

Advisory note for veterinarians prescribing BTV-3 inactivated vaccine in England

Dear Colleague

I am writing to request your assistance in ensuring that the use of the unauthorised, permitted, BTV-3 vaccines is well monitored, the data from this should be of benefit to us all. My requests are outlined in this letter. I know that you will already be doing this, but to reinforce its importance, please carefully record all vaccine prescribed and inform all relevant authorities of any adverse effects.

I am keen that we work together to provide the best possible advice and support to animal keepers in relation to the unauthorised, permitted vaccines. In addition to MRCVS requirements and usual legal obligations, I therefore ask for your specific cooperation with the following:

1. The vaccine should be prescribed, in writing or digitally, by the private veterinary surgeon (PVS) normally responsible for the care of the animals intended to receive it.
2. The PVS should keep, and retain for at least 5 years, a written or digital record (which should be provided to an inspector if required) of:
 - a. The number of doses ordered from the wholesaler.
 - b. The number of doses supplied to animal keepers.
3. The prescribing PVS should notify Defra (exotic.disease.policy@defra.gov.uk) within 7 days of prescribing the vaccine, of the below information:
 - a. The CPH where the animals are located at the time of prescribing.
 - b. The vaccine product name and batch number.
 - c. The species and number of animals the prescription is intended for.
 - d. Any special instructions contained within the prescription.
4. Any adverse side effects associated with the vaccine, including suspected lack of efficacy, should be reported within 7 calendar days to the relevant pharmaceutical company (as detailed on the package leaflet) or the Veterinary Medicines Directorate.

Animal keepers may administer the vaccines themselves as per the manufacturer and veterinary instructions, and in keeping with the relevant veterinary medicines regulations.

Signed

Christine Middlemiss

UK Chief Veterinary Officer