

Products & Services

Vaccine against Lyme disease

Merial has launched Merilym 3, the first Lyme disease vaccine to be available in the UK. The vaccine contains inactivated antigens from *Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Borrelia afzelii* and *Borrelia garinii* and the company says that it provides broad-spectrum immunity against infection.

Lyme disease is the most common vector-borne disease in Europe and



Merial reports that in the UK there has been an increase of over 300 per cent in human cases since 2001. The disease is caused by infection with bacteria from the *Borrelia burgdorferi* group and is transmitted by *Ixodes* species ticks.

Merial explains that vaccinating with Merilym 3 induces high levels of antibodies against a key bacterial antigen. These, it says, are ingested by the tick during blood feed-

ing and bind to the bacteria in the tick gut, reducing the risk of transmission from tick to host.

The vaccine is available in packs of ten doses and for use in dogs can be administered to puppies from 12 weeks of age. The primary vaccinations course is two injections, three weeks apart, followed by annual boosters.

As with the article on "Dog diseases coming to the UK", here is another disease on its way.

While there is no need to panic, it is another reason not to take your dog to Europe

Paul H