive should be assumed to be latently infected with the virus. It is also important to recognise that not all latently infected animals have detectable antibodies to the virus.



Vaccination and biosecurity protocols need particularly careful consideration in herds planning to breed animals either for export or to go to stud. See the XLVets biosecurity fact sheet on the XLVets website for further advice and talk to your vet.

IBR is caused by a virus, one of the Herpes family, which also contains the virus that causes cold sores in humans. The virus is called **Bovine Herpesvirus 1**, also known as **BoHV-1**.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Maintaining animal health is essential if dairy and beef enterprises are to be successful. A vaccination programme is an important part of this health plan.

Certain questions need to be answered before a vaccination programme can be planned including why vaccination is required, what is the aim of vaccination programme, what vaccine should be used, when and how? Vaccination programmes should be customised for your farm and incorporate cows, bulls, calves and heifers.

For best results work in partnership with your vet to monitor herd status and to put in place your farm's individual vaccination programme.



Photo Courtesy of Sterimatic

For further information contact your local XLVets practice:

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