



## Defra Funded Survey for TB in Road-Killed Badgers

October 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to our first newsletter! The University of Surrey, in collaboration with the Universities of Nottingham and Liverpool, is undertaking a Defra-funded survey of road killed badgers in the 'edge areas' of England to see if they are infected with bovine TB, and if so, how common it is. We are responsible for collecting carcasses from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire and Oxfordshire and would appreciate your help!

### What has happened so far?

We collected **36** carcasses during September. These will be examined by staff at our Veterinary Pathology Centre to determine if TB is evident or not. The results will be logged centrally and participants will be kept up to date with our progress through this Newsletter.

### Special mentions

We would like to thank staff at **Senlac Veterinary Centre**, in East Sussex, especially vet nurse Rhian Coundley and receptionist Clair Bancroft, for collecting 16 carcasses so far! When asked why they were so keen to help, Clair replied that the practice has a strong interest in finding out if the local badger population have TB or not, as many of their clients are farmers who have been affected by the disease and have lost livestock. Their work is being supported by the vets who collect carcasses as they travel to and from clients and actively promote the survey to local farmers.

### Badger collection & the law

Advice from Natural England is that collecting a road-killed badger for this study is legal and does NOT require a licence. For more information, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/badgers-protection-surveys-and-licences>

### Clock changes

Be aware that now the clocks have changed, the morning and evening rush hours are more likely to coincide with badger movement, which will result in a greater number of fatalities.

### Which areas are we focussing on?

The University of Surrey is collecting badger carcasses from Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire and Oxfordshire.

### Would you like to take part?

Please contact us via one of the following methods and request an approved collection kit:

- T: 01483 689823
- E: [badgerTB@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:badgerTB@surrey.ac.uk)

For each fresh road-killed badger that is collected using the approved kit and taken to one of the designated collection sites you will be paid £10.

## Collection sites

- J H Watson & Sons, Jervis Court Farm, Swanmore, **Southampton**, SO32 2QP
- Harry Hawkins, Henfield Road, Cowfold, **Horsham**, RH13 8DU
- Charles Diplock, Bishops Lane, Ringmer, **Lewes**, BN8 5TJ
- J Passey & Son, 97 Turnpike Road, **Newbury**, RG14 2QR
- Major Farm Services, Blackstone Farm, Bicester Road, **Bicester** OX25 1HX
- Endell Veterinary Group, 49 Endless Street, **Salisbury**. SP1 3UH



New collection sites will be added in future, so please keep checking to see where your nearest site is located.

## Interesting links:

The survey web-site:

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/vet/pathology-services/badgerTB>

A new study shows vitamin D could help control TB in animals:

<http://www.surrey.ac.uk/mediacentre/press/2016/new-study-shows-vitamin-d-could-help-control-tb-animals>