



Foot and Mouth Disease – Bulletin 3

15 August 2007

Dear Member

Please find below some further, useful information issued on 14 August 2007 by the Joint British Llama Society/British Alpaca Society Health & Welfare Group to all camelid owners.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE OUTBREAK AUGUST 2007

Biosecurity

All livestock farmers are being urged to ensure enhanced biosecurity is maintained on their premises and to minimise visitors to farm premises. Advice on biosecurity is available on the DEFRA website (www.defra.gov.uk/footandmouth/) and copies of leaflets can be provided on request by your local Trading Standards.

Good Tip: if you live near a carpet store, ask for any remnants of carpet and put these at all entrances/exits to your premises. Spray the carpet with disinfectant. This saves picking up soggy straw after wind and rain. Don't forget to re-spray daily.

Signs to look out for in your animals: (written by Bob Broadbent, Chairman of British Camelid Veterinary Society)

"I think that it is probably safest to tell members that camelids are very resistant to the FMD virus and that they are unlikely to see any clinical signs. If you start to describe foot or mouth lesions or symptoms such as lameness or dribbling then you will be inundated with calls of panic. The chances of any of our animals actually contracting the disease and then showing signs I would suggest is as close to zero as one might get. The problems really are with animals caught on holdings adjacent to confirmed outbreaks.

Keep up the good hygiene and biosecurity and use your principles of separate epidemiological units."

At the above DEFRA web site there is also an 8-page document of what to look for in your animals. This only shows pictures of cattle, sheep and pigs but camelids will show the same, albeit probably to a lesser degree.

The main thing is to be vigilant and check your animals at least twice daily.

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