

December 2025

## Bluetongue Vaccine

If any of our clients are considering using the Bluetongue vaccines we would like to remind you that a licence from DAERA is required before you can get the vaccine. The form is found below <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/application-form-specific-licence-livestock-keeper-obtain-bluetongue-btv-3-vaccine>

## Coronavirus – An important pathogen in bovine respiratory disease

If you have any queries please contact a parklands vet.

We have seen a lot of pneumonia in all cattle this autumn and Bovine Respiratory Disease (**BRD**) is responsible for substantial welfare and economic costs to both the beef and dairy sectors of farming worldwide. The costs of each outbreak include deaths, medicines, extra labour on farm and veterinary input, plus the impact on live-weight gain and feed conversion efficiency from irreversible long term lung damage.

Bovine Coronavirus (BCoV) has generally not been considered a significant contributing pathogen in the BRD complex in the UK despite a growing body of evidence worldwide demonstrating both its presence and clinical importance in the syndrome. Based on the evidence (outlined below), it's an area for further consideration when it comes to BRD outbreaks on farm.

BCoV is a common virus that infects the respiratory tract and intestines of cattle. The same virus strains are associated with calf diarrhoea, winter dysentery in adults, and pneumonia.

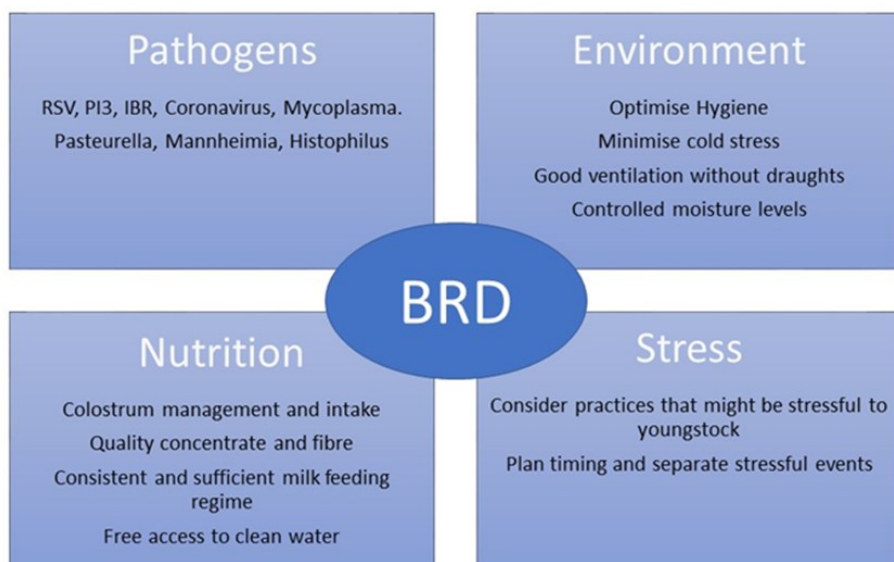
What evidence is there for BCoV's growing role as a primary pathogen in BRD?

BCoV was identified in pneumonia outbreaks back in the 1980s and linked to mild respiratory signs when injected into calves.

Recent surveys found BCoV in 22.9% of Irish and 39% of UK respiratory samples, making it the most prevalent virus detected. BCoV often precedes secondary bacterial pneumonia infections caused by Mannheimia, Pasteurella and Histophilus species. Experimental BCoV inoculation causes cough, depression, fever, and lung lesions typical of BRD.

BCoV infection is common year-round but peaks in winter. It persists in the environment and spreads via fomites. Extended viral shedding enables intra-herd transmission between animal groups.

PTO



### Parklands Veterinary Group—Practice details

2 Caledon Road,  
Aughnacloy, BT69 6AL

81 Molesworth Road,  
Cookstown, BT80 8NU

66a Glenshane Road,  
Londonderry, BT47 3SF

5 Old Moy Road,  
Dungannon BT71 6PS

26 Townhill Road,  
Portglenone BT44 8AD

Tel: 028 855 57811

Tel: 028 867 65765

Tel: 028 71876140

Tel: 028 877 52299

Tel: 028 258 21239

Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk Cookstown@parklandsvets.co.uk

Drumahoe@parklandsvets.co.uk

Dungannon@parklandsvets.co.uk

Portglenone@parklandsvets.co.uk

Website: [Parklandsvets.com](http://Parklandsvets.com)

The train of thought is now that BCoV precedes wider BRD infections, so how can we control it better?

- Enhance biosecurity between herds and within groups.
- Improve calf environment and colostrum intake.
- Recognize BCoV's tendency for prolonged shedding and transmission between ages of cattle.
- Include BCoV when investigating BRD outbreaks to inform treatment and future prevention.
- Consider vaccination possibilities. A new live intra-nasal BCoV vaccine which has been proven to reduce shedding, clinical signs and lung lesions caused by BCoV and can be used concurrently with existing RSV/PI3 vaccines.

In conclusion, bovine coronavirus is an important but under-recognized contributor to costly BRD outbreaks in cattle. Increased awareness and testing for BCoV as a primary respiratory pathogen, plus updated biosecurity and vaccination approaches, will be key to controlling BRD impact and improving cattle health and performance.

If you have any questions about your herds health please contact a Parklands vet.

*From Everyone at  
Parklands Vets,  
Merry Christmas*



*and a  
Prosperous New Year!*