

NATIONAL CENTRE for ANIMAL HEALTH



Department of Livestock, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests

## FORTNIGHTLY E-BUTTETIN: 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, <u>http://www.ncah.gov.bt</u>

### **Dzongkhag: Sarpang**

## **Gewog: Gakiling**

## IBD: 21 June 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 Relangthang, Gakiling gewog, Sarpang dzongkhag on 12 June 2022. As per the disease outbreak investigation report, a total of 88 pullets (eight and half weeks) died of the infection. The affected flock were vaccinated against IBD as per the standard schedule, and the last dose was administered on 4 May 2022.

To control the outbreak and prevent further spread, the following measures have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector:

- Proper disposal of carcases and disinfection of contaminated premises
- Segregation of suspected or at-risk birds
- Upscaling farm biosecurity
- Advocacy to the farm owners about the disease and reporting

# Dzongkhag: Bumthang

Gewog: Tang

### BQ: 23 June 2022\*

Black quarter (BQ), also known as Blackleg, is an acute, infectious disease caused by *Clostridium chauvoei* - a Gram-positive, anaerobic organism. This disease is characterized by inflammation with gaseous oedema of skeletal muscle and severe toxaemia. It is a soil-borne infection transmitted through the wound, injection needle or ingestion (especially when there are oral abrasions). The organisms are usually deep in soil but outbreaks could occur post-earth moving operations.

An outbreak of BQ was reported in Threlagang village, Bepzur chiwog, Tang gewog, Bumthang dzongkhag on 23 June 2022. A total of 4 Jersey-Cross adult cattle in 2 households were affected and 2 died of the infection. As per the flash report shared, the affected herds received the annual BQ vaccination on 11 August 2021.

To control the outbreak, all the necessary control measures have been implemented, including the ring vaccination of susceptible cattle in the protection zone.

### **Dzongkhag: Samtse**

**Gewog: Samtse** 

## Rabies: 25 June 2022\*

Rabies is a zoonotic disease (a disease that is transmitted from animals to humans), caused by the rabies virus, of the Lyssavirus genus, within the family Rhabdoviridae. Domestic dogs are the most common reservoir of the virus, with more than 99% of human deaths caused by dog-mediated rabies.

The virus is transmitted in the saliva of rabid animals and generally enters the body via infiltration of virusladen saliva from a rabid animal into a wound (e.g. scratches), or by direct exposure of mucosal surfaces to saliva from an infected animal (e.g. bites). The virus cannot infiltrate intact skin.

With the exception of Antarctica, rabies is endemic on all continents. Of the tens of thousands of deaths occurring annually due to rabies, 95% of cases are reported in Asia and Africa.

A male, adult stray dog with un-notched ears in Samtse town, Samtse gewog, Samtse dzongkhag tested positive for rabies – tested with rapid Ag test – on 23 June 2022. The dog was suspected to have entered the area from the Indian side of the border. With the dog sterilization mopping campaign having been completed in the area under the Nationwide Dog Population Management and Rabies Control Program (NADPM&RCP), all the dogs in the town area were vaccinated against rabies, thus the risk of further spread of the infection was minimal.

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



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