



EUROPEAN LIVESTOCK BREEDS ARK AND RESCUE NET
KUTNA HORA, CZECH REPUBLIC, FEBRUARY 8 - 10, 2008

Working Group 1: Rescue & Quarantine February 9, 2008

Epidemics: Facts and Background

History

Epidemics

Since antiquity, animal epidemics are known. Already since 1514 the FMD is described in Italy. In the 16. and 17. century, animal health certificates were required. Animal epidemics lead to the first education of veterinarians in France (Lyon, Vienna, Torino and Göttingen in the 18. century. 1711 (Preussen), 1713 (England), 1714 (France) legal norms were legislated, which include all measures taken also today like disclosure duty (= Anzeigepflicht), blocking of livestock groups (Sperrung von Beständen), elimination of infected animals, disinfection and payments of compensation.

Legal Systems concerning contagious Animal Diseases

Notifiable diseases

A **notifiable disease** is any disease that is required by law to be reported to government authorities. This collation of information allows the authorities to monitor the disease, and provides early warning of possible outbreaks. Many governments have enacted regulations for reporting of both human and animal (generally livestock) diseases.

World Organisation for Animal Health, OIE

1920: an outbreak of Cattle plague (Rinderpest) in Antwerpen by zebu cattle from Pakistan, which were only on journey through Belgium, lead to the establishment of OIE (Office International des Epizooties; internationales Tierseuchenamt) in France 1924.

The need to fight animal diseases at global level led to the creation of the Office International des Epizooties through the international Agreement signed on January 25th 1924. In May 2003 the Office became the World Organisation for Animal Health but kept its historical acronym OIE.

The OIE is the intergovernmental organisation responsible for improving animal health worldwide.

It is recognised as a reference organisation by the World Trade Organization (WTO) and as of May 2007, had a total of 169 Member Countries and Territories. The OIE maintains permanent relations with 35 other international and regional organisations and has Regional and sub-regional Offices on every continent.

Animal identification and animal traceability (Rückverfolgbarkeit) are tools for addressing animal health (including zoonoses), and food safety risks arising from animal feed (see Section 3.5. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code*; Section 4.3. of CAC/RCP 54-2004).

Animal Disease Notification System (ADNS)

registration and documentation of certain important infectious animal diseases. It is mainly a management tool that ensures detailed information about outbreaks of these animal diseases in the countries that are connected to the application. This permits immediate access to information about contagious animal disease outbreaks and ensures that trade in live animals and products of animal origin is not affected unnecessarily.

The operational objective of the system is to ensure rapid exchange of information between the competent national authorities responsible for animal health and the Commission on outbreaks of contagious animal diseases.

The system allows the co-ordination and monitoring of outbreaks of contagious animal diseases and enables Member States and Commission services to take immediate measures to prevent the spread of the diseases in question.

In case of an outbreak of an epidemic disease European sanitary regulations dictate often culling of animals – although rare breeds. Such eradication causes irreversible losses of species and genetic variations. Solutions should be found to protect rare breeds from gene preservation programmes from eradication.

Which exceptions from eradication are existing already today? How can these be applied to endangered breeds?

Which prerequisites are needed to be fulfilled in advance (e.g. registration of animals and farms, specific farm conditions)?

Farm conditions can be:

Sanitary requirements

Conditions for the preserving unit (AI Center etc.)

Who will be responsible to decide about necessary action

How to harmonize conditions and actions among the European countries

TRACES (TRAdE Control and Expert System)

is a European Union database system established in 2004. TRACES records the whole animal transportation within the EU and also from outside into EU.

Basic is EU decision 2003/623/of the commission from 19. August 2003.

Aim of the system is, to network the veterinarian offices, e.g. to find out the formites of an infectious disease in other livestock units in case of an epidemic outbreak. Also a list of services and farms, that are allowed to export animal products into EU.

TRACES replaces the system ANIMO (ANImal MOVement).

Animal diseases (examples)

EU has regulations, which aims to improve animal health within the Community. Also there are several regulations concerning health standards and obligations under international law.

Provisions of e.g. culling measures for the exemption of rare breeds are in some Council Directives included: Council directive 2003/85 (FMD):

Measures to be applied in Special Cases

Article 15

Measures to be applied in case of an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the vicinity or within certain specific premises keeping on a temporary or regular basis animals of susceptible species

1. Where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease threatens to infect animals of susceptible species in a laboratory, zoo, wildlife park, and fenced area or in bodies, institutes or centres approved in accordance with Article 13(2) of Directive 92/65/EEC and where animals are kept for scientific purposes or purposes related to conservation of species or farm animal genetic resources, the Member State concerned shall ensure that all appropriate bio-security measures are taken to protect such animals from infection. Those measures may include restricting access to public institutions or making such access subject to special conditions.
2. Where an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is confirmed in one of the premises referred to in paragraph 1, the Member State concerned may decide to derogate from Article 10(1)(a), provided that basic Community interests, and in particular the animal health status of other Member States, are not endangered and that all necessary measures are in place to prevent any risk of spreading foot-and-mouth disease virus.
3. The decision referred to in paragraph 2 shall immediately be notified to the Commission. In the case of farm animal genetic resources, this notification shall include a reference to the list of premises established in accordance with Article 77(2)(f), by which the competent authority has identified these premises in advance as breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of a breed.

A list of premises that are identified as a “breeding nucleus of animals of susceptible species indispensable for the survival of a breed” must be established in advance (Article 77). The Commission must be notified in the event of a Member State deciding to derogate slaughter measures, and it must be ensured that “the animal health status of other Member States, are not endangered and that all necessary measures are in place to prevent any risk of spreading footand-mouth disease virus.”