

F. No. 3-101/2018-AHT (RGM)
Government of India
Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying
Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 28.09.2020

Sub: Advisory to States on ear infections post tagging

Please refer to animal identification and traceability using polyurethane tags with 12 digits animal Unique Identification number. In this connection the undersigned is directed to state that occurrence ear infection has been reported by the farmers after tagging in some states. Therefore it is essential that owner of the animals and all veterinary service personnel should remain alert while ear tagging and avoid ear infection. In this regard, instructions have been prepared by this Department and same should be followed by all Paravets/AI technicians/veterinarians engaged in tagging.

2. Standard Operating Procedure for tagging

2.1 Equipments for Tagging

2.1.1 State shall procure quality ear tags with good quality male part and quality tag applicator supplied by tag manufacturer as per specifications prescribed by Government of India. Pins of tag applicators shall be replaced as per instruction given by manufacturer.

2.2 Procedure of Tagging:

2.2.1 Securing the animal: Properly secure the animal to limit the animal's head movement during the tagging process. Limiting head movement prevents improper tagging or injury to the animal or animal handler.

2.2.2 Disinfection: Application site must be free of foreign debris prior to placement of tags on the animal. Proper hygiene is necessary to prevent infections. Use alcohol/disinfectant to clean the applicator as well as the tagging site on the ear pinna.

2.2.3 Farmers shall be advised to apply disinfectant for 3-5 days post-tagging to reduce the chances of infection.

2.2.4 Free Air Space is important for proper healing and retention of tags. Inspect placement after tagging, to ensure there is sufficient space between ear and tag. It is advised to pull tag pieces apart for proper healing.

2.2.5 Alignment of the tag applicator jaw should be checked before application of tags, the male part of tag should be perfectly centered with the hole in female part of tag. If the hole and stud are out of alignment, it shall be removed and reloaded.

2.2.6 Tags should be placed in the middle third of the ear. Tags placed too far outside the recommended area are prone to snagging and getting ripped out, while tags too far inside the animal's ear could cause pinching or necrosis.

2.2.7 Place the male part of the tag on to the back of the ear with the female to the inner ear.

2.2.8 While applying tag the jaws of applicator should be firmly squeezed together.

2.2.9 The tag shall be placed preferably in the left ear.

2.2.10 Tags should not be placed in an existing hole in the ear of livestock in order to avoid chances of loss of ear tags .

2.2.11 After tagging both the sides shall be pulled to increase air flow around the tag and turning the button. This will verify correct application and ensure there is appropriate space between the tag and the animal's ear.

2.2.12 Tag shall not be placed too far towards inside the ear, it will fit tightly due to the presence of thicker cartilage. This may also cause necrosis, the death of cells in the tissue, or sloughing tissue which is the shedding of dead cells.

2.2.13 Tag shall not be placed too far outside, this will cause snagging or tag ripped out. Proper tag placement reduces risk of infection.

2.3. Advise farmers to monitor tag area for infection and both the parts of tags may be pulled by the farmer if there is infection this will help in faster healing. In case of serious infection farmers may immediately contact local veterinarian.

2.4. If the applied ear tag is lost, the animal should be retagged and the same information should be uploaded immediately on INAPH portal.

(Dr. Bhushan Tyagi)
Deputy Commissioner (RGM)

Dr. BHUSHAN TYAGI
Deputy Commissioner (CD)
Govt. of India

Ministry of Fisheries, A.H. & Dairying
D/o Animal Husbandry and Dairying
Khasi Bazar, New Delhi-110002

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