

EAST SURREY BADGER PROTECTION SOCIETY

Patron: Virginia McKenna OBE

Newsletter Spring 2010

No.89



**Your are cordially
invited to the
ESBPS AGM on
Tuesday March 23rd
see page 4**



Affiliated to the **BADGER TRUST**

East Surrey Badger Protection Society
Registered charity No. 800270

EAST SURREY BADGER PROTECTION SOCIETY (ESBPS)

Please use these addresses to write to any committee member

postal address: P.O.Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1WY

e-mail address: esbps@statacom.net

Website: temporarily withdrawn.

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the ESBPS. No responsibility can be accepted for errors, although every effort is made to ensure accuracy.

Committee Members:

Chairman.	Ray Ings	01883 380321
Secretary.	Helen Dorrell	020 8660 9827
Treasurer.	Diana Andrews	01883 625585
Senior Field Officer, Croydon contact & Sett recorder.	Warwick Reynolds	020-8688 9905
Membership Sec'y.	Sue Machin	020-8657 3227

Outside Events & Talks

to Outside Organisations. Maureen Pembridge 020-8651 3598

Publicity Officer. Steve Monahan 020-8657 3227

**Representative
on the ACCS (Association of Croydon Conservation Societies).** Anne Anker 020-8686 6392

Police Liason Officer. Alan Carmalt 01883 743113

Minutes Secretary. Jennie Dolling

Newsletter & Website Editor. David Malins 020-8657 2174

Mole Valley, Reigate, Banstead, Epsom & Ewell area contact.
Ian Tilbury 01372 721289

Contacts for Neighbouring Badger Protection Groups:

West Surrey:	Dave Williams	01483 811989
Badger Trust Sussex (Mid Sussex)	Jan Spooner	01403 822735
West Kent:	Barbara Wilkinson	01474 703948



IN CASE OF EMERGENCY
or if you have important information

ESBPS 24 Hour Rescue Service:

Warwick Reynolds 020-8688 9905 mobile: 07973 327017

Ray Ings 01883 380321 mobile: 07736 520332

London Wildcare Wildlife Hospital 020-8647 6230

Steve Monahan 020-8657 3227.

RSPCA – 24 Hour Emergencies & Enquiries: 0300 1234 999

Police – Crime in progress or danger to life, but also Badgers in road accidents, or interference to Badgers or their setts: 999
or ring your local Police Station in office hours – see local directory.

Kingston Wildlife Crime Officer - PC Hayley Parkes 020-8721 2588
or 07876 790197 e-mail: Andrew.M.Hawes@met.police.uk

Metropolitan Police Wildlife Crime Unit – 020-7230 8888
e-mail: wildlife@met.police.uk

Mole Valley Rural Affairs Officer – PC Jo Morris 01483 632225
e-mail: morris2987@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Surrey Wildlife Crime Officer - Steve Juliff 0845 125222
e-mail: steve.juliff@surrey.pnn.police.uk (Ripley Police Station)

Tandridge Rural Affairs Officer - PC Nick Shrapel 01737 386622
and 0845 125 2222 ext.6622

Crimestoppers – Call anonymously if you have information
on anyone involved in criminal activity: 0800 555111

Reporting Dead Badgers - Please phone Warwick Reynolds or
Helen Dorrell. We do not collect dead badgers, your Council
may be able to help.



Please remember us in your Will !

Contact our Treasurer Diana Andrews. Tel: 01883 625585

PO Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1WY

Please see article by Ian Tilbury on page 6



2010 ESBPS AGM

by Ray Ings.

General Meeting 8pm.

Tuesday 23rd March.

Doors open 7.30pm.

