

**Swedish Veterinary Association**

**National report 1st semester 2025 – SWEDEN**

**Bluetongue**

In September 2024 bluetongue serotype 3 (BTV3) was detected in Sweden. To date 470 sheep and bovine establishments are infected. There was a first wave in autumn 2024 and a second wave in March-April 2025. Many calves were infected in uterus and most of them were born with serious deformities and are euthanized. They are believed to have been infected during the autumn.

The Swedish legislation is amended and bluetongue is no longer an epizootic disease, but is still mandatory notifiable and the owner must contact a veterinarian if bluetongue is suspected or confirmed. Testing is voluntary. The Swedish Board of Agriculture pays for up to 5 analyses and also for autopsy of calves suspected to be infected. Vaccination is also voluntary. The animal owner pays for the vaccine and the vaccination can be performed either by a veterinarian or by the owner.

Surveillance is performed by notification of suspected and confirmed cases and through testing of tank milk.

**Newcastle disease**

In 2024 there were four outbreaks of Newcastle disease in four different counties in the south part of Sweden. Sweden has status as free from Newcastle disease without vaccination and vaccination is forbidden, except for doves.

During the last years the number of outbreaks have increased and the disease free status is questioned by the EU Commission and eradication of the disease is no longer co-financed by EU.

To reduce the number of outbreaks and the costs we are considering starting vaccination. The plan is to amend the legislation and to start mandatory vaccination of poultry and other captive birds from spring 2026.

**Avian influenza**

During the epidemiologic season from 1 October 2024 until 30 September 2025 there has only been one outbreak of Avian influenza in poultry (pheasants) and 11 cases in wild birds.

**The parasite “fårstyng”/sheep bot fly (*Oestrus ovis)* detected in Sweden**

For the first time since the 19th century the parasite *Oestrus ovis* has been detected in Sweden. The fly exists in many parts of the world.

A sheep on the island Gotland situated in the Baltic Sea and the biggest island of Sweden showed symptoms from the CNS and was euthanized. On autopsy 2 cm larvaes were found in the sinuses. After that, the parasite has been detected in different parts of the island.

Often the animals don’t show any symptoms, but sometimes you can see nasal discharges and sneezings.

There is no tests available for live animals, but continuing investigations are performed at slaughter. The larvae don’t migrate to the muscles, so the meat can be approved for human consumption. Sheep owners are recommended to carefully follow quarantine routines including testing for gastro-intestinal parasites and to deworm with ivermectin.

By mistake larvae may be deposited near eyes and lips of humans, but the larvae cannot be fully developed.

Currently, we don’t know if the fly also exists on the mainland, but investigations are continuing.

**Referrals/consultations about veterinary preparedness**

This year the Veterinary Association has been involved in many referrals and consultations related to veterinary preparedness from the government and the relevant authorities. For example regarding;

-Food preparedness

-Redistribution of veterinary staff

-Management of drug shortages

-Turnover storage of medicinal products

-Prioritization of medicinal products to humans

-International health- and disease care cooperation

**EU financed Hands-on-training in AMR (Antimicrobial resistance)**

Together with the relevant authorities and the Spanish project manager the Veterinary Association has been involved in the planning of an EU financed hands-on-training in AMR for animal owners and veterinarians 10-11 June. We struggled hard against the project manager to adapt the training to the current very good AMR situation in Sweden. Otherwise we believe nobody would be interested in participating in the training. 1-2 weeks before the registration deadline the project leader suddenly cancelled the training due to too few registered participants and they did this without contacting us or asking for help in advance. May be it was a lot of work for nothing, as we don’t know if there will be a second chance.

**The Veterinary Association continues the work to start the different veterinary specialist programmes.**

The Veterinary Association is appointed by legislation from the Swedish Board of Agriculture to be the training provider for the specialist programmes in Sweden.

The last programmes started are for Bovine diseases and Veterinary public health. Especially for these programmes we have problems finding supervisors for the aspirants due to that there are few specialists and also that they often don’t work at the same workplace.

**Mentorship programme**

The Veterinary Association is planning to start a mentorship programme for students and newly graduated veterinarians.

**Mink farming ceases in Sweden**

In March 2025 the government appointed an inquiry into a ban on fur farming. In practice, this only concerns mink farming as this is the only fur production in Sweden.

Instead of awaiting the result all mink farm owners in Sweden (i.e. 27) have applied for subsidies from the Board of Agriculture to cease the farming. Applications received before 30 June will share about 18 million euros based on the number of breeding females.

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