

# News story: VMD Survey of Controlled Drugs Disposal 2018 – Summary of responses

Vets involved in the prescribing, supplying, recording, storing and disposing of Controlled Drugs (CDs) must comply with the law on the misuse of drugs and veterinary medicines.

When disposing of unused CDs listed in Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations, vets must ensure that they are destroyed in the presence of and as directed by any one of the following:

- an inspector appointed under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations
- a vet, independent of the practice where the destruction takes place
- a person legally authorised to witness the destruction of CDs such as a Police CD Liaison Officer (CDLO)

We commissioned a survey of vets on issues relating to the use and disposal of CDs to better understand the extent of the issues that they face in complying with their legal obligations. The survey ran for 5 weeks from May to June 2018 and contained 10 questions.

We received 511 responses to the survey and this document provides a summary of the comments received.

The views expressed in the survey will be used to inform our policy in relation to the destruction of controlled drugs in veterinary practices.

## **Q1 What area is your practice based?**

Answered: 507 Skipped: 4

<b>Region Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Scotland	38
Northern Ireland	5
North East England	30
North West England	53
West Midlands	41
East Midlands	37
East England	44
South Wales	16
South West England	80
South East England	91
Greater London	72

## Q2 What type of practice do you work at?

Answered: 510 Skipped: 1

### Region Choices Responses

Mixed	56
Companion	436
Equine	3
Farm	15

## Q3 Who do you use as a first option to witness the disposal of controlled drugs?

Answered: 503 Skipped: 8

### Region Choices Responses

Police Controlled Drugs Liason Officer (CDLO)	148
VMD/RCVS Inspector	97
Independent Vet	258

## Q4 If your first option is unavailable, who would you use to witness the disposal of controlled drugs?

Answered: 491 Skipped: 20

### Answer Choices Responses

CDLO	118
Inspector	131
Independent Vet	242

## Q5 How often do you routinely dispose of controlled drugs?

Answered: 509 Skipped: 2

### Answer Choices Responses

Once a month	26
More than once a month	7
Ever 3-4 months	132
Every 6 Months	102
Less than once a year	138
Once a year	104

## **Q6 Have you ever experienced any difficulty getting someone to witness disposing of Controlled Drugs?**

Answered: 511 Skipped: 0

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
Yes, often	267
Yes, occasionally	114
Yes, but very rarely	36
No difficulty at all	94

## **Q7 If you answered yes to question 6, please could you explain what the issue has been?**

Answered: 401 Skipped: 110

Finding an independent vet. The reasons given were:

- the location of the practice being too isolated
- the nearest practice is a competitor
- that they are part of a chain of vet practices, therefore other vets aren't deemed independent
- time spent finding a vet that is willing to take time out to witness the disposal

Getting CDLOs to witness disposal. The reasons given were:

- not enough local CDLOs or none at all in their area
- police are reluctant to come out to witness disposal and this is low on their list of priorities
- the police are not always aware of the regulations for controlled drugs disposal

No local RCVS or VMD inspectors which results in practices stockpiling drugs and waiting until their next inspection to dispose of them, causing lengthy delays.

Answered: 419 Skipped: 92

<b>Answer Choices</b>	<b>Responses</b>
CDLO	119
VMD	176
RCVS	124

## **Q9 Please list the most commonly used controlled drugs used in your practice using either the active**

## **substance or trade-mark name?**

Answered: 498 Skipped: 13

### **Controlled drug listed in descending order of use:**

Methadone  
Ketamine  
Morphine  
Fentanyl  
Buprenorphine  
Phenobarbital  
Pentobarbital  
Tramadol  
Diazepam  
Secobarbital  
Midazolam  
Pethidine  
Etorphine  
Clenbuterol  
Codeine

The following products listed by respondents were not CDs:

- Butorphanol
- Torbugesic
- Cinchocaine
- Gabapentin (Although Gabapentin was placed in Schedule 3 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 from April 2019)

## **Q10 Please let us know if you have any other suggestions or concerns in relation to controlled drugs being used as veterinary medicines?**

Answered: 173 Skipped: 338

The concerns raised followed these themes:

- General concerns around the destruction of controlled drugs with practices in rural areas experiencing more difficulty. Practices reported stockpiling CDs awaiting destruction because of the difficulty in finding a person to witness.
- The 28 day broach rule which some feel results in the unnecessary amounts of wastage. Some practices do not follow the 28 day rule and reported carrying on using products until the vial is empty.