Organiser: Ray Ings

Tel: 01883 380321

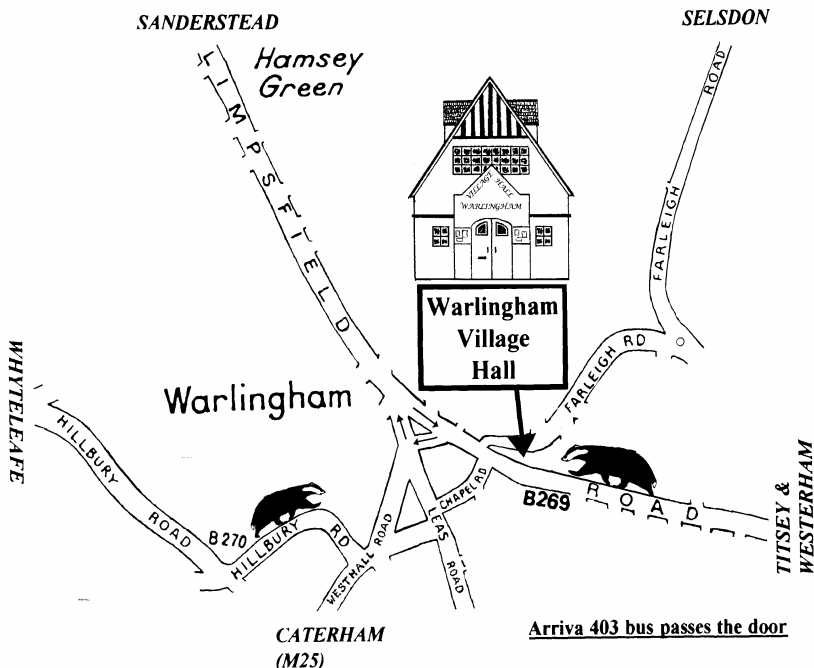
Members and Non-members are warmly invited to attend the 2010 AGM of the East Surrey Badger Protection Society at Warlingham Village Hall.

Notices of motions will be at the discretion of the General Committee and must be received by the Secretary not less than 7 days before the AGM. Nominations

to the General Committee must also be received by the Secretary not less than 7 days before the AGM and must be supported by a Proposer and a Secunder who are ESBPS members. If you would like copies of the minutes of last year's AGM, please notify the Secretary as soon as possible.

I hope that we can have as many members as possible attending, We always try and deal with our business formalities as promptly as possible. If you know of anyone who would like to come along, they will be more than welcome.

The AGM will be followed by video film from our badger release near Peterborough.





Newsletter & Website Editor

David Malins
Tel: 020-8657 2174

We must acknowledge the use of drawings from Michael Clark's excellent book 'Badgers'. 'Badgers' is published by Whittet Books, ISBN 0-905483-65-0. We have it on our sales stall.

Our logo is based on Simon Turvey's painting 'Badger'. Our newsletter & website would benefit if you could contribute, articles, drawings, photographs or anything you think might interest members or visitors to our website. See addresses on page 2.

ESBPS Website

We must apologise that our website www.esbps.org.uk is still out of action

London Wildcare Wildlife Hospital

**Dedicated to the care, treatment and
rehabilitation of sick, injured and
orphaned wildlife.**

24 Hour Emergency Phone

020-8647 6230

**Beddington Park, Church Road,
Wallington, Surrey SM6 7NN**

website: www.londonwildcare.org

e-mail: info@londonwildcare.org



Treasurer

Diana Andrews
Tel: 01883 625585

Annual Subscriptions:

We hope you have all paid your annual subscription that was due on January 1st.



Outside Events & Talks to Local Organisations

Maureen Pembridge
Tel: 020-8651 3598

We look forward to seeing you at next year's events. Our Sales table will have a selection of badger and other wildlife gifts, books etc. Plus our ever popular game 'Find the Badger'.

Maureen would like to hear from you if you can help with our Sales Table or know of local organisations who would like a talk about badgers.

The Kitchen Badger

by Ray Ings

Some badgers when they are in trouble seem to have a knack of finding the right place to go to get help. But finding their way into somebody's kitchen might be pushing their luck a little.

I received a call one Friday evening when the snow was far from clear and rain was coming down in stair rods. This was not the most inviting environment to go out and look for a badger that had been reported to

be staggering around in a state of distress. Still this is the stuff of badger protection and I gathered maps, grasper and cage and off I went to a house in the Biggin Hill area. It was not easy to find as the houses were on a steep hill and some way back from the road and the street lighting was intermittent. However, I persevered and finally tracked down the house from which the call had come. There must have been some 50 steps up to the house. There was still snow on some, so I knew that it would be quite tricky to carry the cage down with an adult badger in it. When I arrived the householder told me that the badger had found its way into the kitchen from the garden. At least this meant that I would not have to try and find it. The badger was soaking wet and very unsure on its legs but still managed to find its way into the living room. It then returned to the kitchen maybe it didn't like what was on TV. I managed to get the grasper around its neck and

