

FORTNIGHTLY e-BULLETIN: ANIMAL DISEASE INFORMATION OF BHUTAN*Information sharing for preparedness and response...*

**National Centre for Animal Health
Department of Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Serbithang, Thimphu**



To update field colleagues and relevant stakeholders regarding animal disease situation in the country and related activities, the "Fortnightly e-Bulletin on Animal Disease Information of Bhutan" is issued by Disease Prevention and Control Unit (DPCU), National Centre for Animal Health (NCAH), Department of Livestock (DoL). The information disseminated regarding animal disease outbreak(s) in the country is based on flash and follow-up reports received from the outbreak investigation team. For real-time update, please visit our website, <http://www.ncah.gov.bt>

Haa Dzongkhag

Anthrax: 19 July 2020*

It is a disease caused by the spore-forming bacteria *Bacillus anthracis*. The name of the bacteria derives from the Greek word for coal, because of the ulcers with dark centres that develop on the skin of affected people.

Anthrax occurs on all the continents and commonly causes high mortality, primarily in domestic and wild herbivores as well as most mammals and several bird species.

Anthrax spores are extremely resistant can survive in the environment for decades, making the control or eradication of the disease very difficult.

It is a serious zoonosis, meaning that it can be transmitted from animals to humans.

A case of anthrax in a pig was reported from Tshaphel Lower Secondary School area of Uesu Gewog, Haa Dzongkhag, on 1st July 2020. All necessary control measures, including proper disposal of the carcass, disinfection of premises, prophylactic treatment of susceptible animals, were implemented by the Dzongkhag livestock sector, Haa.

The last case of anthrax in Haa Dzongkhag was reported on 3rd October 2010 from Kana village of the same Gewog, during which a cow had succumbed to the infection.

BE ALERT! Lumpy Skin Disease outbreaks in the region

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a poxviral disease with significant morbidity in cattle. Although the mortality rate is generally low, economic losses result from loss of condition, decreased milk production, abortions, infertility, and damaged hides. The causative virus seems to be spread mainly by blood-feeding insects, such as certain species of flies and mosquitoes or ticks, and outbreaks can be widespread and difficult to control.

LSD is currently endemic in most of Africa, parts of the Middle East, and Turkey. Since 2015, the disease has spread to most of the Balkan countries, the Caucasus and the Russian Federation, where the disease continues to spread, making the risk of an imminent incursion into other unaffected countries very high. Since 2019, several outbreaks of LSD have been reported by Members in South and East Asia including China, Bangladesh, and India.

There is no evidence that LSDV can infect humans.

Infographics - Fast fact

Lumpy Skin Disease

Lumpy skin disease generally occurs in Africa; however outbreaks have occurred in parts of the Middle East and recently in Bangladesh, India and China

Lumpy skin disease is a disease of cattle. A few cases have been reported in Asian water buffalo.

Biting insect (mosquitoes and biting flies) are vectors. Virus may be spread by **direct contact** to the skin lesions, saliva, nasal discharge, milk, or semen of infected animals.

Cause: LSD virus (Capripoxvirus)
Morbidity rate: 10-20%.
Mortality rate: 1-5%

Humans are **NOT** at risk of developing lumpy skin disease.

Fever, nodules all over the body, nasal and lacrimal discharge, decreased milk production

For more information: https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/eng/Health_standards/tahmi/3.04.12_LSD.pdf

National Center for Animal Health, Serbithang, Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

* Reported to National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang



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For comments or queries, e-mail to us at ncah2013@gmail.com

Our mailing address is:

National Centre for Animal Health
Department of Livestock
Serbithang, Thimphu. Post Box 155

Phone No. 00975-2-351083/351093. Facsimile No. 00975-2-351095
Toll Free No. 1244. Email: ncah2013@gmail.com
Website: <http://www.ncah.gov.bt/>

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