

**Subject:** Hardware disease, cattle

**Problem:** Traumatic reticuloperitonitis

**Summary:** After swallowing metallic objects (such as nails) they will end up into the fore stomach. There they can perforate the fore stomach wall when the fore stomach contracts, this will cause leakage of food and bacteria into the peritoneal cavity. The contamination of the peritoneal cavity causes peritonitis, which can explain the clinical symptoms.

**Symptoms:** In the course of a few weeks the animals show a loss of appetite, a drop in milk production and lose weight. Animals can show an increased inspiration rate and body temperature. The feces are often too dry and not well digested. The animals could show signs of pain (arched back, groaning when getting up or lying down)

**Therapy/ advice:** Administration of a magnet orally to prevent further damage caused by the metallic object. And prolonged administration of broad spectrum antibiotics in order to control the peritonitis is indicated. You could use antibiotics such as penicillin, streptomycin or neomycin.

*Trefwoorden: Hardware disease, milk drop, weight loss, cattle.*