



**15 SEPTEMBER 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

LIFTING OF ISOLATION ORDER ON SUNNY HEIGHTS DAY CARE CENTRE

The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) has fully lifted the isolation order imposed on Sunny Heights Day Care Centre (SHDCC) with immediate effect from today. There have been no new confirmed cases of leptospirosis in dogs associated with SHDCC since July 2016.

Background

2 On 13 July 2016, AVA had issued an isolation order to SHDCC due to an increase in the number of suspected leptospirosis cases linked to the centre. The isolation order prohibits any dog from entering or leaving the premises without AVA's authorisation. The isolation order was partially lifted on 3 August 2016, which allowed SHDCC to accept new dogs to be kept at designated areas while ensuring that they will not come into contact with existing resident dogs.

Full lifting of isolation order

3 Since then, SHDCC has put in place biosecurity measures to prevent disease transmission. These measures include the following:

- i. Instituted a rodent control programme
- ii. Treated all resident and boarding dogs with antibiotics
- iii. Required all incoming dogs to have up-to-date vaccinations
- iv. Cleaned and disinfected the swimming pool
- v. Stepped up their daily sanitation and cleaning regime
- vi. Trained staff to closely monitor the dogs such that any clinical signs of disease or abnormalities can be promptly addressed

4 In addition, the latest test results indicate that leptospire bacteria were not detected in any of the resident and boarding dogs in SHDCC.

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5 In view of the above, and that there were no new cases of leptospirosis associated with SHDCC since July, AVA has lifted the isolation order on SHDCC with immediate effect.

**Issued by Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority
15 September 2016**

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Annex A

About Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease that can affect both animals and humans. It can be transmitted to humans and animals through cuts and abrasions of the skin, or through mucous membranes with water contaminated with the urine of infected animals. While many wild and domestic animals can be infected and act as a source of infection, rodents are considered the primary source of infection to human beings. The bacteria can remain in the soil or stagnant water for months hence it will not be possible to completely eliminate the risk of transmission from the environment.

The diagnosis of leptospirosis can be challenging, as infected dogs may not exhibit any clinical signs. Test results must be evaluated together with the animal's vaccination status and medical history.

Clinical signs of leptospirosis in dogs include fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, jaundice and failure to produce urine. Infected dogs may be treated with antibiotics but may succumb to the infection due to acute renal failure. Dogs showing these clinical signs and are known to have been exposed to infected animals should seek veterinary treatment immediately.

Safeguarding against Leptospirosis

Dog owners are reminded to keep their dogs up to date with their vaccinations. Although the vaccine does not provide 100% protection, it can reduce the chance of the dog being infected and help prevent the excretion of bacteria in the dog's urine. The disease can be treated with a course of antibiotics. Dog owners are advised to speak to their veterinarian if they have concerns about their dog's health.

Leptospira is bacteria that can be found in the environment and it will not be possible to completely eliminate the risk of transmission, especially in areas where dogs are allowed to interact and mix. In view that a proportion of infected dogs do not exhibit any clinical signs, dog owners are advised to exercise their discretion when bringing their dogs to public areas and interacting with other dogs.

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