confine it to the crush cage. In fact the job of location and capture turned out to be a lot easier than I had anticipated. There were no obvious injuries but there was blood around the mouth and nose, so a collision with a car was the most likely scenario. The challenge now was to get the badger and cage down to the car without breaking my neck down the steps. It was a slow and careful journey. The badger was taken to Wildlife Aid who have excellent veterinary and holding facilities. On examination there was no obvious damage to any bones, so I was optimistic that the badger would make a recovery. However, Simon Cowell of Wildlife Aid telephoned me some three days afterwards with some sad news. The badger had not recovered and the decision had been made to put it to sleep. This was disappointing but at least the badger was spared any further suffering and had died in a warm and dry place rather than a cold and wet garden.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL

by Ian Tilbury

Thinking about making a will is not always easy. Indeed, around seven out of ten people don't have a will. If you are in the majority this means when you die your estate may not necessarily finish up going where you probably wanted and hoped it would go. It is therefore a matter of good sense to grasp the nettle and give serious thought to making a will. The will sets out your wishes, where you want your estate to go

and in what proportions. Making a will is a positive chance to do some good and benefit the people and causes you care about.

If you die without a valid will this can cause uncertainty for those who have to deal with your estate with possible delay and expense added in. Then the law takes over and the resultant distribution of your estate may not be how you would have wanted it.

There are key times when making a will or updating an existing will should be actively considered, for example on marriage or divorce, when having children, or retiring, or when receiving an inheritance yourself, or being diagnosed with an illness.

Once you have made sure that family and friends are provided for as you wish there is then the chance to consider whether there are causes you would want to benefit from part of your estate, and that is where we hope you might consider leaving something to East Surrey Badger Protection Society.

We are a registered charity and so a legacy left to us, on our understanding of the present law, would be free of inheritance tax. This could reduce the value of your estate below the tax limit thereby perhaps leaving less to the tax man and more to those you want to benefit.

Broadly, there are three types of legacy you might consider when thinking of us:

1. A residuary legacy.

This disposes of what is left after you have provided for your other legacies and your expenses have been paid. This type of legacy is favoured by charities. For one thing it is less affected by inflation and you can leave a percentage or all of the residue as you decide.

2. A pecuniary legacy.

This is a specific sum of money, which can be index-linked to keep its value over time.

3. A specific legacy.

This gives an item of value for us to benefit from, usually by selling and receiving the cash for it.

In recent years we have been very fortunate to be left legacies by supporters of the Society and Surrey badgers have directly benefited as a result. ESBPS assists badgers in Surrey, but we have also become expert in the construction of artificial setts and the controlled release of orphaned and rehabilitated badgers back into the wild. From 2005 to 2009 we released 43 badgers that would otherwise have died in the wild, been held in captivity or even euthanased because there was nowhere to keep them. We cannot just let inexperienced badgers go. Locally established badgers are highly territorial and would attack randomly released badgers that are learning to fend for themselves. It is debatable whether we could have undertaken this time consuming, heavy and expensive work, without the timely legacies from people who supported us in their lifetime, and remembered us in their wills. Please remember the East Surrey Badger Protection Society when you make your will.

We would always recommend that you consult a solicitor when making or updating your will, but to give you an idea of our understanding of the kind of wording you could use

for each of the three types of legacy mentioned above we set out the following examples:-

A residuary legacy

"I give a.....% share of the residue of my estate to the East Surrey Badger Protection Society, Registered Charity No. 800270 of PO Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1WY for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or Secretary or other proper Officer for the time being of the Society shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors."

A pecuniary legacy

"I give the sum of £..... free of inheritance tax to the East Surrey Badger Protection Society, Registered Charity No. 800270 of PO Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1WY for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or Secretary or other proper Officer for the time being of the Society shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors."

A specific legacy

"I give (state here the item) to the East Surrey Badger Protection Society, Registered Charity No. 800270 of PO Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1WY for its general purposes and declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or Secretary or other proper Officer for the time being of the Society shall be a good and sufficient discharge to my Executors."

You could also request that cheques be donated to the ESBPS in place of flowers at your funeral. You will know that your legacy will be helping badgers, these beautiful, but at times, vulnerable animals.

This leaflet is based upon our understanding of the present law in February 2010. You should seek up-to-date advice from a solicitor by way of confirmation.

For more information please contact our Treasurer Diana Andrews.

Tel: 01883 625585. PO Box 2774, Purley, Surrey CR8 1wY

Did you know?

According to BBC Focus Magazine – The total length of tunnels in the largest badger sett ever discovered was 879m – just over 800 yards. It had 50 underground chambers and 178 entrances.



Watch out for him. Three times I've found him in my bed. Tried to make out he must have taken the wrong turning in the dark.



