



## **Disease Outbreak Response**

This policy is to manage an animal disease outbreak, prevent further spreading and to protect public health. We also want to minimise the economic and social impact.

To Note: CC Therapy Farm has an isolation area available. We also have an agreement with Stanley House Vets – they have an isolation unit available for us to use if need be.

### **PREVENTION AND SURVEILLANCE**

- **BIOSECURITY MEASURES**  
Strict protocols to prevention should be in place. Movement of animals should be under control, an isolation unit to be always ready. Access should be restricted on and off the farm or smallholding. Vehicles, equipment, clothes should be disinfected, PPE to be worn and binned under strict control.
- **SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS**  
Signs of disease should be monitored regularly as part of routine. Regular reporting, testing, veterinarian checks. Wildlife monitoring may be needed too.
- **EARLY DETECTION**  
Encourage early reporting of suspected cases, clear guidelines for Vets.

### **NOTIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION**

- **IMMEDIATE REPORTING**  
Any suspected cases should be immediately reported. Immediate communication with VETS, inform DEFRA/local authority. Immediate testing to be done.
- **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION**  
Ensure timely and clear communication with public, farmers and any similar industry. Guidance is to be communicated on all risks, symptoms and preventative measures.

### **CONTAINMENT MEASURES**

- **QUARANTINE**  
Have available quarantine zones (because our small holding area is small) we have a dedicated space away from other animals. We also have an agreement with the Vet to use there isolation pens. Prevent movement of the infected. Keep equipment and anything that is used in its own area (disinfected and clean). Clear protocols are in place for culling or isolation of the infected animals.
- **MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS**

Enforce the strict controls on the movement of animals products and people within into and out of affected zones.

- **ZONING**

Distinct zoning to be in place with signage. Restrictions to be out in place to limit spread of disease.

## **RESPONSE AND CONTROL**

- **CULLING OF INFECTED ANIMALS**

In severe cases culling may be needed or required depending on law or vets' advice.

- **VACCINATION PROGRAMS**

Always follow the advice from DEFRA and vaccinate when and where appropriate. Follow the advice from your vet too and make sure the regular vaccinations are all up to date.

- **DISINFECTION**

All contaminated areas should be thoroughly disinfected these to also include facilities, vehicles and equipment to try and eliminate the disease.

## **COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION**

- **ALL PARTIES NEED TO COLLABORATE**

Ensure all parties working with your farm or small holding are aware of the situation. These are to include DEFRA, VET and any international organisation if advised to do so.

- **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

It is highly unlikely this to happen but you may need to work closely with other organisations / border control to ensure spread is kept to a minimum.

## **RECOVERY**

- **FARMER SUPPORT AND RECOVERY**

Disease can have devastating effects, a farmer support system can be put in place, along with a temporary plan to face recovery for the loss.

Put a plan in place to get up and running again, re-establish disease free status.

- **REHAB and SELECTING ANIMALS**

Plan for safe introduction to the farm or smallholding once the outbreak is under control.

## **EVALUATION AND IMPROVEMENTS**

- **POST OUTBREAK REVIEW**

A full evaluation to be conducted to a) understand the outbreak b) understand the response time c) identify lessons learned d) improve future prevention and preparation.

- **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Research and support any ongoing research/evidence on disease and control. Learn about response strategies and how to improve prevention. Ensure vaccination programs are carried through and stay up to date on new information.

## **LEGALITIES**

- **ANIMAL HEALTH LAWS / PENALTIES**

Be aware of any changes from DEFRA. Ensure the new rules that came into force: 1st February 2022 are followed. Keeping or training animals for exhibition licensing: statutory guidance for local authorities. Refer to the 30-page document in the file. If rules are not followed fines and or licence will be revoked.

**TO NOTE: POLICY IS RENEWED ANNUALLY**

**DATE: 3<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2025**

**NEXT RENEWAL DUE: MAY 2026**

**NAME:**

**SIGNATURE:**