

ON THE HOOF



Veterinary Services - Bitesize local updates

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LUNGWORM UPDATE

The first lungworm diagnosis of 2021 was made on a faecal sample from an imported dairy heifer received on 9th July. This case illustrates a range of different risk factors for the disease in Dumfries and Galloway:

- The data for the last decade shows that in the lowest risk years the first lungworm diagnosis was not recorded until late August or September. A diagnosis in early July suggests there may be significant challenge this summer and autumn. Diagnoses peak in September.
- Dairy cattle are more at risk than beef cattle – 74 vs 47 diagnoses.
- Age does not guarantee immunity against lungworm. Animals aged 2 years and over account for 47% of dairy diagnoses and 32% of beef diagnoses. (No age provided in 12.4% of submissions.)
- Bought in/imported animals are high risk and account for 10% of diagnoses.

The location of diagnoses by postcode area is shown in the pie chart below.

The possibility of treatment failure/anthelmintic resistance was first raised in 2014 and has been a feature of every year since with the exception of 2019 when few lungworm diagnoses were made. Please get in touch if you suspect treatment failure. Useful history to collect includes date of treatment, product used, dose given and cattle weights. Underdosing can be a significant problem when treating heavier cattle.