- Insufficient guidance on recording CDs and wastage, with too much regulation and red tape making it difficult to comply.

The suggestions followed these themes:

- Increase the pool of people able to witness the destruction by allowing staff from the same practice or corporate group to witness disposal. Instead of an external vet two internal vets could sign and witness the disposal.
- Encourage manufacturers to produce 2ml or 5ml vials for drugs like Ketamine that would lead to less wastage.
- Put measurement markers on bottles which would help to carry out stock checks.
- Introduce longer broach dates to minimise waste and financial loss.
- Make disposal procedure easier and provide clearer guidance on storage and disposal of CDs.

---

## **News story: Invasive Species Week: American skunk cabbage creates a stink**

American skunk cabbage is a colourful plant posing a difficult challenge at [Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest](#), where it is now blocking drainage channels.

Biosecurity Minister Lord Gardiner visited the area today (Tuesday, 14 May) to see first-hand how this plant has had an impact on the woodlands. He then assisted [Forestry England](#) and volunteers in digging out this invasive non-native plant.

Woodlands are a crucial part of our landscape and cultural heritage and home to some of the country's rarest wildlife, but the biodiversity they support is threatened by a number of invasive species.

Recent reports on international nature have put the issue of species loss high on the nation's agenda. Last week, the [UN's Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services report](#) showed nearly a million species are in danger of extinction and tackling invasive non-native

species can make a difference for the UK's native fauna and flora.

Biosecurity Minister Lord Gardiner said:

The government is taking strong measures to ensure non-native invasive species are not allowed to become established in the UK and stopping the spread of those already here – this is critical to tackling wider environmental threats such as biodiversity loss, climate change, food security and our resilience to flooding.

Tackling invasive non-native species is important for protecting our country's native plants and animals and is vital for safeguarding our environment, economy and health. Meeting this threat will help us to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it.

The work here at Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest by Forestry England staff and volunteers is making a vital difference to remove a non-native invasive species. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved.

American skunk cabbage was first recorded in the wild in 1947 in Surrey and was originally introduced to the UK from Western North America as an ornamental plant in 1901. Since then it has spread across Britain, particularly in southern and western areas.

Once established the plant can spread quickly. Infestations can dominate large areas and crowd out native species in important habitats such as wet woodlands. Its name is fitting as this plant has a characteristic pungent scent.

In 2016, American skunk cabbage was banned from sale in the UK. Now gardeners are being urged to make sure that they [Be Plant Wise](#), dispose of plants correctly and ensure they do not discard this species in the natural environment.

Forestry England have been working hard to remove the plant from Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest over the last few years, and the Kent High Weald Partnership have volunteered to lend a hand during Invasive Species Week.

Dr Niall Moore, Head of the [GB Non-Native Secretariat](#), said:

Invasive Species Week highlights the importance of this issue and the role of the Be Plant Wise and [Check, Clean, Dry](#) campaigns that help boaters, anglers, gardeners and those travelling abroad to ensure they take the right biosecurity action and prevent any visitors from hitching a lift to the UK.

Advice to gardeners is to [Be Plant Wise](#) when planning a clear out of your

garden, pond or aquarium, dispose of plants responsibly and don't dump them in the wild.

If you're an angler, canoeist, boater or similar, [Check Clean Dry](#) your kit after leaving the water to avoid spreading invasive species between waterbodies. It's even more important if you're abroad as you could bring back new plants and animals.

Take care of pets, never release them or allow them to escape into the wild. It's cruel and could harm other wildlife.

