

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>

Bumthang Dzongkhag**Chhoekhor and Tang Gewog****Haemorrhagic septicaemia – 9 August 2021***

An outbreak of Haemorrhagic septicaemia (HS), caused by certain serotypes of *Pasteurella multocida*, a gram-negative coccobacillus residing mostly as a commensal in the nasopharynx of animals, in yak was reported from Gamshi area (base of Tolala) of Chhoekhor gewog, Bumthang dzongkhag on 3 August 2021. As per the disease outbreak investigation report shared, the outbreak which was found to have started from 30 July 2021 had affected 8 yaks.

Since the affected herd was located very far from the centre, the herd could not be visited during the outbreak time. However, as per the owner, as recorded later during the investigation, the affected animals showed clinical signs such as swollen neck and throat, tongue protrusion, laboured breathing, salivation and death within 24 hours.

It was found that the affected animals have not received the annual vaccination against the disease. In response to the outbreak, a ring vaccination program was conducted covering 120 yaks in the nearby yak herds. Other necessary control measures have been implemented by the team from the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector.

On 3 August 2021, another outbreak of HS was reported in cattle from Tang gewog of the same dzongkhag. As per the flash report, 5 cattle have succumbed to the infection. All the measures have been implemented to control the further spread of the disease.

Samtse Dzongkhag

Samtse Gewog

Black quarter – 10 August 2021*

An outbreak of Black quarter (BQ) was reported from Woesergang, Samtse gewog, Samtse dzongkhag. As per the detailed outbreak investigation report, the outbreak has started on 2 August 2021, and a total of 6 cattle died of the infection.

To prevent the further spread of the disease, necessary control measures have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector: proper disposal of carcasses, disinfection of premises, prophylactic treatment of at-risk animals, etc.

Sarpang Dzongkhag

Shompangkha Gewog

Rabies – 11 August 2021*

An adult, male, stray dog in Sarpang-Tar area of Shompangkha gewog, Sarpang dzongkhag tested positive for rabies (rapid antigen) on 10 August 2021. As per the flash report shared, the area was covered with a mass anti-rabies dog vaccination program in December 2020.

In line with the National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan 2017, the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector has implemented all the necessary control measures.

In Sarpang dzongkhag, the last case of rabies was reported on 9 July 2021 from Dekiling gewog where a cow died of the infection.

Early warning and preparedness to prevent LSD outbreaks

Considering the epidemiology of the Lumpy skin disease (LSD), the risk for incursion and spread remains 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, 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 below.

Table 1: Advisory on Lumpy skin disease (LSD) prevention and control

Measures	Remarks
<i>Uninfected dzongkhag/ premises</i>	
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.
<i>Infected dzongkhag/ premises or suspicion of disease presence</i>	
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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