

TB in pets and livestock other than cattle

Does TB only affect cattle?

Bovine TB mainly affects cattle, but it can also infect and cause disease in deer, goats, pigs, and camelids (llamas and alpacas), as well as pets, such as cats and dogs.

There is no legally required national surveillance programme, except for cattle. This can result in undisclosed infections for prolonged periods.





Pets on Farm

Only a small number of TB infections in pets, are recorded, mostly cats and rarely dogs.

TB can be transmitted to pets via raw milk or raw pet food. Infection in cats is often associated with a non-healing skin abscess. If coughing, wheezing, weight loss or lumps are observed, consult your vet.

TB can be transmitted to humans; care should be taken when handling animals suspected of being infected with TB.

Other Livestock

Where there is livestock other than cattle on farm, it is important to consider:

- Separate housing, grazing, equipment and management from cattle.
- Privately organise an annual test of non-bovine livestock on farm. This can be done through your vet and is subject to DAERA permission.
- Promptly isolate and report any livestock that shows clinical signs consistent with TB, such as weight loss, coughing, enlarged lymph nodes or mastitis.



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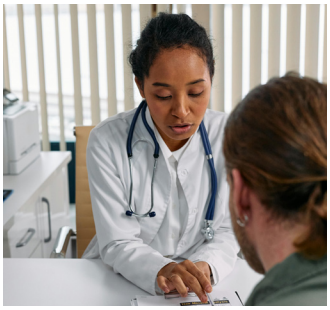
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Am I or my family at risk?





Route of Transmission

TB is a zoonotic disease meaning that it can infect humans as well as animals.

1% of human cases of TB are caused by bovine TB.
Infection can be spread through:

- Drinking unpasteurised milk or dairy products from infected animals.
- Inhaling bacteria breathed out by infected animals.
- Inhaling bacteria released from the carcass of an infected animal or their excretions.

Those with close contact to farm animals or farm pets, such as farmers, slaughterhouse staff and vets, are at increased risk of infection.

Symptoms

In people, symptoms of TB include:

- Weight loss
- Fever
- Night sweats
- Persistent cough

Consult a doctor if you are experiencing any of these symptoms.
TB in humans can be treated using a combination of drugs over a long period.

TB in Pets

Only a small number of Bovine TB infections in pets, mostly cats, are recorded and Bovine TB infection is rarely recorded in dogs. Of the 8 million cats living in the UK, less than 30 each year are confirmed as infected with Bovine TB. Veterinary treatment of infected pets is strongly discouraged due to the infectious nature of the disease to both humans and animals- in any case, treatment is not permitted unless under licence from DAERA.

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