

RANAVIRUS

Cumbria Amphibian and Reptile Group



INTRODUCTION

Ranavirus is relatively new disease in the UK and usually infects common frogs.

It is thought to have spread from North America through commercial importation of **goldfish** and **bullfrogs**.

A clear indicator of ranavirus in a population is **mass mortalities** in or around ponds during **summer**. Especially if individuals are thin or lethargic a few days prior.

The virus is only active in warm temperatures, so mass mortalities outside of the **summer months** may have another cause.

However, populations can be infected with and have no clinical signs of infection.

Source: ARC Trust

Photo credit: ARC Trust



SYMPTOMS

- Skins ulcers found on underside of pelvic region, hind limb and feet
- Loss of digits
- Internal bleeding/bleeding from the mouth/cloaca (seen as redening of underside)
- Lethargy
- Emaciation

CONSERVATION IMPLICATIONS

- Ranavirus is understudied, so the implication are unknown
- Sometimes populations recover
- Others can have a long term decline of up to 80%

Report sightings

Report to Garden Wildlife Health

www.gardenwildlifehealth.org