



Tern Vets Ltd

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PUTTING CARE INTO PRACTICE

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TREAT EARLY FOR FLIES!

Flies are irritating to humans and animals, they transfer disease and cause stress and sometimes reduce dietary intakes which impacts on production. Many farmers start to think about fly control in late June or July, but the best time to start tackling the problem is now, in April or May, since this is when the flies first start to breed. Getting on top of things before the summer population explosion makes life a lot easier by the time August and September come round! The annoying adult flies we know so well are actually only a small part of the whole fly population, 80% of the population at any one time is in the form of eggs, larvae or pupae. If we can deal with these and stop the adults hatching in the first place, rather than waiting for adult flies to appear and then using our cattle as bait to kill the flies with our pour-ons, we'll be far more effective. A multi-pronged strategy gives best control:

1. **Adult fly control on the cow:** all pour on fly products are based on "synthetic pyrethroids" and are active for 4-8 weeks - these products both repel and kill flies but it is important to start early with treatment. The best time to start to apply them is generally late April or early May (depending on the weather), before significant numbers of adult flies are visible. Later on, when millions of eggs/larvae/pupae are already present, ready and waiting to hatch out, the sheer volume of flies makes them hard to control, so keeping the population as low as possible from the beginning can help a lot. To expect one or two doses of pour-on to keep the farm's fly population at bay all season is a lot to ask!
2. **Adult fly control in the environment:** there are various "knock down" products available as a granule/paint/spray which kill adult flies as well as contact tapes/sheets and traps (electric or homemade beer-in-a-bottle type!). Using a variety of these methods can keep the adult flies away from you and the cows.
3. **Reduce the breeding sites:** favourite breeding sites are slurry lagoons, muck heaps, damp areas and around woodlands. Flies prefer a thick crust on the lagoon so frequent stirring and emptying it as often as possible is vital in the summer months. Improving drainage, slurry management and ventilation can make a big difference in numbers of breeding flies.
4. **Larval control in the environment:** flies lay eggs wherever muck accumulates so killing off the larvae is an important control point. There are two ways - either using parasitic wasps or treating the muck with chemicals to stop the flies hatching.

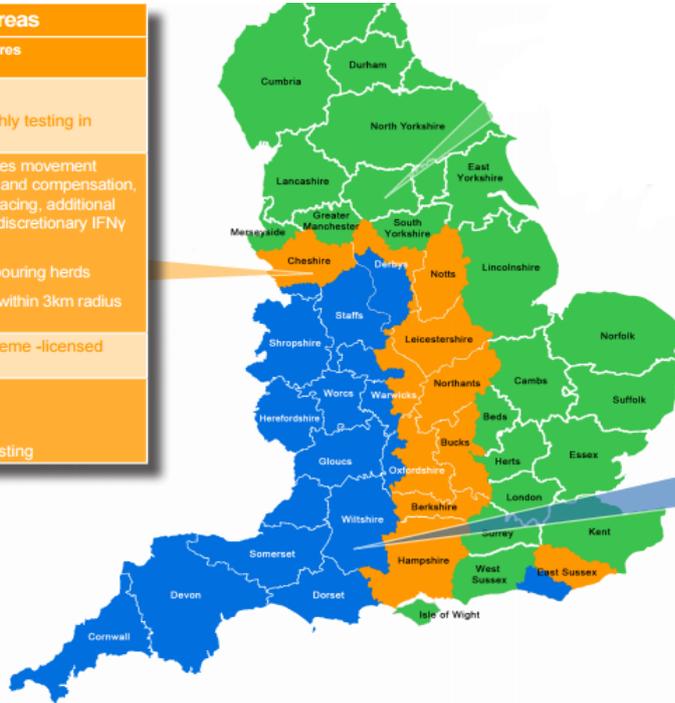
Microchipping

From April 2016 it is a legal requirement that all dogs in the UK over 8 weeks old are microchipped. It is a simple procedure that can easily be done on farm, just let us know so we can bring the paperwork, microchip and scanner!

TB UPDATE

Most of you will know that from 6th April 2016 there have been a few policy changes made to TB legislation, as part of the wider goal to deliver TB-free status to over half of England by 2019 and a longer term goal of England being TB-free by 2038. England has been divided into regions of high risk, low risk and an edge area between. The practice area is well within the high risk area shown blue on the map below.

Edge of High Risk Areas	
Type of Measure	Current Measures
1	Slaughterhouse surveillance Annual herd testing (Six-monthly testing in Cheshire)
2	Resolving infected herds includes movement restrictions, isolation, slaughter and compensation, epidemiological investigation, tracing, additional skin testing, and mandatory or discretionary IFN γ blood testing Additional skin testing in neighbouring herds Additional skin testing in herds within 3km radius (Derbyshire)
3	Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme -licensed injectable badger vaccination
4	Biosecurity measures Risk-based trading Compulsory pre-movement testing



High Risk Areas	
Type of Measure	Current Measures
1	Slaughterhouse surveillance Annual herd testing
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3	Licensed badger culling Licensed injectable badger vaccination
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- 1 Surveillance
- 2 Breakdown management
- 3 Reduce risk of TB from Badgers
- 4 Other disease prevention

The policy changes that affect our area are outlined below.

1. TB breakdowns in high risk areas:

- All herds in the high risk area affected by a new TB breakdown will need two clear TB tests read on severe interpretation before movement restrictions are lifted (regardless of post-mortem results or cultures). This is intended to increase the chances of picking up all infected animals in the herd, at an earlier stage of infection.
- For farms who aren't under TB restrictions: if we find a reactor at your TB test we will then need to reinterpret the whole TB test under severe interpretation when we write the test up - any cattle reinterpreted as reactors will then be slaughtered and eligible for compensation.

2. TB Blood testing:

AHPA will now authorise vets to offer farmers private Interferon Gamma blood testing to provide additional TB testing options. The TB blood test detects if the white blood cells in the cow have come across bovine TB. Like the skin test, it compares the response of the cells to both avian and bovine TB, and if the reaction to the bovine TB is stronger than to the avian the animal is deemed as a reactor and would need slaughtering and be eligible for compensation. The blood test picks up TB infections earlier but can throw up more false positives than the skin test. It may be a useful way of rapid retest for inconclusive skin test animals on a 60 day testing herd but can't be used for reactor animals awaiting slaughter or cattle under 6 months of age. The blood test costs around £20 per animal.

