TB Information Sheet: TB in Wild Deer

Suspicion of TB in Wild deer

TBhub
The home of UK TB information

Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) is a Notifiable Disease and must be reported.

If TB is suspected in a wild deer carcase the following *actions have to be taken:

- **Contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency on 03000 200301 and report your findings.**
- **Contain the gralloch / viscera in an impervious container (eg. a strong, sealed plastic bag).**

APHA will advise on the next steps. If disease is suspected an APHA inspector will be deployed to collect the required samples. APHA can also advise regards disposal of the remainder of the carcase and its contents. It is important that suspicious carcases are handled and disposed of safely and in line with the Animal By Products Regulations as they can pose a disease risk to other animals.

In the High Risk and Edge Areas of England, confirmation of disease can be valuable information used to guide herd management and biosecurity decisions by local cattle keepers. Confirmation of TB in wild animals can lead to TB testing changes for neighbouring cattle herds in the Low Risk Area of England only.

**Trained persons working as part of The Welsh Deer Forestry Commission Cull Project are to follow the specific project instructions.*

Health & Safety

Always when gralloching:

- Wear disposable gloves, appropriate disposable masks & eye protection.
- Wear cut resistant gloves.
- Have a First Aid kit available, and clean and dress any wounds appropriately.

Inspection process:

Visual – look for abnormalities in organs and lymph nodes.

Palpate – feel for abnormal lumps in organs and lymph nodes.

Do not incise – into a suspicious lesion, if this can be avoided.

Results of the inspection:

- Normal, or **Not Visibly Lesioned** (NVL) – lymph nodes are small often difficult to find – firm grey cut surface.
- Abnormal, or **Visibly Lesioned** (VL) – typical lesions may be found in whole, or part of a lymph node, or as a lump in an organ.
- Lymph node or lump – typically **enlarged**, anywhere from <2mm to >50mm in diameter.
- Lymph nodes, or organs – may contain **single or multiple** lesions.
- **Colour** of lesion contents – varies can be creamy, yellow, white.
- **Consistency** of lesion contents –varies can be caseous ('cheesy'), calcified (gritty/ boney), purulent (pus), granulomatous (nodular).

Carcase Inspection Points

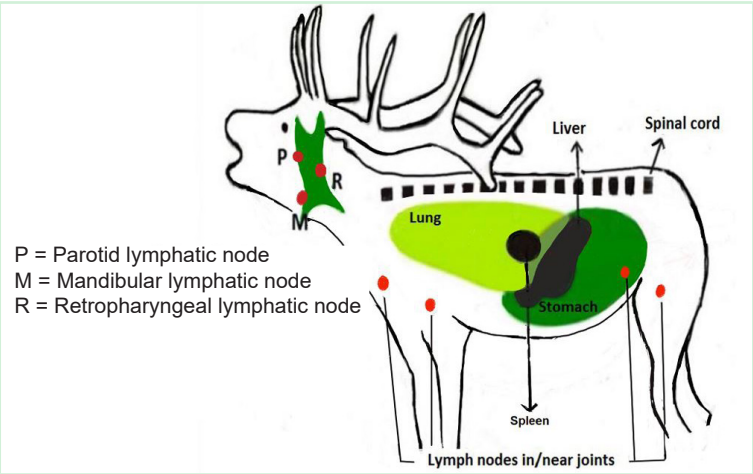
Body Systems to inspect for TB:

Abdomen – check liver, spleen, kidneys, mesenteric and portal (liver) lymph nodes.

Chest – check lungs, bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes.

Head – check submaxillary and medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes.

Other systems – TB lesions may be found in the pre-scapular (in front of shoulder) or supra-mammary (udder lymph nodes).



FACT: WORKERS IN BOVINE ABATTOIRS / KNACKER YARDS HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH BOVINE TB. **Always take appropriate Health & Safety precautions.**

Head Lymph Nodes

The medial retropharyngeal lymph nodes (x 2) are located deep in the throat behind the pharynx above the opening to the brain and spinal cord. Fig.3 below is turned round with mouth opening towards the camera. Fig.4 shows inside a TB affected lymph node.

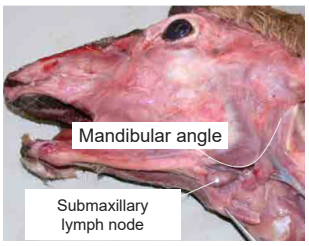


Fig. 1

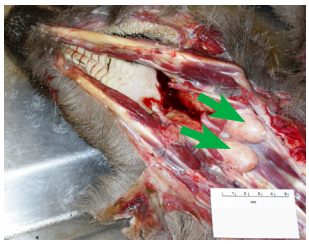


Fig.2

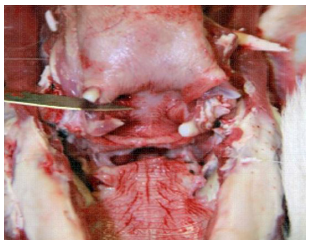


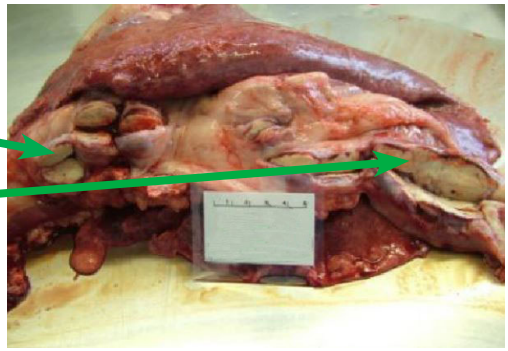
Fig.3

Fig.4

Chest Lymph Nodes

Bronchial lymph nodes - on either side of windpipe close to the top of the lungs.

Mediastinal lymph nodes - on top side of lungs close to the main blood vessels running between the lungs.



Abdominal Lymph Nodes

Mesenteric lymph nodes - frill out the intestines on top of the rumen with the “cumberland sausage” side facing down. Long chain of lymph nodes (Fig.5).

Portal lymph node - at the centre of rearward facing side of the liver (Fig.6).

Fig. 5

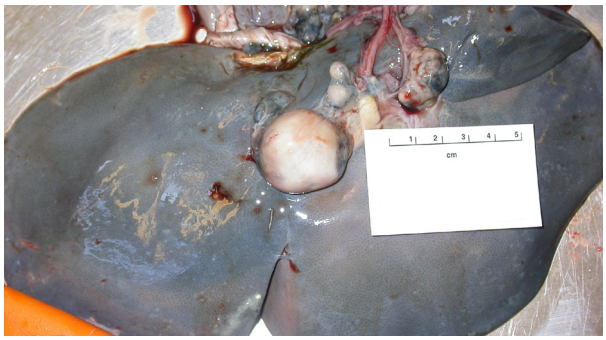


Fig.6

FACT: The most common signs of TB are abnormal retropharyngeal or mediastinal lymph nodes (enlarged, deformed or rupturing) containing thick creamy yellow/green pus. Initial infection in lymph nodes of the head and lungs may spread to liver, spleen, diaphragm and under the skin – leading to abscesses, lesions or nodules. This will cause animals to lose condition, ultimately leading to emaciation.

Where can I find out more information ?

More information on bovine TB, including biosecurity measures and other topics can be found at http://www.tbhub.co.uk/

TBhub The home of UK TB information

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs

Animal & Plant Health Agency