

Situation in the UK –Bee treatments

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Situation in the UK

- We have 5 products authorised for the control of bee diseases in the UK
- Challenges!



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Situation in the UK

- Bee keepers are concerned about the availability of products for bees
- VMD is working closely with other departments, the RCVS, the BVA and bee keepers associations to help



VMD's action plan

- Bee info page:
<http://www.vmd.gov.uk/VetSQP/Bee/bee.htm>
- Action plan with short, medium and long term objectives
- Need to be pragmatic but food safety is paramount



- The VMD allows the importation of EU authorised medicines for bees for use under the Cascade
- Challenge!
 - the use of the Cascade requires a prescription by a vet – and vets are not often involved in apiculture in the UK
 - how to deal with withdrawal period?



VMD's action plan

- Compiling a list of vets with knowledge of apiculture who are willing to help bee keepers
- Initiating a compilation of products for bees authorised across the EU
- Encouraging companies to submit Mutual Recognition applications
- Encouraging companies to submit new applications for products under the minor species scheme
- Waived fees for application for field trials
- Investing in research to investigate the suitability of certain substances for treatment of nosema



VMD – research work

- Invested in research for a method of analysis to detect residues of fumagilin in honey
- Invested in research to look for treatments for nosemosis
- Invested in research to investigate experimental protocols to determine MRLs in honey using oxalic acid as a model compound



Long term measures

- Desire to see more regulatory flexibility for veterinary medicines for bees
- Changes in the EU Directive to allow nationally qualified apiculture experts to prescribe for bees under the Cascade
- Other changes to the EU Directive to facilitate the establishment of MRLs for honey



Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF)

- UK is leading an electronic working group to compile and analyse information on veterinary medicines for honey production, bee health, honey consumption and good veterinary practices



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