

## INTRODUCTION

The Shetland Animal Health Scheme began in 1984 with the innovative Scrapie Control Programme. Since then more disease control programmes have been incorporated into the SAHS. The schemes are managed and partly funded by the Shetland Island Council. An Operational Group whose membership includes veterinary surgeons, local NFUS, SCF, SRUC and shipping company representatives meets quarterly to discuss developments with the schemes. All sheep, cattle and goats imported into Shetland are examined and tested by a vet on arrival at Lerwick pier and their details are then entered onto a data base. Follow up testing is carried out as necessary. This system of traceability has also enabled movement restrictions in Shetland to be lifted promptly in previous foot and mouth outbreaks affecting mainland UK. There is also an annual programme of herd and flock screening to confirm the disease free status of Shetland herds and flocks.

### Shetland Animal Health Scheme

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### Shetland Animal Health Scheme

## SHETLAND ANIMAL HEALTH SCHEME SUMMARY



The Shetland Animal Health Scheme tackles a wide range of animal health issues within Shetland. It is a scheme driven by the agricultural community and is funded by the Shetland Islands Council. This leaflet provides a brief outline of what the scheme delivers.

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## SHEEP

### ENZOOTIC ABORTION IN EWES (EAE)

All sheep imported into Shetland are blood sampled for EAE at the pier when they arrive in Shetland. They are then isolated on their destination farm until the blood test results have arrived. Due to the nature of EAE, female sheep may not show a positive EAE result until after they lamb. Therefore all female sheep imported are re-tested after they lamb in Shetland for the first time.

Any sheep, which test positive cannot remain in Shetland and a programme of testing will occur to ensure EAE has not spread within the new owner's flock.

Flock screening occurs within Shetland every summer. Each individual flock is screened at least every third year with a sample of ten ewes. Any barren and aborted ewes should be included in the screen. Abortions are also tested within the scheme. This screening allows Shetland flocks to maintain their EAE accredited status.

### MAEDI VISNA (MV)

All imported sheep and goats are tested for MV/CAE on import. They are then re-tested 6 months later. Screening samples taken for EAE are also tested for MV/CAE in order to maintain Shetlands MV/CAE monitored free status.

## CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS (CLA)

All sheep and goats are examined and tested for CLA when they arrive in Shetland and isolated on farm until results are received. Due to CLA's long incubation period not all positive animals will be identified by a single test so a follow up re-test is undertaken 6 months after import to help keep CLA out of Shetland. A private test 4-6 weeks after import is also recommended. Farmers should also monitor animals for any physical signs of CLA.

## SHEEP SCAB

Regulations require that sheep being transported to the Shetland Islands must be inspected and treated for sheep scab by a veterinary surgeon immediately on arrival in Shetland. The consignment of sheep should be kept separated from other sheep for 14 days after treatment for sheep scab. This unique approach to sheep scab control is keeping Shetland free from scab. The Legal requirement for importers of sheep relating to scab are covered in the SIC's Sheep Scab Regulation 2004.

## IMPORT TREATMENTS

As described in the Sheep Scab section all imported sheep are treated for scab by a vet when they arrive in Shetland. They are also given a quarantine worm drench. This is to reduce the chance of importing anthelmintic resistant worms to Shetland

## CATTLE

### BOVINE VIRAL DIARRHOEA (BVD)

BVD remains a large threat to any cattle herd in the UK. All cattle entering Shetland are tested on the pier for BVD and are then isolated on farm until their results are received. Depending upon their result a longer period of isolation and a re-test may be necessary. Importing pregnant cattle is not advised but if this happens then strict bio-security around calving is essential and an ear tag test may be needed to test the newborn calf.

All cattle herds are screened every year for BVD. Abortions and still births are also tested for BVD. This routine screening maintains Shetlands BVD accredited status.

### JOHNE'S DISEASE IN CATTLE

Adult cattle are tested annually and each herd also draws up a herd health plan with their vet to set out bio-security measures and management changes to control Johne's . All imported cattle are tested for Johne's on the Lerwick pier as soon as they arrive in Shetland and must be isolated on farm until their blood/faecal test results are received. The Johne's initiative being under taken puts Shetland, once again, at the forefront of animal disease control.

## TEBERCULOSIS

Shetland herds are TB free.