



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

## Blue Tongue Virus Update

This newsletter contains information correct at the time of writing. A restricted area has been put in place across Norfolk, along with other counties, due to the presence of Bluetongue Virus BTV-3 in a number of premises with the aim of stopping the spread.

### *What is Bluetongue?*

Bluetongue virus (BTV) is a notifiable disease, transmitted by midges, that affects cows, goats, sheep and camelids (see transmission diagram on overleaf). The midges are most active between the months of April and November and greater numbers are present in wet or wooded areas. Luckily, Bluetongue does not affect people or food safety.

### *Signs of Bluetongue*

#### **In sheep:**

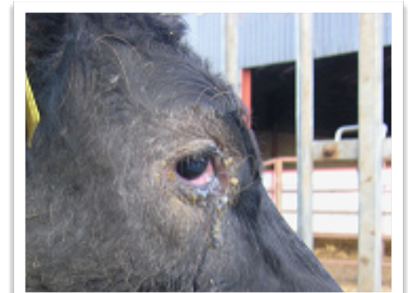
Sheep are more likely to show obvious clinical signs of Bluetongue than cattle if they become infected.

- Ulcers or sores in the mouth and nose
- Discharge from the eyes or nose and drooling
- 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
- Fever
- Lameness
- 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.