National News



Trust

PO Box 708
East Grinstead
East Sussex,
RH19 2WN.
Tel: 08458 287878
Fax: 02380 233896

e-mail: enquiries@nfbg.org.uk

website: www.badgertrust.org.uk

Chairman - Dave Williams.

Sec'y - Dr Pam Mynott

Badger Trust is the working name
of the National Federation of
Badger Groups (NFBG).

The NFBG is a company limited by
guarantee, registered in England
no.5460677;

Registered charity no.1111440.

Badger Trust promotes the
conservation, welfare and
protection of badgers, their setts
and their habitats. It represents
and supports 60 local voluntary
badger groups throughout Britain,
provides expert advice on all
badger issues and works closely
with the RSPCA, the police and
others. Badger Trust maintains a
database on incidents of badger
persecution in Britain. Badger
Trust is an active member of PAW
– The Partnership for Action
against Wildlife Crime. This
involves the police, other
government agencies and non-
governmental organisations that
are working to fight wildlife crime.

Badger Trust is a member of WCL
– Wildlife & Countryside Link.

**To learn more about
badgers and the facts
affecting their lives visit the
Badger Trust website:
www.badger.org.uk**

Also check here for the origination
of articles marked **.

**Badger Trust applied to the
High Court to stop the
proposed slaughter of large
numbers of badgers in West**

**Wales. A hearing will be
held in Cardiff on**

March 22/23 by

Mr Justice Jarman.

**We need your help to fund
our legal action to prevent
this unnecessary killing.**

**Please donate to
the Badger Trust now!**

The Welsh Assembly Government
plans to kill badgers in a vain
attempt to eradicate bovine TB.
See

<http://wales.gov.uk/news/latest/100113bovinetb/?lang=en>. Details of
our application for Judicial Review
are in the right hand column of this
web page.



BADGER CULL 'NOT COST-EFFECTIVE' AT CONTROLLING TB IN CATTLE**

Ed: The following is based on a new report from scientists at Imperial College London and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL).

Professor Donnelly, of Imperial College London, said that if a cull were to be undertaken, it would have to be widespread and repeated. Overall there was a net benefit of culling if the area was sufficiently large for the reductions inside the cull zone to outweigh increases in disease around the edges. But she said: "Although badger culling reduced cattle bTB during the trial and immediately thereafter, our new study shows that the beneficial effects are not sustained, disappearing four years post-cull".

A widespread cull over 150 square kilometres using trapping, snaring

or gassing would cost between £1.35 million and £2.14 million. Our new research suggests that the savings that farmers and the Government would make by reducing bTB infections in cattle are two or three times less than the cost of repeated badger culls as undertaken in the trial. **So culling badgers is not a cost-effective contribution to preventing bTB infections in cattle.**

Prof Donnelly said a cheaper alternative would be to license farmers to cull badgers on their own land. This was likely to lead to more localised culling, disrupting badger behaviour and potentially increasing bovine TB in herds. "If you are going to undertake culling, it should be widespread, should be co-ordinated and repeated," she said.

She said policy-makers should "seriously consider" the prospect of a badger vaccine, which is being deployed in half a dozen TB hotspots in England later this year.

A spokesman for the Environment Department (Defra) said: "Defra has asked the independent Bovine TB Science Advisory Body, which reviews all relevant scientific evidence as it emerges, to undertake some additional analysis to help us fully understand this new data and its implications.

"The paper updates earlier results from the Independent Scientific Group which were taken into account when the Secretary of

State reached his decision on badger culling.

"The Government is determined to make progress in eradicating bovine TB, and Defra has begun a project to trap and vaccinate badgers in six areas in England which have a high incidence of bovine TB in cattle."

Ed: This report comes to the same conclusions but adds financial values to the Independent Scientific Group on cattle TB report in 2003.

I hope both this Government and the Opposition will remember:

**The Summary of all responses:
to the Government's
Public Consultation in 2005 >**

A. 13 petitions against a cull contained 12,100 signatures and 10,000 text messages.

B. 47,472 written responses:

- 95.6% 'against', 4% 'for',
- Campaigns for & against - 33,129 & Short responses - 13,770, closely mirrored the percentages above.
- 348 lengthy responses - 44% 'against', 51% 'for'.
- 225 Stakeholders - 50% 'against', 41% 'for'.

