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NATIONAL CENTRE for ANIMAL HEALTH

Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests



## FORTNIGHTLY E-BULLETIN: ANIMAL DISEASE INFORMATION OF BHUTAN

*Information sharing for preparedness and response...*

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>

### Dzongkhag: Chhukha

#### Gewog: Chapchha

#### **BQ: 4 July 2022\***

Black quarter (synonym: blackleg, quarter ill, quarter evil, symptomatic anthrax, or emphysematous gangrene) is an acute infectious disease of cattle. The disease is infectious and causes severe inflammation of the skeletal and cardiac muscle, severe systemic toxicity and, not surprisingly, high mortality.

Black quarter (BQ) is a predominant disease of cattle but traumatic BQ may be seen in other animals. In sheep, it is almost always secondary to a skin wound. The black quarter disease is caused by *Clostridium chauvoei* – a Gram-positive, rod-shaped, spore-forming and toxin-producing anaerobe. The spores of the bacterium are very resistant to adverse environmental stress.

An outbreak of BQ was reported in Bunakha village, Chapchha gewog, Chhukha dzongkhag on 3 July 2022. The outbreak affected two bulls, a local breed and a Jersey cross, in a household. As per the disease outbreak flash report shared, the affected herd has not received the vaccination against the disease.

The Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Chhukha, implemented all the necessary control measures to contain the outbreak and prevent further spread.

### Dzongkhag: Samdrup Jongkhar

**Gewog: Langchenphu****ND: 10 July 2022\***

Newcastle disease (ND) is a highly contagious and often severe disease found worldwide that affects birds including domestic poultry. It is caused by a virus in the family of paramyxoviruses.

The disease appears in three forms: lentogenic or mild, mesogenic or moderate and velogenic or very virulent, also called exotic Newcastle disease. The lentogenic strains are very widespread but cause few disease outbreaks. It usually presents as a respiratory disease, but depression, nervous manifestations, or diarrhoea may be the predominant clinical form.

ND is transmitted most often by direct contact with diseased or carrier birds. Infected birds may shed the virus in their faeces, contaminating the environment. Transmission can then occur by direct contact with faeces and respiratory discharges or by contaminated food, water, equipment, and human clothing. Newcastle disease viruses can survive for several weeks in the environment, especially in cool weather. Generally, the virus is shed during the incubation period and for a short time during recovery. Birds in the pigeon family can shed the virus intermittently for a year or more. Other wild birds such as cormorants have also been shown to have caused outbreaks in domestic poultry.

An outbreak of ND was reported in Lower Langchenphu area of Langchenphu gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar dzongkhag on 7 July 2022. As per the disease outbreak investigation report shared, the outbreak affected two poultry (broiler) farms affecting 81 birds (finisher).

Following control measures have been implemented to control the outbreak:

- Strict isolation or quarantine of affected birds
- Proper carcass disposal
- Thorough cleaning and disinfection of affected and suspected premises
- Avoidance of contact with birds of unknown health status
- Control of access to poultry farms
- Public awareness about the disease

**Dzongkhag: Tsirang****Gewog: Phungtenchu****IBD: 11 July 2022\***

Infectious bursal disease (IBD), also known as Gumboro disease, is a highly contagious, immunosuppressive disease of young chickens. The disease is responsible for major economic losses in the poultry industry worldwide.

IBD virus (IBDV), a double-stranded RNA virus, exists as two serotypes with only serotype 1 causing the disease in young chickens. The virus infects the bursa of Fabricius of particularly the actively dividing and differentiating lymphocytes of the B-cells lineage of immature chickens, resulting in morbidity, mortality, and immunosuppression.

Immunosuppression enhances the susceptibility of chickens to other infections and interferes with

vaccination against other diseases. Immunization is the most important measure to control IBD; however, rampant usage of live vaccines has resulted in the evolution of new strains.

An outbreak of IBD was reported in a commercial poultry layer farm in Peljorling village, Phutengchu gewog, Tsirang dzongkhag on 9 July 2022. A total of 260 Hy-Line Brown pullets were affected, of which 250 died of the infection. On investigation, the affected flocks were found to have received the IBD vaccination as per the standard schedule.

The Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Tsirang implemented all the measures to control the outbreak from further spread, including disposal of carcasses, disinfection of the contaminated premises, farm biosecurity upscale, public awareness, etc.

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



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