

New practice location: We're in!

**ADDRESS: THE OLD BARN, BRYN GOLEU FARM,
ST MARTINS, SHROPSHIRE, SY11 3HF**

WHAT 3 WORDS: REPRINTS.SUPPORT.REINVEST

Coming from Oswestry: Take the St Martins exit at the Gledrid roundabout. At the stans roundabout take the 2nd exit to ELLESMERE ROAD, follow the road for 1 mile then take the left onto STREET DINAS. We're 0.3 miles up that road on the right. Coming from Ellesmere: Take the B5068 To St Martins, stay on this road for 4.3miles, then take the right hand turn and the practice is 0.3 miles up that road on the right.



BLUETONGUE DISEASE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Bluetongue is a viral disease that primarily affects ruminants, including cattle, sheep, goats, and even reindeer. It is transmitted by biting midges, also known as Culicoides flies, which are most active in warmer months. Understanding the disease and the importance of vaccination is crucial for maintaining healthy livestock and reducing the risk of economic loss.

Bluetongue is caused by the Bluetongue virus (BTV), which can cause a range of symptoms, the main ones summerized in the table here:

Cattle	Most common	Sheep
Malaise	1	Nasal discharge
Lameness	2	Malaise
Ulceration	3	Swollen face
Red membranes	4	Crusting
Conjunctivitis	5	Hypersalivation
Crusting	6	Red membranes
Coronitis	7	Lameness
Pyrexia	8	Inappetance
Nasal discharge	9	Ulceration
Hypersalivation	10	Pyrexia
Reluctance to move	11	Reluctance to move

HOW IS BLUETONGUE TRANSMITTED?

The disease is primarily transmitted through the bite of infected Culicoides midges, which are more prevalent in warmer, humid climates.

The risk is highest during the summer and autumn months, when midge populations peak. Bluetongue can also be spread indirectly through contaminated feed, water, or even through infected semen used in breeding programmes. Animals that are already infected can serve as a source of infection for other animals, making it important to monitor for early signs of the disease.

MEASURES TO MINIMISE RISK

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect your animals from bluetongue. The key benefits of vaccination include:

- Protection from severe disease: Vaccination significantly reduces the likelihood of animals contracting severe forms of bluetongue.
- Preventing economic loss: reduce the loss of productivity & culling infected animals.
- Herd immunity: Vaccinating a significant proportion of your livestock can help reduce the overall risk of bluetongue spreading within and between herds or flocks.

Timing of Vaccination:

Vaccination should be carried out before midges become active (usually in spring, ahead of the warmer summer months). This is to protect animals before the risk of infection is highest.

LICENCED VACCINATION PROGRAMME (BULTAVO-3)

Sheep:

- Primary course: 1 x 1ml, Under the skin, from 1 month of age
- Boosters: Based on veterinary advice, generally before the period or risk

Cattle:

- Primary course 2 x 1ml Into the muscle 3 weeks apart from 1 month of age
- Boosters: Based on veterinary advice, generally before the period or risk

ADDITIONAL PROTECTION:

Minimise midge exposure: Try to avoid grazing animals in areas with high midge populations, especially during the peak midge activity times (dawn and dusk). Housing animals in midge-proof shelters during warmer months can also reduce exposure.

Control midge breeding sites: Eliminate standing water on your farm, as these can serve as breeding grounds for midges.

Biosecurity practices: Implement strict biosecurity measures, such as isolating new animals before they are introduced to your herd or flock, to reduce the risk of introducing bluetongue into your livestock.

Conclusion Bluetongue disease poses a significant threat to the health and productivity of livestock in the UK, but with the right vaccination and management strategies, it can be effectively controlled. Vaccination is the most reliable way to protect your animals and ensure that your herd or flock remains healthy and productive.