C. Citizens' Panels - 48 members of the public facing incomplete information –
Group - marginally for a cull.
Individually - 50/50 (no figures provided)

HILARY BENN DISMISSES CALLS FOR BOVINE TB CULL

23.2.2010

Defra secretary of state Hilary Benn has dismissed calls for a major bovine TB cull of badgers.

Speaking at the National Farmers Union Conference, Benn insisted that he didn't "want to make an already terrible disease worse than it is already".

"We are investigating badger and cattle vaccines. The vaccine is the way out of this nightmare."

Benn was responding to NFU president Peter Kendall, insisting that "no amount of testing can eradicate TB".

Kendall added: "How the major parties set out their plans to eradicate this disease will be a major factor in how farmers cast their vote in a few months' time." Hilary Benn has agreed to meet representatives of the TB-affected farmers at the conference.

Ed: It is good that Hilary Benn is sticking to his guns, in spite of the implied threat.



Standing room only at Pembrokeshire Against the Cull (PAC)



On a chilly damp Monday night 250 people crammed into the Memorial hall in Newport, Pembrokeshire, to register their horror at the proposed WAG (Welsh Assembly Government) extermination of badgers in North Pembrokeshire.

The meeting was Chaired by ecologist Dr Mike Snow, speakers included Assembly Members Peter Black (LD) and Joyce Watson (Lab), Sarah Kessle (Wildlife Trust S&W Wales), Rob Daley a local landowner representing tourism and Geoffrey Laurens (Badger Trust). Both Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) Rural Affairs Minister, Elin Jones and WAG Chief Veterinary officer declined an invitation.

Both anti-cull AM's advised that with elections approaching, prospective candidates would have to make their views on the "Cull" clear and this would give voters a chance to decide who best

represented their feelings on the subject.

The packed audience heard from Rob Daley, who runs a holiday letting business, that bookings had been affected drastically by the news of the "Cull".

Sarah Kessle explained that The Wildlife Trust opposed the cull as lacking scientific validity. The Wildlife Trust South and West Wales, would be affected both as a major landowner and as tourist services providers.

Geoffrey Laurens explained that cattle movements and cattle in close confinement together were proven to be the cause of 95% of all bTB infections for cattle. Vaccination is the only sensible way forward, he stated.

PAC chairman, Celia Thomas displayed a poster that landowners could display on their gates which plainly tells cull contractors that they were denied access to the property. If contractors were denied access they would have to apply to magistrates for permission to do so, which would only be given to genuinely accredited contractors.

A lively but well mannered Q&A session followed in which the audience was vociferously unanimous in their opposition to the "cull"

Many people were concerned that badger baiters or other

undesirables might gain access to their land by pretending to be WAG Cull contractors. It was suggested that all contractors should be CRB registered

Members of the audience involved in tourism confirmed the fact that potential customers were being put off by the destruction of Pembrokeshire's reputation as a wildlife paradise. One farmer who had given up dairy and diversified into tourism feared the Assemblies actions could backfire into a double whammy.

Several people were concerned that WAG had given themselves powers that allowed WAG cull contractors to have a free rein to enter their property and kill badgers. They heard legal advice was being sought on this and other matters but it would be expensive.

All agreed by a show of hands, that

Elin Jones should have attended the meeting and should be

encouraged to come to future meetings, especially as she lived locally.

The meeting also heard Rock Legend, Brian May of Queen had sent a message and had offered to support the campaign against the cull: "I'm totally with you ... and would like to help make a difference . Just tell me how I can help, Cheers Bri"

Prolonged applause thanked the panel of speakers at the end of the meeting and the audience strongly backed PAC in its opposition to the "Cull".

For more details of PAC's activities www.pembrokeshireagainsththecull.org.uk

TB EPIDEMIC COULD END DAIRY FARMING

by William Surman – 20th Jan 2010

England's bovine TB epidemic could put an end to dairy farming unless the Government takes decisive action on badgers, a leading scientist has warned. Sir David King, the Government's chief scientific advisor 2000-2007, said Defra's refusal to tackle the badger population when it knows that wildlife spread the disease, was a 'source of great exasperation' to him. Speaking at the high-level City Food Lecture in London's Guildhall,

Sir David said: "I wonder whether Britain will still be a dairy farming country if this continues. The problem needs to be addressed with great seriousness."

