

For Immediate Release: Friday 25th June

Subject: Badger Vaccination Trials Truncated

The Badger Trust is disappointed to see the reduction in the scope of field trials of the injectable vaccine for badgers against bovine tuberculosis, and emphasises that no one should leap to conclusions about the effectiveness or otherwise of vaccination in the light of this now truncated and consequently distorted project.

The Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announcement says the Badger Vaccine Deployment Project (BVDP) was designed at a time when culling was not considered an option by the then government and that now all public expenditure has to be considered carefully. However, as cost is an issue, let Defra and or the present Government consider how long they and the farming industry would have to wait to recoup the costs of five years of culling. The answer is 11.1 years for cage trapping or 5.8 years for snaring or gassing [1], both shamefully cruel methods.

Furthermore, such expenditure would be utterly wasted in supporting the forlorn hope that killing badgers could have any meaningful part to play in controlling the disease in cattle.

Nevertheless the Trust welcomes the Defra statement that other options for how vaccination might be deployed more widely as part of a badger control policy will be "actively considered".

Ends

NOTE

[1] See comment posted by Christl Donnelly on June 9, 2010:
<http://www.plosone.org/article/comments/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0009090;sessionid=0B377C4BCBDC184B2B0DFB03D80F815D.ambra01>

Contact:
Jack Reedy

01564 783129
0775 173 1107

Badger Trust is the only charity solely dedicated to the conservation of badgers across Great Britain.

PO Box 708, EAST GRINSTEAD, RH19 2WN

Tel: 08458 287878 Fax: 02380 233896

E-mail press@badgertrust.org.uk

www.badgertrust.org.uk

Registered charity no.1111440

Company registered in the UK No.5460677