

Introduction of quality assurance programme for tuberculin testing by Official Veterinarians

An enhanced field audit programme of bovine tuberculosis skin testing conducted by Official Veterinarians (OVs) has been introduced by AHVLA. This builds on experience gained during a successful pilot in Wales last year.







OV practices will be invited to work with local AHVLA vets to ensure that the standard operating procedures, which were updated during 2012 in consultation with the BVA, BCVA and RCVS (available at: http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/index.htm), are understood and consistently applied.

Field audits will spot-check the testing performance of individual OVs using a risk-based approach over a period of seven years. This will inform the development of a comprehensive audit programme that will be designed to assess all OVs over a designated period. Practice liaison visits will supplement the field audits where appropriate.

Individual OVs may be selected for audit on the basis of intelligence and/or data that raises concerns about their TB testing performance. Attention will primarily be directed towards OV practices or individuals who deliver a high volume of testing and/or where testing outcomes differ from the regional norm.

Initially this will only apply to practices in England, although it is expected the Scottish Government will shortly agree to a similar approach in Scotland. The Welsh Government is currently considering its approach.

AHVLA procedures for this audit work are published at: http://ahvla.defra.gov.uk/External_OV_Instructions/TB-testing-audit/index.htm

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Page published: 4 June 2013

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