Over 16,000 dairy cattle were slaughtered in the 2007/8 milk year as a result of TB testing –

equivalent to 114 million litres of lost milk supply and as a result,

milk production has fallen to its lowest level in 37 years. The number of UK dairy farms has halved since 1997, with many farmers blaming the spectre of TB for their exit from the industry. Sir David said TB was spreading slowly but inexorably from west to east but lamented 'nothing we are doing is substantially slowing that down'. "It is true that taking cattle out with TB, which we are doing very strenuously as a Government, does slow the process down but we

cannot ignore the fact that we have bovine TB in cattle and also bovine TB in badgers. "As long as there is a large residue of TB in the wild I don't believe this problem will be managed."

On average, 26 farmers leave the dairy industry every week and one in ten farmers say they will leave the industry within 2 years. Sir David said the Government must 'work hard with the public' so that they understand what must be done to manage the problem.

Website reactions to Sir David's statement:

The following messages, posted on a website, are from people, some of them farmers, reacting to Sir David's statement.

Ed: It is interesting to see the reaction from different farmers and particularly the Anglesey comment!! Also, no mention is made by Sir David of the low price now paid to farmers for their milk, which is probably the biggest factor involved in their demise.

Anonymous 21 Jan 2010 12:52 pm

The important word here is SPREADING. Badgers don't move, your cattle do! There is now bTB on the badger free Isle of Anglesey. You have wilfully failed to prevent the spread and expect the wildlife to take the flak.

The stress, inadequate testing, leaving inconclusive result animals in the herd, spreading slurry - tackle these first.

Eileen Wheeler 21 Jan 2010 2:31 pm

I agree heartily with Anonymous –

as a farmer with 50 years entirely free of reactors in our 40 head plus young stock beef herd, and about to have our several badger setts exterminated, totally against my wishes.

Better cattle management and movement is the answer and probably a widening of the gene base in both beef and dairy herds

Gavin Wheeler 21 Jan 2010 2:32 pm

"Culling badgers in selected areas would be Sir David's preferred method to help control the disease." Yes, we got that when he tried to 'reinterpret' the Independent Scientific Group report and got pasted by the scientific press.

E Ashman 21 January 2010 3:34 pm

Here we go again! The ISG concluded that badgers were NOT the transmission link. Of the thousands of badgers killed in the Krebs trial only 2% of badgers were found to be infectious.

Post foot and mouth it was infected cows that spread the Tb into clean areas of the country. Badgers were

not thumbing lifts on the motorway network.

Anonymous 21 January 2010 5:27 pm

Sir David and the rest of the anti-badger brigade should take a look at what the Welsh are doing. They're absolutely wrong to blame the badger for BTB--and it's disgraceful that they plan a slaughter without any scientific controls to judge whether that cull will work--but their much tougher controls on cattle movement, their much more frequent testing and their insistence that every herd is tested in Wales is finding disease that would otherwise have festered, grown and spread to more herds. Put rubbish into a computer and you get rubbish out: use a very fallible and too infrequent test to root out a highly infectious disease and you get what you deserve --a reservoir of disease that keeps re-infecting herds. 300,000 badgers - most of them healthy - that don't move very far, 10 million cattle (many of them undetected infectious beasts) constantly on the move, many of them never tested...where does the problem lie?

Anonymous 24 January 2010 2:39 pm

Cattle are tested before they're moved off the farm and also tested every 12, 24, or 48 months depending on their tb area

Eileen Wheeler 25 Jan 2010 5:25 pm

To anonymous - in theory yes - in practice NO

Anonymous 25 January 2010 6:17 pm

It's illegal to move cattle unless you test - so in practice yes.

Anonymous 27 January 2010 9:40 am

With the 4 year testing regime it has been possible for an animal never to be tested in its life if it moved before each farm was due its routine test . All herds should be tested every year

Anonymous 27 January 2010 6:30 pm

The 4 year testing is carried out in areas clean of tb for example Scotland and some parts of England therefore the wildlife is clean. However, in areas where there is tb for example South Wales and Cornwall the cattle are tested annually and are tested before they move off the farm.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE CRIME UNIT ALERT !

The NWCU has received information about "Doughnutting" which is a method of poisoning Badgers. Doughnuts are being stuffed with slug pellets and left close to badger setts. Most slug pellets contain Metaldehyde. Badgers have a sweet tooth and will eat the doughnuts resulting in a slow and unpleasant death. As with other poisoning cases, other animals within the locality are also likely to be affected. They may also be harmful to human consumption.

Please contact the NWCU if any similar incidents are found.

Phone: 01506 833722 Fax: 01506 443447

e-mail: ukwildlifecrime@nwcu.pnn.police.uk