## **Asian hornet**

Last year there were nine confirmed sightings of Asian hornets – an individual hornet in Lancashire (April) and Hull, three in Cornwall, two in Hampshire, one in Surrey (all September) and the latest in Kent (October).

It is important to remember: The Asian hornet is smaller than our native hornet and poses no greater risk to human health than a bee. However, they do pose a risk to honey bees.

These incursions to the UK were successfully contained by government action. However Defra remains vigilant, working closely with the National Bee Unit and their nationwide network of bee inspectors, as well as partners APHA and Fera, to monitor the situation.

[The latest updates about Asian hornet sightings in the UK can be found here on Gov.uk](#)

Government has launched an innovative free app – called Asian hornet watch – to enable people to quickly and easily report possible sightings of the invasive species and send pictures of suspect insects to experts at the National Bee Unit.

If you suspect you have seen an Asian hornet you should report this using the 'Asian Hornet Watch' app:

Lord Gardiner's visit comes as part of a wider push by government to promote Invasive Species Week, an annual awareness-raising campaign led by the GB Non-Native

Species Secretariat (NNSS) and Defra to get members of the public thinking about simple steps they can take to stop the spread of invasive species which threaten Britain's plants and animals. Find out more on the website: [Invasive Species Week](#).

## **Background**

### **Invasive Species – Why it matters for the UK?**

- Biodiversity loss: Invasive species are one of the biggest causes of global nature loss and species extinctions. For example, floating pennywort, originally introduced as a pond plant, rapidly forms dense

mats which reduce oxygen levels in the water, crowd out and kill off native wildlife and damage habitats.

- Climate change: Through warmer temperatures, climate change may allow the spread of invasive species and turn previously benign plants and animals into invasive species. For example, Argentine ant is occasionally recorded in warmer parts of UK cities but climate change could help it establish more widely, disrupting ecosystems of plants and insects, and cause problems in households.
- Food security: Invasive species are estimated to cost British agriculture and horticulture over £1 billion per year. For example, the most destructive species of slug pests to UK agriculture are three non-native: Spanish slug, Sicilian slug and Budapest slug.
- Resilience to flooding: Invasive species can increase the risk of flooding by clogging waterways, undermining flood defences and impeding drainage. For example, Signal crayfish erodes banks by digging burrows which can be up to two metres deep, with interconnecting tunnels.
- What can I do? [Be Plant Wise](#) when planning a clear out of your garden, pond or aquarium, dispose of plants responsibly and don't dump them in the wild. If you're an angler, canoeist, boater or similar, [Check Clean Dry](#) your kit after leaving the water to avoid spreading invasive species between waterbodies.

---

## **Press release: Restrictions extended for Leicester bankrupt after breach**

Leicester resident who breached the conditions of his Bankruptcy Restriction Order has had his restrictions extended by four years.

---

## **News story: Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection – Product defect recall alert**

Product defect recall alert for Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for injection – Vm 00006/4098 by Elanco UK AH Ltd

---



# News story: Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection – Product defect recall alert

Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection – Product defect recall alert – GOV.UK

Product defect recall alert for Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for injection – Vm 00006/4098 by Elanco UK AH Ltd



We wish to make wholesalers and veterinary surgeons aware that Elanco UK AH Ltd has issued a recall of Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection (Vm 00006/4098) due to a failed periodic revalidation (media fill test) that may affect the level of sterility assurance of certain products. This only affects the batch mentioned below:

Batch No.	Description	Expiry
C967336A	Tylan 200mg/ml Solution for Injection	Use before 07/2020

Elanco UK AH Ltd is contacting wholesale dealers and veterinary surgeons to examine inventory immediately and quarantine products subject to this recall.

This issue only applies to the batch listed above. Any other batches of Tylan 200 Injection are not impacted and may continue to be distributed.

For further information regarding the recall, please contact Ms Victoria Haslingden 01256 779519 or email [elanco\\_orders@lilly.com](mailto:elanco_orders@lilly.com)

Published 15 May 2019

Thank you for your feedback