

Ask the VMD

Leon Riegel

Tim Trayer

Edgar Sheaffer

If you have a question you would like answered by the team from Valley Animal Hospital, send it to Ask the VMD, Box 366, Lititz, Pa. 17543. Questions will be kept anonymous on request.

BVD vaccine risky?

A reader asks:

What are the risks of inducing abortions in my cows using a modified live virus BVD vaccine?

Dr. Trayer comments:

BVD, bovine viral diarrhea, is a disease that, if left uncontrolled, can run wild in your cow herd and can lead to production and financial losses, through abortions, resorption of fetuses, and cow death.

If BVD has been identified as being a problem in your herd, there are effective vaccination programs available to combat the disease. The recommendations found on the labels of all the vaccinating products on the market to date of modified live virus BVD stipulate that it be given only to open cattle.

However, this intramuscular injection of vaccine has been shown by research to cause resorption or mummification of the fetus if administered during the first and second trimester of pregnancy.

During the first trimester, if injected, the cow will probably come back into heat and you will reservice her. In this case, the fetus was resorbed and there will

be no visible signs of the fetus on the ground.

During the second trimester, a mummified fetus results — all the moisture has been drawn away from the fetus and all that is seen is a piece of skin or dried up bones.

An injection of BVD modified live virus during the third trimester has mixed results. Before you pursue vaccination at this time, you should consult your local veterinarian.

My across-the-board recommendation is that the modified live virus BVD vaccine be used only when indicated in the herd — that is, there has been a positive diagnosis of BVD.

And then use it only as the label directs. Do not use it as it is often recommended by unqualified personnel, with no experience in the area.

By just going up and down the line and injecting open and pregnant animals, you will have abortions, mummified fetuses, abnormalities of legs, heads, and feet, and an increased number of services to conceptions due to resorbed fetuses along with other reproductive problems.

Therefore, I strongly recommend that before you start your vaccination program you consult with your veterinarian and have a complete understanding of the disease you're trying to

prevent or control. Then follow through with the vaccinations, but use the product properly.



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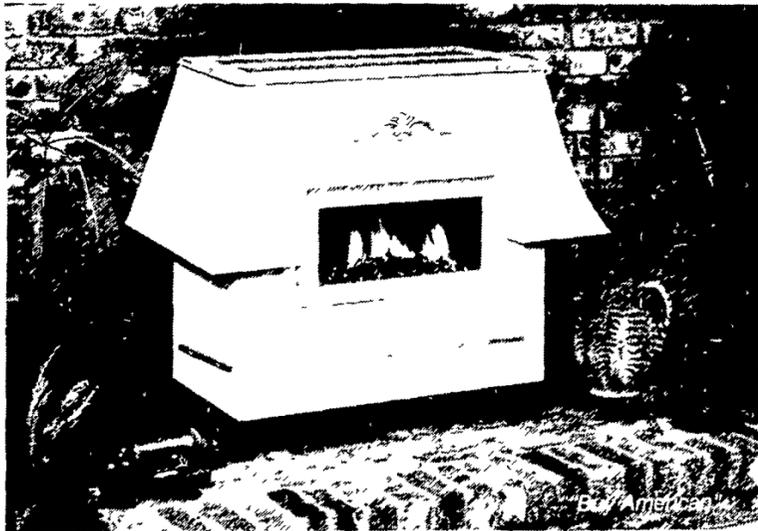
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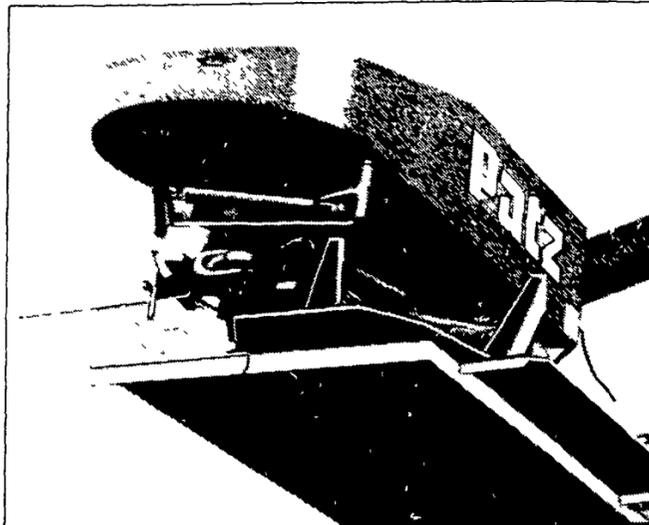
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