



Newsletter Winter 2022

Updates:



Postal strikes: Currently postal strikes are planned on 11th, 14th, 15th, 23rd and 24th December. Please see <https://www.royalmail.com/latest-news> for the latest information before sending Salmonella samples to the lab.

Christmas opening hours: The office will be closed from Christmas Eve until 3rd January. The on call vet will be available throughout this period, please phone the practice number: 01845 578710.

Sandhill is 25 years old! We look forward to the next 25 years of developing the practice further whilst still maintaining our longstanding values.

Avian Influenza:

Biosecurity risks

As the threat of Avian Influenza continues, we have created a summary of some of the main biosecurity risks to consider. We would strongly encourage all clients to complete the previously emailed Biosecurity Audit, please do phone or email if you would like any assistance with this.

- Inorganic matter, sunlight and rainwater all inactivate disinfectant in foot dips and so they must be covered and refreshed frequently.
- Disinfectant can't penetrate into muck so boots must be cleaned prior to being dipped.
- Boots must always be changed before entering the bird area, using a foot dip is not enough as even a small amount of dirt on boots could be harbouring AI virus.
- Only ever use a DEFRA approved disinfectant and at the correct concentration (Diseases of Poultry Order – see <http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/>).
- Always use a detergent to remove dirt and grease prior to disinfecting sheds.





- Wheel sprays are unlikely to be effective in the presence of organic matter and so pressure washing first is advised.
- Don't forget your hands – ideally wear disposable gloves when in with the birds or alternatively wash your hands before entering the bird area.
- Ensure there are no entry points for wild birds into poultry houses – fans and air inlets must have wire mesh over them with an aperture of <2.5cm.
- Dead bird collection – the fallen stock lorry should not come past the farm gate.
- Bedding material – store under cover, disinfect the outer wrapping before taking shaving bales into the shed.
- Keep up to date with shed maintenance – leaking roofs and guttering in particular.
- Remove rubbish and keep vegetation down around sheds to discourage wild birds and rodents.
- Maintain up to date records – mortality, feed & water consumption. Visitors to the site.

Licencing requirements

If you are in a Surveillance (10km) or Protection (3km) zone then the following will apply:

General licences – please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/bird-flu-avian-influenza-movement-licences>. These can be downloaded as necessary and are required to:

- Send Salmonella samples to the lab
- Move manure
- Move dead birds
- Move table eggs
- Move mammals on or off a poultry site

Specific licences – these cover all other movements and activities in a zone and must be applied for through the online portal well ahead of the proposed move, see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-exemption-from-avian-influenza-disease-control-restrictions>. Examples of when this is required are:

- Moving chicks or pullets onto site
 - A Biosecurity form (EDO338) must be completed by ourselves prior to the move.
- Moving end of lay hens or broilers to the slaughterhouse
 - We will need to inspect the birds and ensure they are not showing any signs of Avian Influenza within 24 hours of the move.

Please contact the practice if you have any questions regarding licencing.





Chemicals for the poultry industry

We now offer a full range of detergents, disinfectants and chemicals at competitive prices.

New and popular products:

- **Aquatabs InLine** water purification system developed to sanitise human drinking water. A simple yet effective self-dosing chlorine based cartridge system that continuously disinfects water at source, no power, stock solutions or calculations required. One cartridge treats 360,000L.
- **Fumagri HA** to fumigate feed bins and sheds, no wet vapour. Effective against bacteria (including Salmonella), viruses and fungus. Fumigating bins between each flock/crop is advised.
- **Virex** (Virkon equivalent) – DEFRA approved disinfectant. Also available in a bucket of dissolvable sachets (1 sachet to 10 litres) so very convenient for foot dips.
- **Virophor** (Fam30 equivalent) A strong Iodine based DEFRA approved disinfectant.

Please speak to us for details of further products available.



We would like to wish all our clients a very happy Christmas and we look forward to working with you all in 2023!

