

Veterinary Ireland Press Releases

Press Statement

2 March, 2001

VETS URGE VIGILANCE

If in any doubt - err on the side of caution is the advice being offered to farmers by Veterinary Ireland, the representative organisation for the Irish veterinary profession.

This message should be conveyed widely to farmers according to the organisation's President, Paschal Gibbons. "Vets are available countrywide to provide advice and guidance on a 24-hour, 7 day basis and if a farmer has any concern whatsoever he should lose no time in calling in the vet", he said.

Referring to the wide and rapid spread of the disease in Britain he said that the clear lesson to be learnt was that intervention at the earliest possible stage was vital in efforts to control foot and mouth disease. "If farmers have any suspicion that their animals are developing worrying signs, then the vet is the expert and is ideally placed to assist farmers at this critical time" according to Mr. Gibbons.

It was important also to point out to farmers that they should not bring sick animals to the vet but rather that the vet should be called to the farm in order to minimise the risks of spreading infection.

Veterinary Ireland has also indicated its strong support for the Department of Agriculture's work in dealing with the foot and mouth situation. In addition, to the key role which private veterinary practitioners play directly at farm and meat factory levels, they have advised the Department that they "will also be supportive of initiatives which the Department may wish to take in keeping the current situation under control".

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