



APHA Briefing Note 31/19

The pilot introduction of the on farm killing option via chemical euthanasia for certain bovine animals in Wales

Purpose

1. To inform Official Veterinarians (OVs) of the introduction of the option available to kill, using chemical euthanasia, a certain category of bovine animals removed as part of TB controls in Wales. This option can be requested from 6th January 2020.

Background

2. It has been acknowledged that the current methods used for the on farm killing of in-calf bovine animals, as part of TB controls, has been challenged historically by certain customers. Whilst the current methods deployed are consistent with welfare standards and legislation Welsh Government have agreed to undertake a pilot of chemical euthanasia through the Veterinary Delivery Partner (VDP) contract.
3. Currently the eligible bovine animals are those that are within the last 28 days of their gestation period or those that have calved in the preceding 7 days. No other category of bovine animal currently killed on farm is eligible for this pilot e.g. those in their medicine withdrawal period. However, for those animals not eligible, the option remains for them to be killed on farm, using chemical euthanasia, as a private arrangement between the animal owner and private veterinary surgeon.

Notification

4. For more details on the process and notifications, both to APHA and to the VDP, please refer to the [Standard Operating Procedure](#) produced and process flow.
5. It is important that notification of suitable animals is made as early as possible and that any changes, once on farm arrangements have been made, are reported promptly to APHA. The removal of bovine animals within 10 working days is a key part of TB control in Wales and early notifications are essential to support this.

Safety

6. OVs will be responsible for their own health and safety requirements whilst conducting this work, this includes the safe handling, administration and storage of controlled drugs.

Thank you for your support with this pilot.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the work please contact your VDP in the first instance.

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