

British Deer Veterinary Association

Newsletter September 2024 – BTV vaccines

On September 13th 2024 Defra held a series of online meetings with veterinary stakeholders and three vaccine manufacturers about Bluetongue virus (BTV) vaccines.

A tabulated summary of the vaccines and other information is available on the RHWG website - <https://ruminanthw.org.uk/bluetongue-virus-information-for-vets/>

Specific Product Certificates (SPCs) are available as follows.

- 1 BLUEVAC-3 suspension for injection for cattle and sheep
[Vqrtemplateclean_en \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2 BULTAVO 3 suspension for injection for sheep and cattle
[BTVPUR \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- 3 Syvazul BTV 3 suspension for injection for sheep and cattle
[Syvazul BTV-VRA-0009 - product information \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

BTV in deer

- In European deer species, including those kept in British deer farms, parks and zoological collections, there are published studies of seroconversion to BTV. In general clinical disease has not been reported; deer may potentially provide a virus reservoir for further infection.
- There is limited evidence, to date, of seroconversion of reindeer to BTV and no reports of signs of disease in reindeer.
- For more information about BTV in deer see the following file on the BDVA website.
Barlow AM. Bluetongue in deer. Presentation to the Veterinary Deer Society 2008. Available at <https://bdva.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Alex-Barlow-VLA-Bluetongue-in-deer-VDS-2008.pdf>
- The table includes the use of vaccines in other domestic species which includes deer species. Please note that “it is advisable to test the vaccine on a small number of animals prior to mass vaccination. The level of efficacy for other species may differ from that observed in cattle and sheep.”
- Vaccine availability and administration may overlap with the onset of the vector free period.
- The meetings included questions about vaccine use in deer – as expected no specific information was offered.
- Maternally derived antibodies may influence the timing for vaccinating young stock, withstanding the minimum ages given in the SPCs. Previous exposure to BTV3 through natural infection may need to be considered (although unlikely).

I am grateful to BDVA colleagues who attended the vaccine meetings.

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