



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, <http://www.ncah.gov.bt>

REPORTED ASF OUTBREAKS IN THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

- Calling for heightened ASF outbreak prevention measures in the country.

There are increasing reports of African swine fever (ASF) outbreaks in the region, particularly in India. Thus, the risk of the introduction of the virus into the country remains very high. Therefore, it's critical to implement the ASF prevention measures as described in the National African Swine Fever Prevention and Control Plan of Bhutan, 2021.

The last outbreak of ASF in Bhutan was reported in April 2022 from Samphelling gewog, Chhukha dzongkhag, which has had a huge socio-economic impact on the farmers' livelihood and the country at large. During the outbreak investigation, poor farm biosecurity in the infection zone was one of the critical findings to have contributed to the introduction and spread of the outbreak. Therefore, the implementation of farm biosecurity measures (Figure 1) could play a vital role in the prevention of ASF outbreaks in the country. In addition, other ASF outbreak prevention measures are highly recommended to be implemented in a heightened mode.

Figure 1: Key farm biosecurity principles (World Organisation for Animal Health)



Important links regarding ASF:

1. National ASF Prevention and Control Plan of Bhutan, 2021: [Download Link](#)
2. Global ASF situation reports: [Site Link](#)
3. Awareness materials on ASF: [Site Link](#)

Dzongkhag: Tsirang

Gewog: Tsirang Toed

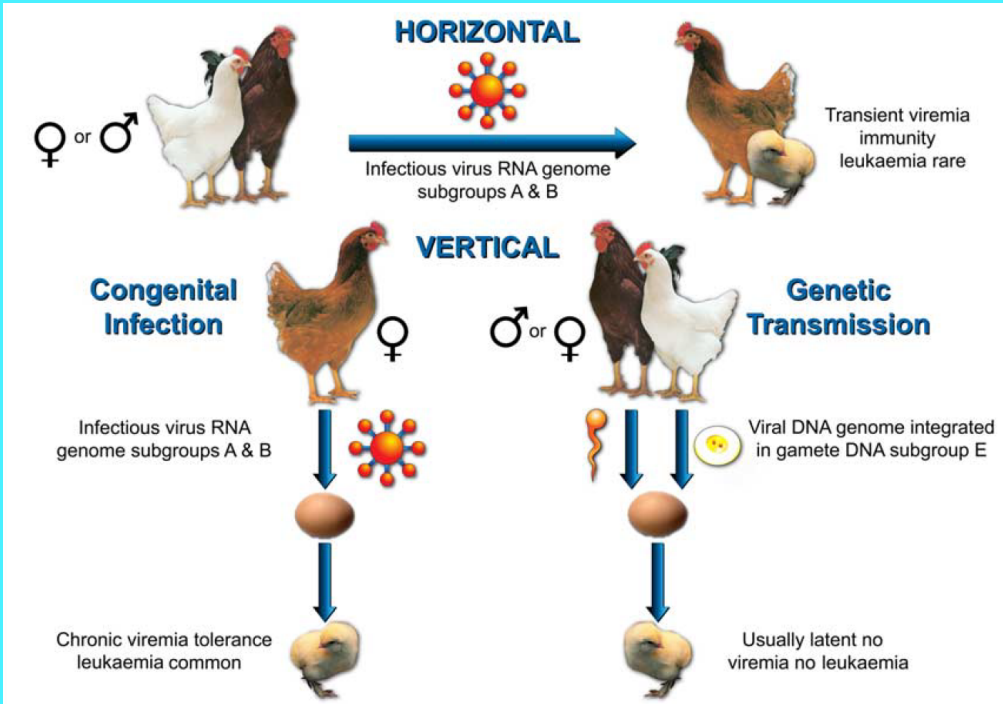
ALC: 20 July 2022*

Avian Leucosis Complex (ALC)/ Lymphoid leukosis is a neoplastic disease of poultry caused by the avian leukosis virus. The disease is characterized by B-cell lymphoma, occurring in chickens approximately 16 weeks of age and older.

Lymphoid leukosis is caused by certain members of the leukosis/sarcoma group of avian retroviruses. Isolates that can induce lymphoid leukosis in chickens are commonly called avian leukosis viruses and are divided into subgroups A, B, C, D, and J, based on differences in their viral envelope glycoproteins, which determine antigenicity, viral interference patterns with members of the same and different subgroups, and host range. Recombination between two different subgroups of avian leukosis virus can occur in field conditions and cause economic losses.

Figure 2: Modes of transmission of avian leucosis virus

(Payne, L.N., Nair, V., 2012. The long view: 40 years of avian leukosis research. Avian Pathology 41, 11–19.. doi:10.1080/03079457.2011.646237)



Clinical signs include inappetence, weakness, diarrhoea, dehydration, and emaciation. Infected chickens become depressed before death. Palpation often reveals an enlarged bursa and sometimes an enlarged liver. Infected birds may not necessarily develop tumours, but they may lay fewer eggs.

An outbreak of ALC was reported from a poultry farm in Tsirang Toed gewog, Tsirang dzongkhag. As per the outbreak investigation report, the index case was recorded on 16 July 2022. The outbreak has affected 120 pullets on the farm and 112 died. After ruling out common poultry disease outbreaks, such as IBD and ND, via rapid testing in the field, the carcass samples were referred to the National Veterinary Laboratory, NCAH, where it was confirmed to have been caused by avian leucosis virus.

Common poultry disease outbreak control measures such as isolation of sick birds, carcass disposal, disinfection of premises (infected and suspected), minerals and vitamins supplementation, farm biosecurity upscale, etc. have been implemented by the Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Tsirang.

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



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