

VETERINARY IRELAND PRESS RELEASES

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FMD - VETS URGE VIGILANCE

Following the confirmation of an outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in Surrey, UK, yesterday, Veterinary Ireland, the representative organisation for the Irish Veterinary Profession, has called on vets and farmers to remain vigilant, to maintain the highest levels of bio-security, and to ensure strict adherence to any control measures implemented in response to the UK FMD outbreak.

“The clear lesson learnt from the 2001 FMD crisis was that intervention at the earliest possible stage was vital in efforts to control FMD”, according to Veterinary Ireland spokesman, Peadar O Scanail. Veterinary Ireland is advising that all farmers should err on the side of caution. “Vets are available countrywide to provide advice and guidance on a 24/7 basis, and if any farmers have any suspicions that their animals are displaying worrying signs, then they should lose no time in calling the vet”, he said. “The vet is the expert and is ideally placed to assist the farmer at this critical time”.

“It is also important that vets remain vigilant and employ the most rigorous bio-security regimes when moving about and between farms and when working in meat factories” he added. “Vets must be pro-active in giving advice to their clients, and we would remind vets to continue to advise farmers that it is important 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 any potential infection.”

Veterinary Ireland has also indicated its strong support for the Department of Agriculture’s work in dealing with the FMD situation in the UK. “Veterinary Ireland will be supportive of initiatives which the Department may wish to implement in keeping the situation under control and ensure that Ireland remains FMD free”, Mr O Scanail concluded.