



A Web Site For Veterinary Surveillance in the UK

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The new Veterinary Surveillance website was launched by the UK's Chief Veterinary Officer on 10th December 2004, bringing together, for the first time in one place, animal population and disease surveillance information covering England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It has been designed and written to be widely accessible, both to the animal owner looking for general information and to the vet or researcher looking for detailed surveillance information on specific conditions. The site will be continually updated as new and relevant information emerges, whether it be research outcomes, best practice, new legislation or information on new diseases. It reflects our ongoing commitment to better communications, better disease surveillance and an improved understanding of animal health and welfare issues. The website is the latest development in the 10-year Veterinary Surveillance Strategy that was launched in October 2003 as part of the overall Animal Health and Welfare Strategy.

What Information is on the new veterinary surveillance website?

What is Veterinary Surveillance?

What do we mean by veterinary surveillance?

Veterinary surveillance is the term used to describe everything we do to collect information about diseases affecting animals. Not just from animals, but also from people and the environment. We are not only interested in disease caused by organisms such as bacteria and viruses, we also need information on animal welfare problems and zoonoses.

Veterinary surveillance - why do we do it?

We need to monitor diseases in animals so that we can detect important or unusual conditions as quickly as possible. This is to make sure we can take any action that may be needed. We may have to take steps to protect human health. An example would be a zoonotic disease or zoonosis. A food poisoning outbreak, in a food that might get into the UK. It is important to detect diseases such as BSE and Foot and Mouth Disease as early as possible so that the spreading and control measures can be put in place as soon as possible. An unusual disease may turn out to be a new one which has never been seen before. In this case we need to carry out urgent research into the condition to find out how it is spread and how to control it.

Veterinary surveillance - who does it?

The animal owner is likely to be the first to notice something wrong, so the first link in the chain. Farmers and others who raise animals are also likely to notice problems in wildlife or grazing farm animals. Volunteer groups such as bird-watchers may report observations they have on wildlife. Veterinarians (vets) report diseases they see on farms, at markets, at agricultural shows or at slaughterhouses for signs of disease. These vets know a lot about diseases in their area and can use this knowledge to advise their clients and help us with our work.

Veterinary surveillance - Diseases

Why reporting is important

Reporting diseases to the UK is important because it helps us to understand what is happening in the UK. It also helps us to understand what is happening in other countries. This information is used to help us to control animal diseases in the UK and to help us to understand what is happening in other countries.

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Veterinary surveillance - Zoonoses

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Nine individual pages dedicated to animal species or groups in the UK

Veterinary surveillance - Pigs

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Veterinary surveillance - Poultry

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Overview of animal disease surveillance in the UK

Welcome to Veterinary Surveillance in the UK

Veterinary surveillance is the term used to describe everything we do to collect information about diseases affecting animals and to make sure that the information gets to those who need it. The 10-year UK Veterinary Surveillance Strategy was launched in October 2003. It has been developed by DEFRA, the Scottish Executive and the Welsh Assembly together with the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland working in partnership.

Want to find out more about an animal disease or condition?

We provide information about diseases that affect animals. Access our [A-Z index of diseases](#). Some diseases must be reported to us. [More information](#).

Want to know more about our animals in the UK?

Information and maps about the number and distribution of farmed animals in the UK is available through the links below. We also have information about domestic animals and wildlife.

- Cattle
- Horses
- Pigs
- Sheep
- Wildlife

Want to find out more about how we look for animal diseases in the UK?

We collect and publish information about animal diseases. This information is available as [surveillance reports](#) or [source data](#) through the links below.

- What is Veterinary Surveillance?
- Surveillance reports and source data
- Access RADAR - Veterinary surveillance information system.

Want to know more about animal diseases overseas?

Find out about the occurrence of animal disease outbreaks around the world and how we monitor estimate the likelihood of disease entering the UK.

- Outbreaks of major animal diseases around the world
- How we monitor disease outbreaks around the world
- Qualitative Risk Assessments

How will the UK Veterinary Surveillance Strategy make a difference?

Read our Strategy and about how we are implementing it. [Contact us](#) for more information.

- Veterinary Surveillance Strategy
- Progress implementing the surveillance strategy

RADAR Data Catalogue

Search for data by disease, region, and date. The catalogue provides a comprehensive overview of the data available in the RADAR system.

What are our profiles?

A profile is a set of information about an animal disease or condition. It contains on how we in the UK look for and control it. We put together information that is not available in one place anywhere else. This allows us to compare the dangers from different diseases.

The main purpose of profiles is to provide the information for the Government. This information helps it to make decisions about how to deal with different animal diseases or conditions. As the profiles are on the internet, everyone can use the basis on which decisions are made and can comment on it if they wish. Profiles will also be useful to anyone who works with animals and animal health is important. The main users of profiles are likely to be government policy makers, vets, animal owners, diagnostic laboratories, and any commercial industries with an interest in animal health and welfare.

Profiles are different from a textbook or encyclopedia as the information is kept electronically in a database. This means that it is easy to select and read only the information you want. So you can make your own report that has particular bits of information about one disease, or the same information about several diseases (or conditions). The information in profiles is checked by experts to make sure it is correct, and is kept up-to-date.

