

## 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>

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### **Bumthang Dzongkhag**

#### ***Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS): 17 October 2020\* (Dhur) and 30 October 2020 (Thaga)***

An outbreak of HS in yaks was reported from Dhur hot spring area, Chhoekhor Gewog, Bumthang Dzongkhag. As per the detailed outbreak investigation report shared, the index case was recorded on 27 September in a herd located on the other side of Mangdechhu (under Saephu Gewog, Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag). A total of 10 yaks were affected and succumbed to the infection.

Another outbreak of HS in yaks was reported from Thaga area under the same Gewog of Bumthang Dzongkhag. The flash report states that the outbreak had started on 14 October 2020, and a total of 14 yaks in 3 herds were lost to the infection.

The outbreaks were suspected to have caused because of seasonal change and associated stress, and for not vaccinating their herds against the disease.

All the necessary control measures including ring vaccination have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Bumthang.

### **Sarpang Dzongkhag**

#### ***Lumpy skin disease (LSD): 23 October 2020\****

Lumpy skin disease (LSD) is a poxvirus disease of cattle characterised by fever, nodules on the skin, mucous membranes and internal organs, emaciation, enlarged lymph nodes, oedema of the skin, and sometimes death. The disease is of economic importance as it can cause a temporary reduction in milk production, temporary or permanent sterility in bulls, damage to hides and death due to secondary bacterial infections.

The swab (from abscess) samples collected from a suspected female jersey calf (2 months old) in Dargaythang village, Shompangkha Gewog, Sarpang Dzongkhag had tested positive to LSD on 23 October 2020. As per the flash report, the owner observed eruption of nodular skin lesions on 8 October 2020. The Thromde Veterinary Hospital and Satellite Laboratory, Gelegphu and the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Sarpang have implemented all the necessary control measures.

The measures recommended and implemented (with strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols) in the field are as follows:

- Movement control to limit the spread;
- Isolation and symptomatic treatment of the sick animal;
- Sample collection and submission for confirmation – in reference to the SOP circulated;
- Outbreak investigation including a questionnaire survey after laboratory confirmation;
- Keeping daily records on the status of infection and reporting.

In Bhutan, first outbreak of LSD was reported in Samtse Dzongkhag and confirmed by RT-PCR on 5 October 2020.

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\* Reported to National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang



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