



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER



## Blue Tongue Virus

In November 2023, during routine Bluetongue surveillance, a single cow tested positive for bluetongue serotype 3 on a premises near Canterbury in Kent. DEFRA declared a temporary control zone 10km around the premises where the animal was kept. These movement restrictions apply to cattle, sheep and other ruminants, in the area. In recent months BTV has been increasingly prevalent in Europe.

### *What is Bluetongue?*

Bluetongue virus (BTV) is a notifiable disease, transmitted by midges, that affects cows, goats, sheep and camelids. The midges are most active between the months of April and November. There are currently no vaccines which are effective against this serotype of the virus (BTV-3). Luckily, Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety.

### *Signs of Bluetongue*

#### **In sheep:**

Sheep are more likely to show obvious clinical signs of Bluetongue than cattle if they become infected.

- Ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- Discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling from mouth
- Swelling of the lips, tongue, head and neck or coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot)



- Red skin as a result of blood collecting beneath the surface



## Small Holders Club First Talk



The first small holders meeting, held in our clinic's meeting space on November 13th, was a great success! We are very grateful to the drugs company Zoetis, and to Mr chips for supplying the tasty fish and chips. It was so lovely to host you all in a relaxed, friendly and informative environment. We plan to host 3-4 similar meetings per year on more specific topics, including practical sessions, such as injection technique, lambing/kidding and worming/pasture management.

If anyone is interested in joining the small holders club, or learning more, then please get in touch with the office on 01328 864444

## Christmas Opening Hours

Over the Christmas period our office will be open as follows - outside of these hours we will be offering our normal emergency service on 07850 230803

Saturday 23rd December -  
**Emergency Only**

Sunday 24th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Monday 25th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Tuesday 26th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Wednesday 27th December -  
8.15am-5.30pm

Thursday 28th December -  
8.15am-5.30pm

Friday 29th December -  
8.15am-5.30pm

Saturday 30th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Sunday 31st December -  
**Emergency Only**

Monday 1st January 2024 -  
**Emergency Only**

Tuesday 2nd January 2024 onwards -  
as normal

**Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year from  
the whole team at  
Wensum Valley Vets!**

- Fever
- Lameness
- Breathing problems
- Abortion
- Death

### **In cattle:**

- Lethargy and reduced appetite
- Crusty erosions on muzzle or teats
- Redness of the mouth, eyes, nose, teats or coronary band
- Nasal discharge
- Fever
- Milk drop
- Abortion



Adult cattle may serve as a source of virus for several weeks while displaying little or no clinical signs of disease and are often the preferred host for insect vectors.

### *Treatment*

There is no specific treatment for animals with Bluetongue, currently under the law they must be culled, but APHA will advise on management.

### *What to do*

If your animals also show any of the signs above, or you suspect Bluetongue Virus to be present, please let us know immediately and we will advise on how best to respond based on current advice and the individual situation.

