



CARCASS INSPECTION (I)



the gralloch

small intestine

connective tissue holding small intestine together



Lymph nodes on the intestines.
Mesenteric lymph nodes are found in a chain around the small intestine. To inspect, lay the gralloch down with the stomach and large intestine underneath the small intestine. Spread out the connective tissue holding the small intestine together to find the chain of nodes running alongside.

Aim

The aim of this guide is to ensure that a proper inspection of culled animals is carried out in order to:

- ◆ Minimise the risk of diseased or contaminated carcasses entering the food chain;
- ◆ Assist in containing outbreaks of disease.

Justification

2 Food safety is the responsibility of all who shoot, dress, transport and process venison. On 1st January 2006, new EU food hygiene regulations¹ were introduced to the UK. Different parts of the legislation apply to different operations. No matter what the operation, however, there is a legal obligation to ensure that all food is safe to eat. It is a legal requirement for any wild game or wild game meat intended for sale to an approved game handling establishment (AGHE) to be inspected by a 'trained person'.

- ◆ It is strongly recommended that, where venison is intended for home consumption or sale directly to the final consumer, the carcass and organs are also subjected to a full inspection.
- ◆ HACCP (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) principles* should be followed from before the shot through to the meat being prepared for the plate. There is a legal requirement for a formal HACCP from when the carcass is processed.

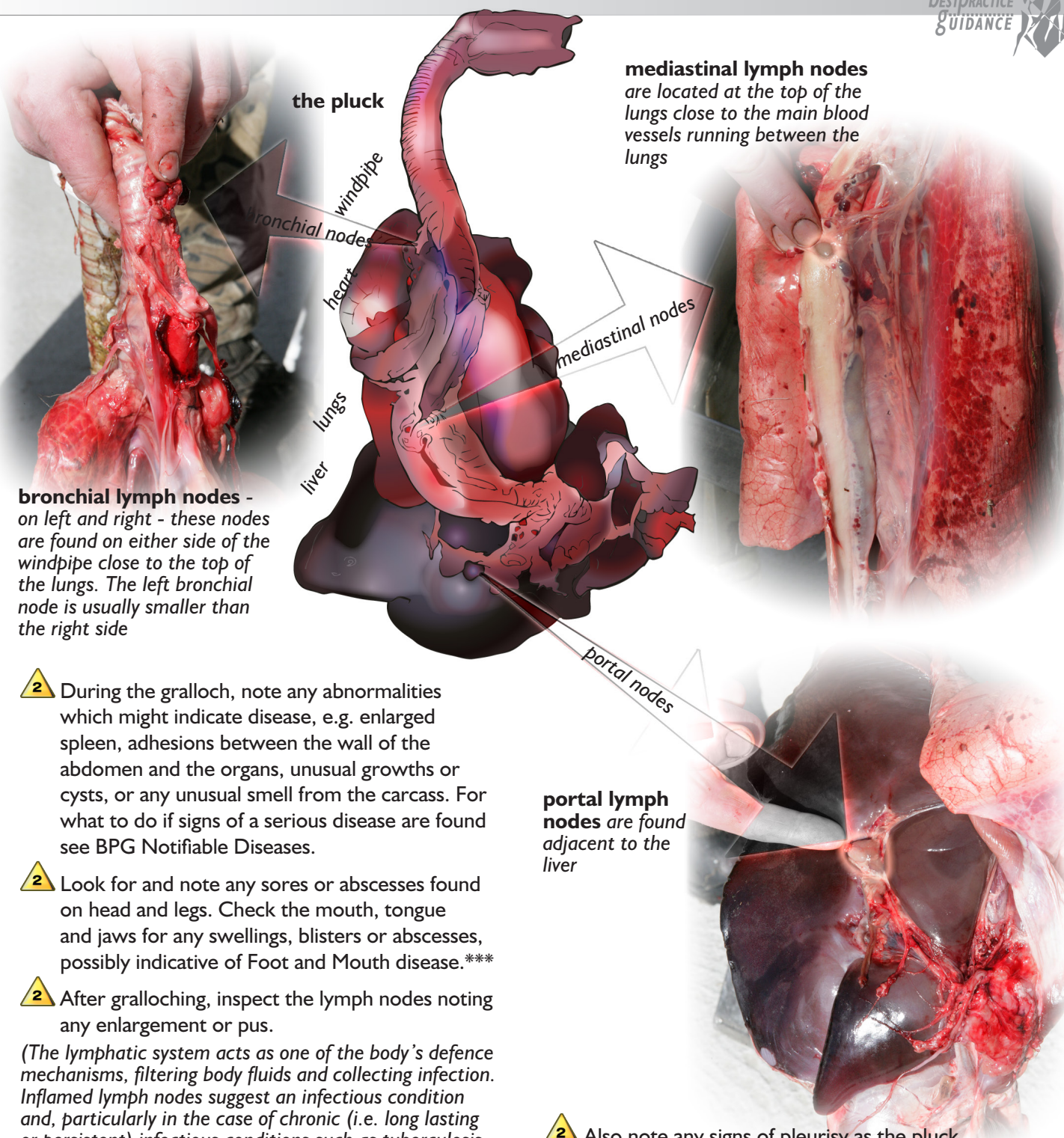
- ◆ The 'trained person' is responsible for recording and reporting:
 - 1) unusual behaviour in the animal before culling;**
 - 2) any abnormality observed in the gralloch, head and legs;
 - 3) any condition which might lead one to suspect infection with a Notifiable Disease.***

