

## Lumpy Jaw

This condition of the jaw is caused by a bacteria known as *Actinomyces bovis* (Gram +ve club shaped filamentous anaerobe) which is an obligate inhabitant of the mouth of cattle.

Lumpy jaw is an uncommon sporadic condition of cattle. The bacteria gain access to the bony structures of the jaw via lymphatic (gland) system from cut or abrasion in the mouth or tooth root abscesses or tooth eruptions.

Infection of the bony structures of the jaw (osteitis and osteomyelitis) results in some of the bone being reabsorbed and other region of the bone proliferating. Ultimately, leading to a firm swelling and deformity in the jaw.



Initially the condition is not painful but as the disease progresses it becomes painful, and the affected animal have difficulty eating and lose weight.

Treatment consists of:

- Sodium iodide diluted and given under the skin or intravenously
- Anti-inflammatories
- Antibiotic course

The affected animal will have bone deformities/changes for the remainder of its life.