

1. Mr G S Podmore *A 20/6*
2. PS/Secretary of State

cc PS/Permanent Secretary
 Mr J W Preston
 Mr J I Davies
 Mr D R Williams
 Mr D Summers

POSSIBLE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN A HORSE

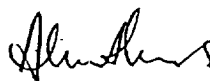
You will wish to be aware that I have just received a note from Mr D Summers, the DRVO, that a possible case of a Spongiform Encephalopathy (SE) has been reported in a horse in the Brecon area.

The local veterinary surgeon reported yesterday afternoon a suspicion that a horse had contracted SE as it was showing clinical symptoms similar to those described in cattle suffering from BSE. By yesterday evening the horse was in a comatose state and on humane grounds was destroyed by the veterinary surgeon.

At his request a full post mortem and a laboratory investigation will be started at the Carmarthen Veterinary Investigation Centre this morning in an attempt to ascertain the exact course. This will probably take at least 2 weeks. Charges to the veterinary surgeon have been waived in this instance.

Points particularly mentioned by the veterinary surgeon about this case were that the premises had an apparently similar case in another of their horses several months ago; and that the horses had been fed cattle cake. Clearly, in his mind, there is a suspicion of a link with BSE. It must be emphasised, however, that at present we cannot even be certain that an SE of any sort is involved. These events are not exactly confidential but clearly no one is anxious to go out of their way to publicise them.

Any further information will be passed on as soon as it is available.



26th June 1990

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AHL 37 115 1
 PT 9

Note by The BSE Inquiry Secretariat
 The attached document may now be found at the following locations.

DOCUMENT	LOCATION WHERE DOCUMENTS MAY NOW BE FOUND
Attached Note BSE in a horse	40/06.26/10.1.