

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>



September 28, 2021 will be the 15th World Rabies Day.

"Rabies: Facts, Not Fear"

To celebrate this milestone, this year's theme focuses on facts about rabies and dispelling any myths or misconceptions. In brief, the theme reminds us of key current global issues that also affect rabies elimination, namely:

- A. Fake news and how this can negatively affect our rabies elimination efforts.** Facts are the only way to beat fake news, so help to share accurate facts and ensure that decisions about rabies control in your country are based on the correct, and most up-to-date, information.
- B. Vaccine hesitancy and the misconceptions about vaccination.** By sharing facts about the benefits of vaccinating your animals against rabies, and by ensuring that exposed people receive post-exposure prophylaxis, we can dispel any myths about rabies vaccination to ensure that everyone is protected, and the disease eliminated. We can get rid our communities and colleagues of

any fears of vaccination by sharing accurate facts.

NOTIFIABLE ANIMAL DISEASE OUTBREAKS

Dagana Dzongkhag

Lhamoi Dzingkhag Gewog

FMD – 1 September 2021*

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) is a highly contagious viral disease of livestock that has a significant economic impact. It affects cattle, swine, sheep, goats and other cloven-hoofed ruminants. The disease is caused by an Aphthovirus of the family Picornaviridae.

An outbreak of FMD was reported in a private dairy farm located in Suntalabari village, Chongsamling chiwog, Lhamoi Dzingkhag gewog, Dagana Dzongkhag on 31 August 2021. As per the disease outbreak flash report shared, seven jersey-cross cattle were affected, however, no mortality was reported. The herd was vaccinated against the disease in May 2021.

To prevent further spread of the disease, all the necessary measures have been implemented in line with the National FMD Prevention and Control Plan, 2020.

Samtse Dzongkhag

Samtse Gewog

Rabies – 9 September 2021*

Rabies is a viral disease – caused by rabies virus, a neurotropic virus in the genus Lyssavirus, family Rhabdoviridae – that affects the central nervous systems of mammals, including humans. The virus is particularly present in the saliva and brain of infected animals. It is transmitted via the saliva of an infected animal, most often a dog. The incubation period varies from several days to several months. Once symptoms are present, the disease is fatal for both animals and humans.

A local breed, adult, male, owned dog in Majathang village, Samtse gewog, Samtse dzongkhag tested positive to rabies (rapid antigen test) on 7 September 2021.

In line with the National Rabies Prevention and Control Plan for Bhutan, 2017, the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector implemented necessary measures to prevent further spread of the disease.

The last case of rabies in the gewog was reported on 23 February 2021 from Baagtongnang village, where a stray dog succumbed to the infection.

Chhukha Dzongkhag

Phuentshogling Gewog

Rabies – 11 September 2021*

An adult, male, stray dog in Damdara village, Phuentshogling gewog, Chhukha dzongkhag, following exhibition of neurological clinical signs, tested positive to rabies (rapid antigen testing) on 11 September 2021.

A technical team led by Thromde Veterinary Hospital and Satellite Laboratory (TVH&SL) conducted the outbreak investigation and implemented necessary control measures.

The last case of rabies in livestock in the same gewog was reported on 30 July 2021, where a young bull was infected and died.

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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