



DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES

Theileriosis (January disease) in cattle



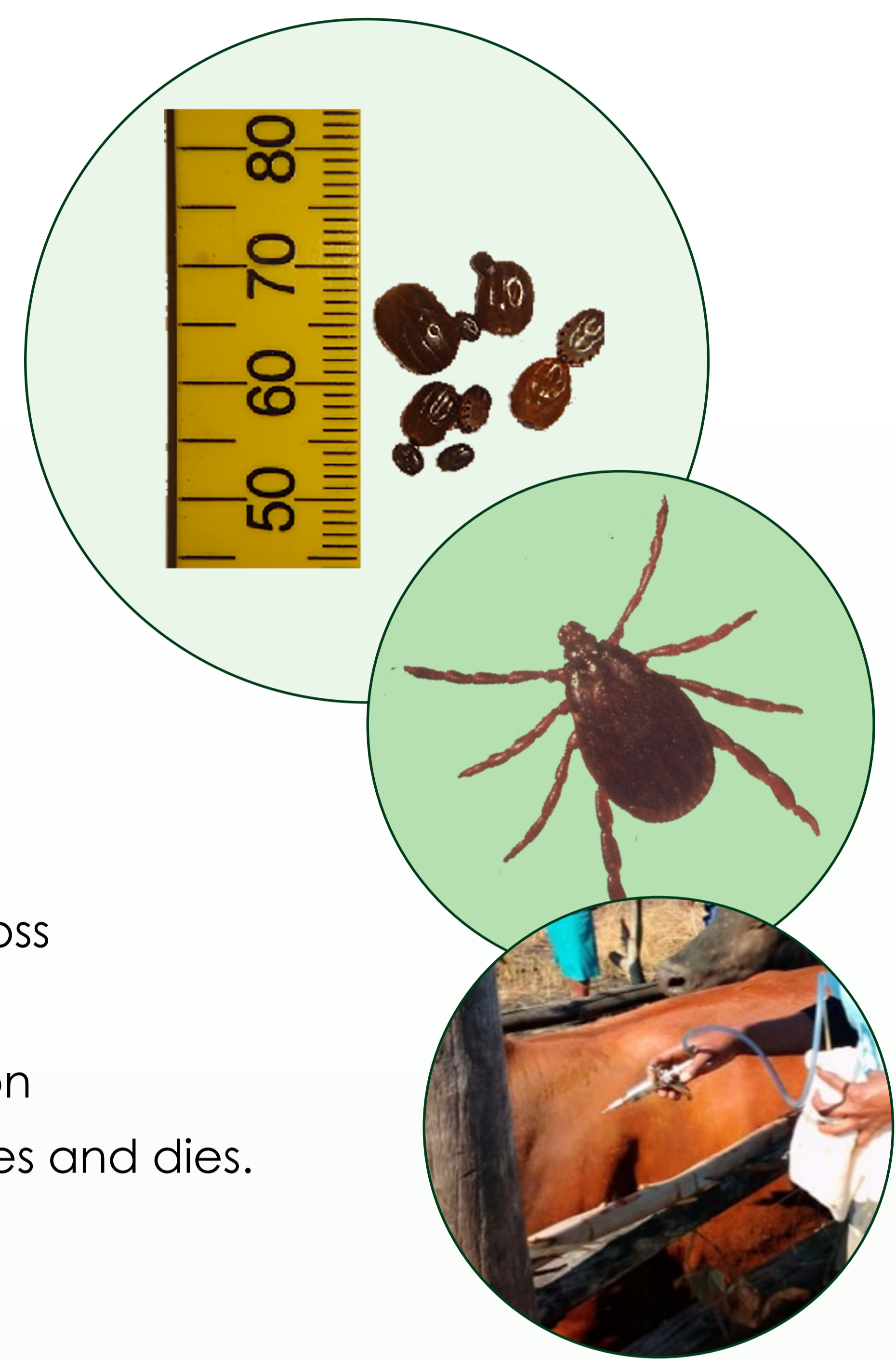
Theileriosis is a notifiable disease in Zimbabwe and if a farmer suspects it on his/her farm, he/she is compelled by law to report this to the Department of Veterinary Services.

What is Theileriosis (January Disease)

It is a disease that usually affects cattle. It is common between December and March. Of late theileriosis now occurs all year round but **increases significantly** as from November, reaching a peak in January. Theileriosis usually occurs in high rainfall areas and also in low rainfall areas such as Chiredzi where it is transmitted from buffaloes.

How does it spread?

To become infected cattle must be bitten by a tick, which is carrying the disease. **Theileria is not spread by direct animal-to-animal contact and does not affect other species, or humans.** It is spread through the bite by the brown ear tick



What signs do you see in an animal affected by January Disease?

- . Swelling of the lymph nodes under the ears and on the shoulder
- . Cloudiness of the eyes
- . Difficult breathing with froth exuding from the nose and the mouth
- . Weakness
- . Pale or yellow (jaundice) mucous membranes i.e. the gums, inside the vulva and the white around the eye)
- . Depression
- . Not eating
- . Weight/condition loss
- . Abortion
- . Poor milk production
- . The animal collapses and dies.