Profiles are written in more technical language than other disease descriptions on this website. Visit the [A-Z index of diseases](#) if you want a short, simple description.

What types of profile are there?

We have two types of profile, and a range of standard reports that can be obtained from the database.

Detailed profiles contain relevant, available information about a particular disease or condition in a 'one-stop-shop'. **Standard reports** present certain information selected from one or more profiles. For example the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy will use some of the information held in the profiles database to enable rapid comparison by policy makers between different diseases and conditions. It will do this by getting a one-page summary of key facts about the disease from the profiles database. These are called **Summary Profiles**. Although the profiles database is still being built, we have created some examples of these. They can be seen in the [A-Z index of diseases](#), and we listed in the 'What profiles are available?' section below.

What sort of information do detailed profiles contain?

Profiles give detailed, fairly technical information about each disease or condition. The information is held in sections which describe the disease or condition (what it looks like, what sort of animals it affects, which countries have it, how it can be diagnosed etc), whether and how it can affect people, what UK laws there are about it, how to look after it and control it, and what reports there are about it. This example of a detailed Profile shows the full details of the type of information held.

- [Rabies disease profile](#) (PDF)

How can I use profiles?

You can find out all about a particular disease or condition by looking at the detailed profile. If you want to know about a particular feature of several diseases you can look at one of the standard reports that will be available. If these don't meet your needs, you can ask the database to produce a report that includes information that you have chosen. For example a standard report might list all the diseases of cattle that can affect people, and give some information on where the diseases happen, and how many animals are affected.

Once the database has been built we will be adding more profiles to it as they are written. We will also be making more standard reports, which the database can produce with a single click.

Draft summary profiles are currently available for:

- Avian Influenza
- Bovine Brucellosis
- Bovine TB
- Campylobacter
- E. coli O157
- Enzootic Bovine Leucosis
- FMD
- Johne's Disease
- PMWS
- Rabies
- Salmonella

Veterinary surveillance: The RADAR Project

What will the RADAR system do?

The RADAR system will bring together key surveillance information collected in other systems about animal diseases and conditions in a coordinated and consistent way. RADAR will also contain current, accurate information about the number and location of animals. This will allow a better understanding of animal diseases in the UK and the ways people have these diseases. This information will help us control animal diseases in the UK.

Where does RADAR get its information from?

The information in RADAR will come from a number of different collection activities and systems across the UK. Examples of the types of data include:

- Agricultural holdings, land and livestock data from UK government databases,
- Animal health data from private veterinary practices and owners,
- Commercial animal data, including that collected by the RPI's meat schemes, and horse passport registrations,
- Diagnostic data from veterinary laboratories,
- Information on the number of fairs and shows (compared to destination), and
- Historological information from the IFA UK.

When will all this information be available on RADAR?

RADAR is being developed and tested in phases between now and 2013. The first phase, which is due to go live shortly, will make information available on the UK cattle population and tests of BSE.

Phase 2 begins in 2008 and will be approximately one year. We are currently considering what UK surveillance data should be made available in Phase 2. The range of priorities include population data about livestock (cattle, pigs, poultry), livestock movement information (cattle and sheep), information from statutory surveillance programmes (Bovine TB and BVD) and information about the occurrence of some diseases (BSE, Scrapie, TB). Once we have tested the scope of Phase 2, we will publish an Action Plan on this page.

Phase 3 profiles, will continue to expand the surveillance data available on RADAR. Our [update page](#), once it is developed and put in place, will eventually describe what information should be held on RADAR.

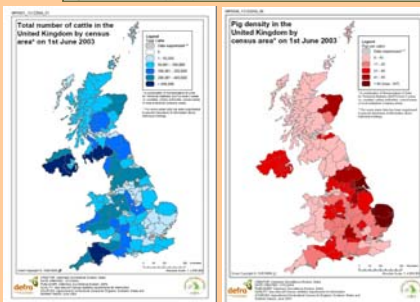
What benefits will RADAR bring to veterinary surveillance?

Many of the different computer systems, which currently hold surveillance data, are often not able to share this data with each other. RADAR will take data from existing systems, connect it and make it easier to use than it can be used at present. This will allow more people to use the data. This will allow more people to use the data. This will allow more people to use the data.

It will also be able to identify changes in disease distribution over time by being part of an early warning system. All this will improve our ability to prevent and control disease. By collecting data from different systems across the UK, it will allow disease data sets a range of disease risk factors to be compared directly against the population of animals. RADAR will be linked to existing surveillance systems, so that each disease data set and how they are operating. RADAR is the technical solution for delivering the UK Veterinary Surveillance Strategy, which is part of the [Animal Health and Welfare Strategy](#).

Further information

- Website



At present, RADAR contains cattle population and Salmonella data. Additional data will be added to RADAR every few months, to build up a wide range of animal population and disease data.

Detailed and standardised disease profiles and a comprehensive A-Z index of animal diseases and zoonoses

Animal population and disease information reports from RADAR

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/vetsurveillance/index.htm>

