

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 situations in the country and related activities, the "Fortnightly e-Bulletin on Animal Disease Information of Bhutan" is issued by the 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>

Sarpang Dzongkhag**Dekiling Gewog****Rabies: 9 July 2021***

An outbreak of rabies was reported from Dekiling gewog, Sarpang dzongkhag. As per the flash report shared, an adult female dog in Jigmeling village tested positive for rabies (rapid Ag) on 8 July 2021. On 9th July 2021, a cow in Dekiling village died of suspected rabies and the sample tested positive for the rabies virus.

A team comprising technical officials from Thromde Veterinary Hospital and Satellite Laboratory, Gelegphu and Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Sarpang investigated the outbreak.

All the necessary prevention and control measures have been implemented in line with the National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan 2017. A total of 3 dogs and 7 cattle, which were suspected to have been exposed, have been kept under observation.

Trashigang Dzongkhag**Udzorong Gewog****Black quarter (suspected): 15 July 2021***

A suspected outbreak of Black quarter (BQ) was reported via a flash report on 15 July 2021. The outbreak which started on 13 July 2021 has affected 2 cattle, including 1 death. The smear impression sample tested positive to gram-positive rods; however, to confirm the disease, culture and identification test is being conducted.

For prevention and control of the infection, all the necessary measures have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Trashigang.

ALERT!

Early warning and preparedness to prevent LSD outbreaks

Considering the epidemiology of the disease, the risk for incursion and spread of Lumpy skin disease in Bhutan at this time period is very high, especially in the areas stretching across the southern belt (Samtse in the west to Trashigang in the East), sharing a porous border with India, and experiencing hot and humid climate and increased fly (mechanical vector for LSD) activity.

LSD prevention and control measures shall be implemented as described in the advisory table given below.

Measures	Remarks
Uninfected Dzongkhag/ premises	
Farm biosecurity enhancement	In collaboration with the BAFRA office.
Vector control	Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc.
Restriction on cattle (migratory or trade) and their products' movement from infected areas.	Practice until the ban is lifted in the affected and surrounding areas.
Enhance disease surveillance	To ensure early detection and prevent further spread. Surveillance is to be heightened during summer (fly season) and when outbreaks are reported from nearby areas.
Wearing minimal PPE when visiting farms	At least a shoe cover to prevent mechanical transmission.
Infected Dzongkhag/ premises or suspicion of disease presence	
Restriction of movement of cattle and buffaloes in infected areas	Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted.
Restriction of movement of cattle and buffalo products from infected to uninfected areas.	Until the outbreak ends, and bans lifted.
Isolation and treatment of affected animals.	Supportive or symptomatic treatment
Proper disposal (deep burial) of carcasses and disinfection of contaminated premises.	Consumption shall not be permitted. Phenol and Hypochlorite (bleaching powder) are effective against LSDV
Active surveillance	Risk-based surveillance for early detection, immediate interventions and prevent further spread.

Vector control	Use of insect repellents and ectoparasiticides, improve farm sanitation and hygiene, good manure management, etc.
Farm biosecurity enhancement	In collaboration with the BAFRA office.
Using PPE while visiting affected (suspected) farms	Plastic apron, gloves, shoe covers, etc.
Prevention of iatrogenic spread of infection	Mandatory change of needle between animals during vaccinations/ treatments, or sterilize the reusable needles.

** Reported to the National Centre for Animal Health, Serbithang*



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