Training

Practitioners should be properly trained to carry out carcass inspection. A 'trained person', referred to in the new EU regulations, should have sufficient knowledge and skill to identify any abnormal characteristics, behaviour or environmental contamination (e.g. gut contents, bullet fragments, chemicals).

Procedure in the field

- 2** Before taking the shot note any abnormal behaviour.
- 1** After checking the animal is dead, inspect its general condition for obvious signs of a Notifiable Disease or injury e.g. broken bones, emaciation, severe diarrhoea, weeping sores, major swellings or infected wounds.



mediastinal lymph nodes are located at the top of the lungs close to the main blood vessels running between the lungs

bronchial lymph nodes - on left and right - these nodes are found on either side of the windpipe close to the top of the lungs. The left bronchial node is usually smaller than the right side

portal lymph nodes are found adjacent to the liver

2 During the gralloch, note any abnormalities which might indicate disease, e.g. enlarged spleen, adhesions between the wall of the abdomen and the organs, unusual growths or cysts, or any unusual smell from the carcass. For what to do if signs of a serious disease are found see BPG Notifiable Diseases.

2 Look for and note any sores or abscesses found on head and legs. Check the mouth, tongue and jaws for any swellings, blisters or abscesses, possibly indicative of Foot and Mouth disease.***

2 After gralloching, inspect the lymph nodes noting any enlargement or pus.

(The lymphatic system acts as one of the body's defence mechanisms, filtering body fluids and collecting infection. Inflamed lymph nodes suggest an infectious condition and, particularly in the case of chronic (i.e. long lasting or persistent) infectious conditions such as tuberculosis (TB), the lymph nodes are characteristically enlarged and may develop abscesses, which can vary from pinhead size up to something containing three litres of pus.)

Procedure in the larder

2 Remove any contamination by washing and/or cutting back. Record if carcass submitted with visible traces of contamination.

2 Look for and note any enlargement or abscesses within the bronchial, mediastinal and portal lymph nodes (see illustrations).

2 Also note any signs of pleurisy as the pluck is removed, easily identified by adhesions of the lungs to the chest wall. Note any areas of discoloured or roughened surface on the inside of the chest wall (which may have originated from a wound associated with broken ribs, or be indicative of an infectious condition causing pneumonia).

2 Look for and note any lumps, abscesses, hardened areas or unusual discolouration in the lungs which might, in the case of abscesses, indicate TB*** or a parasite infection.**

continued in Carcass Inspection(2)

* See BPG Basic Hygiene Principles ** See BPG Deer Health *** See BPG Notifiable Diseases