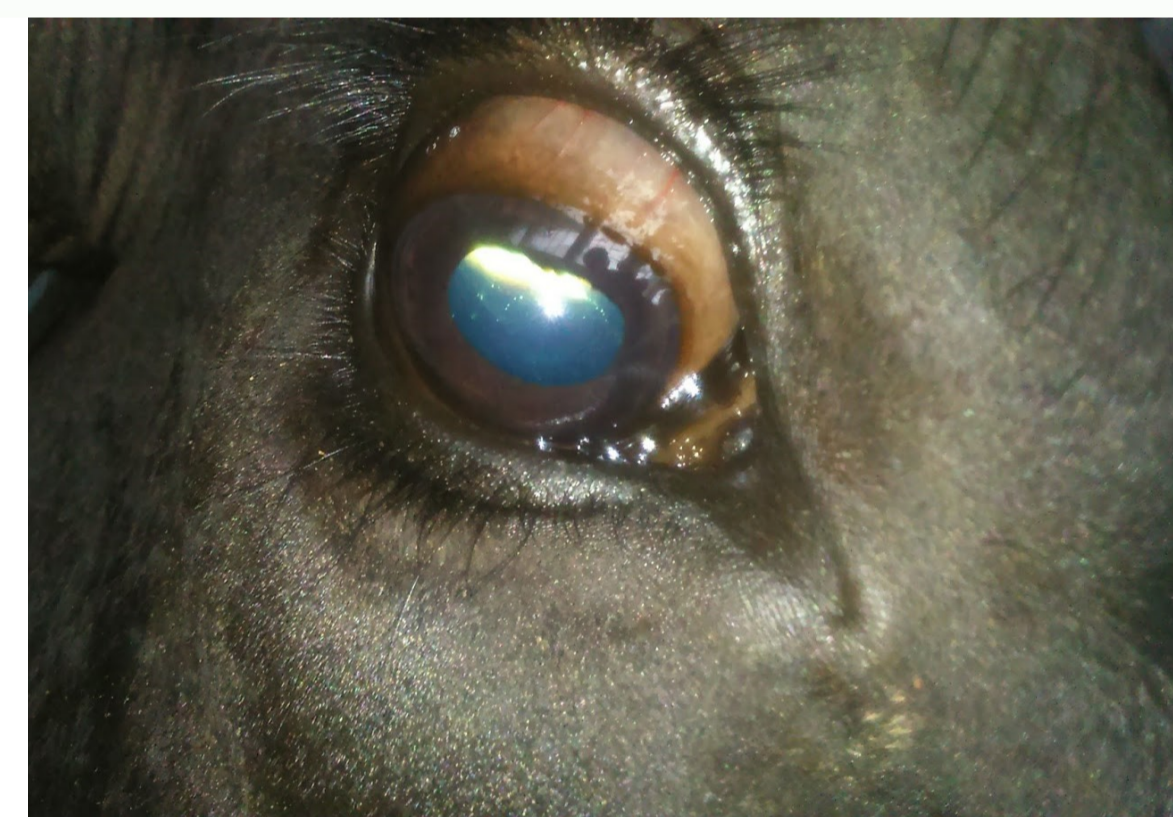
Theileriosis signs and Symptoms



Tick infestation



Froth



Corneal opacity



Swollen neck lymph nodes

What do you see in animal that has died from January Disease?

- . Generalized swelling of the lymph nodes,
- . Froth in the windpipe and fluid in the lungs.
- . Clouding of the eyes is quite common.

What do you do if you suspect your animal is suffering from January disease?

- . Contact your nearest Veterinary Office. It is important to work closely with your veterinarian to get the best advice for your circumstances.
- . Anti-parasitic drugs can be effective if treatment is done early.
- . Reducing stress on affected animals is very important to control the severity of the disease and the number of animals developing clinical signs. This can be achieved by:
 - . Once a day milking.
 - . Minimised handling.
 - . Walking cattle at their own pace, where necessary.
 - . Good quantity and quality of feed.
 - . Optimal trace element levels.

Prevention and control of January Disease!

- . Regular dipping and Tick grease application
- . Vaccination
- . Allowing minimal exposure to ticks during low risk period to encourage building of immunity in calves.
- . Minimise nutritional or disease stress to animals to reduce chances of animals developing severe disease.
- . Ensure good nutritional and health status of calves during the first year of life.
- . Theileriosis is controlled through legislation, Animal Health (Theileriosis) Regulations, 1976. In the event of an outbreak, a quarantine order is instituted for 28 days, during that period a 5-5-4 dipping interval is effected concurrently with the application of tick-grease.

Diagnosis and treatment

- . Treatment is done by sign and symptoms.
- . Diagnosis is through blood smear examination under microscope after proper staining.
- . Lymph node biopsy
- . Buparvaquone is the drug of choice.
- . Oxytetracycline, antipyretics, haematinics, antihistaminics, ruminotorics and liver tonics are given as supportive treatment options.



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