



DAMORY LODGE EDWARD STREET BLANDFORD FORUM DORSET DT11 7QT
TEL: 01258 452 626 FAX: 01258 453 548 EMAIL: office@damoryvets.co.uk www.damoryvets.co.uk

22nd June 2016

Dear all,

Further to our recent newsletter detailing the likely return of Bluetongue this summer we have received further information on the availability and price of Bluetongue vaccine.

Two companies are producing the vaccine; on this occasion we have decided to go with the Zoetis vaccines called "Zulvac 8 Bovis" and "Zulvac 8 Ovis" as they will be available slightly earlier, there is no difference in price between the two companies.

Zulvac 8 Bovis & Zulvac 8 Ovis

- Sheep - 2 x 2ml doses **under the skin** 3 weeks apart. Single annual booster thereafter to remain immune.
- Cattle - 2 x 2ml doses **in the muscle** 3 weeks apart. Single annual booster thereafter to remain immune.
- Onset of immunity - 25 days after second dose
- Earliest start - 3 months old in cattle, 6 weeks old in sheep
- The vaccine prevents virus circulating in the blood and therefore reduces clinical signs of the disease and prevents onward spread to other animals via biting midges.
- Safe for use during pregnancy
- Meat & Milk withdrawal periods - Zero
- Price excluding VAT: £52.50 for 100ml bottle, £10.50 for 20ml bottle. This works out at £2.10 per sheep/cow for both primary doses.

Bluetongue (strain 8) is currently prevalent in France and disease models currently predict there to be an 80% chance that the disease will return to the southern shores of England later this summer, probably by mid-September.

The disease causes worst signs in sheep with swelling and ulcers in the mouth, drooling, and swelling of the head, neck and coronary band (where the skin of the leg meets the horn of the foot). Red skin, fever, lameness & breathing problems may also be seen.

Cattle are often asymptomatic although production losses were commonly reported during the 2007/8 outbreak. Clinical signs in cattle can include; swelling and ulcers in the mouth, nasal discharge, swollen teats, red skin and eyes.

If you suspect Bluetongue in any of your stock contact us at the surgery immediately.

Vaccination is the only effective way to safeguard your stock against Bluetongue and as with the 2007/8 outbreak if enough people vaccinate their stock then the disease will not be able to take effective hold and will hopefully disappear quickly again.

The widespread uptake of vaccination across farms in the south of England was the key to the rapid and successful eradication of the disease in 2007/8.

Insecticides such as Swish (cattle only), Flypor (cattle only) and Spot-On (cattle & sheep) help to reduce midge bites and may slow the spread of disease, but are ineffective at preventing Bluetongue because they will not stop all midge bites.

Limited vaccine may be available as early as the 4th July, with more to follow as we move into August. **To stand the best chance of securing some of the early stock you must pre-order the number of doses you require with us as soon as possible.**

With full immunity taking approximately 6 weeks to develop from the first dose being given, we recommend starting the primary vaccine course by late July to ensure full cover by mid-September.

Please feel free speak to any of the farm vets at the surgery for more information.

Kind regards,

Damory Vets