



Signs of Leptospirosis in cattle

- Fever and decrease in milk production which could be mild and transient
- Abortion, stillbirth or the birth of weak or premature calves
- Infertility and lower conception rates
- Haemoglobinuria, icterus and anaemia



Caused by

Several species of *Leptospira* spirochaetes with serovar Hardjo being the most important cause of leptospirosis in South African cattle.

Transmission is very effective via direct contact with infected urine, placental fluids or milk. Transmission may also take place transplacentally, venereally, during breeding, artificial insemination and organisms may be preserved in semen in maintenance hosts. Transmission between incidental hosts is far less common as it is mostly associated with indirect contact with areas contaminated by maintenance hosts.



Leptospirosis is a zoonosis

Anyone in contact with cattle such as farmers/farm workers, abattoir workers and vets are at risk. The disease in man is usually acquired from contact with the urine, afterbirth or aborted foetus of an infected animal or with contaminated water.



Leptospirosis is difficult to eradicate

Some cows can become carriers. These cows shed the bacteria in their urine and are a source of infection for the rest of the herd. Leptospirae can also survive in soil and stagnant water or slow-moving streams.



Vaccination

The only practical way of preventing Leptospirosis is to vaccinate. It is essential to vaccinate heifers before their first pregnancy. To prevent infertility and abortion, heifers and cows should be vaccinated 14 to 60 days prior to every breeding season.

Bovilis® Vista 5 L5 SQ can assist in preventing leptospirosis in your herd with the additional benefit of aiding in prevention against abortion caused by IBR and foetal infection by BVD type 1 and type 2.



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BOVILIS® VISTA 5 L5 SQ Reg. No. G4336 (Act 36/1947). Modified live cultures of bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR) virus, bovine virus diarrhoea (BVD) virus (type 1 and 2), parainfluenza 3 virus (PI₃), bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV) and inactivated bacterins of *Leptospira canicola*, *L. grippityphosa*, *L. hardjo* (including the *L. borgpetersenii* serovar Hardjo bovis), *L. pomona* and *L. icterohaemorrhagiae*.