

Effects of pain due to lameness on feeding and standing behaviour in dairy cattle: responses to ketoprofen

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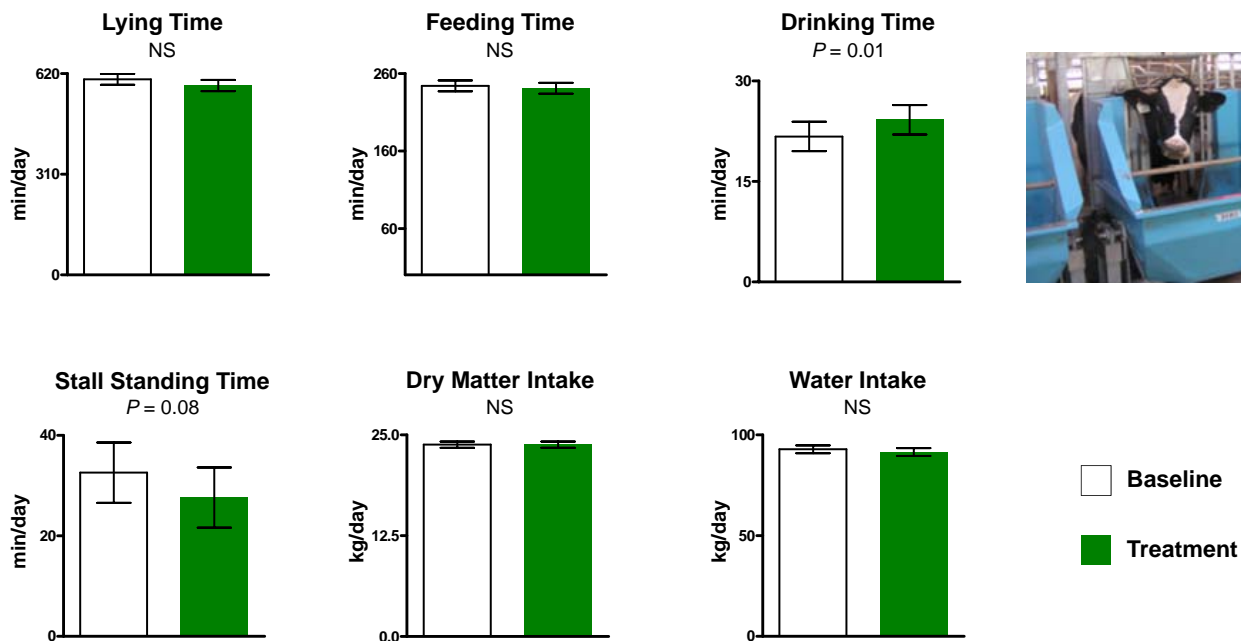
Introduction

The non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug ketoprofen has been shown to improve gait in lame dairy cattle. Our study was designed to assess if this treatment also resulted in changes in feeding and standing behaviour.

Methodology

We used a switchback design with a combination of lame (gait score ≥ 3 , $n=28$) and sound cows ($n=18$). Cows were monitored during the 3 to 6 d treatment period (3 mg/kg ketoprofen IM), and for two 3-d baseline periods before and after treatment. Individual cow feeding and drinking behaviour were monitored continuously using an electronic feeding system. Standing behaviours were monitored using video. Individual daily milk production was also recorded.

Results



During the treatment period cows spent more time drinking and tended to spend less time standing in the stall, compared to the baseline period. However, there was no effect of treatment on lying time, time spent at the feeding bin, dry matter intake, water intake or other measures.

Implications

Treatment with ketoprofen resulted in modest changes in drinking and standing behaviour of lame cows, but had little beneficial effects on other measures.