

# TB info for hunters

A pocket guide to identifying Bovine Tuberculosis (TB)

## How to: identify Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) in animals and ...

### ... what to do if you find an infected carcass.

#### What is Bovine Tuberculosis?

Bovine TB is an infectious disease caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium bovis*. It infects the lymph nodes in the head and body, as well as lungs, liver and other organs (offal). All mammals can potentially contract TB.

#### OSPRI aims to eradicate TB from New Zealand by 2055

To do this we need to ensure that there are no new TB outbreaks in areas cleared of TB.

#### What does TB look like in an animal?

A TB lesion can look like a yellow-green pus-filled abscess in body tissues or grape-like lesions on the lining of the chest or abdominal cavity.



#### Need further help?

For more information call us on

**0800 482 463**

from 7am-6pm,  
Monday to Friday

12 MAY 2021

### How does TB spread in animals?

TB bacteria can be found in several sites in infected animals.

Cattle and deer are naturally curious and will sniff possums which stray into fenced farmland.

Scavengers such as possums, ferrets, stoats or pigs feeding on an infected carcass or offal may contract TB. A grossly infected possum may have externally exposed weeping lesions which can be infectious.

In wild pigs TB is found 95% of the time in lymph nodes just below the jaw – therefore dumping pig heads where scavenging animals may have access, can further spread the disease.

Deer can carry TB infection for up to 15 years. It is found in the head, lungs and intestines.



#### Are hunters at risk of contracting TB?

Yes. Hunters that handle or come in contact with open TB lesions are especially at risk. If you believe you have been exposed to TB contact your medical practitioner.

### What should I do if I find an infected animal?

- It is recommended you leave diseased animals where they were found or killed. Hunters should let the landowner know in the first instance.
- Minimise disease spread, never move the carcass to the next hunting site.
- If you suspect disease, take a picture if you can and note the location before emailing to [info@ospri.co.nz](mailto:info@ospri.co.nz).
- Call OSPRI and we'll investigate and dispose of the carcass (Monday-Friday 0800 482 463).

### Can I dispose of animals away from the site?

No. Never transport live or dead feral animals which have suspected TB infection.

