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### HOG CHOLERA IN BULGARIA

*Translation of the text of a telex received on 20 April 1992 from Dr R.B. Minev, Chairman of the State Veterinary Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Sofia:*

S. R. - 1

*Nature of diagnosis:* laboratory (direct immunofluorescence test).

*Date of initial detection of animal health incident:* 20 April 1992.

*Estimated date of first infection:* 17 April 1992.

*Number of separate outbreaks identified so far:* four (4).

*Geographical identification of the outbreaks:* Sofia district:

1. Bagrentsi
2. Dalga Luka
3. Lechnitsa
4. Slivnitsa **Erreur! Signet non défini..**

*Details concerning the outbreaks:*

| No. | Species | No. of animals in the outbreaks | No. of cases | No. of deaths | No. of animals destroyed | No. of animals slaughtered |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | sui     | 3                               | 3            | 1             | 2                        | 0                          |
| 2   | sui     | 9                               | 9            | 2             | 7                        | 0                          |
| 3   | sui     | 3                               | 3            | 3             | 0                        | 0                          |
| 4   | sui     | 22                              | 22           | 4             | 18                       | 0                          |

*Comments concerning affected population:* fattening pigs in family-run farms.

*Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:* investigations under way to determine the origin of the outbreaks.

*Control measures taken to date:* quarantine; stamping-out and destruction of carcasses; disinfection; ring vaccination; ban on the movement of pigs in the district; usual sanitary measures.

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### **SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN AN IMPORTED CHEETAH IN AUSTRALIA**

*Text of a communication received on 21 April 1992 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries & Energy, Canberra:*

On 9 May 1989, a three-year old male cheetah (the affected animal) and two litter-mates (one female and one male) were imported from Marwell Zoo, Hampshire, United Kingdom, to the Pearl Coast Zoo, Broome, Western Australia. The three animals were born at Marwell Zoo on 16 June 1986.

Since entering Australia, the imported cheetahs have remained under the quarantine isolation and security applying to registered zoological gardens in Australia and have been fed horse and donkey meat.

In December 1991 the affected cheetah showed the following clinical signs of illness which worsened over a three-week period:

- . weakness
- . incoordination
- . muscular degeneration
- . paralysis.

The animal was euthanased on 7 January 1992.

A tentative diagnosis of spongiform encephalopathy was made by the Western Australian Animal Health Laboratory, South Perth, and samples were then sent to the Australian Animal Health Laboratory (AAHL), Geelong, and the Central Veterinary Laboratory (CVL), Weybridge, United Kingdom, for confirmation.

On 12 February 1992, the CVL confirmed a positive diagnosis of spongiform encephalopathy. Histopathological examination showed neuropil and neuronal vacuolation in the thalamus and corpus striatum consistent with a diagnosis of scrapie-like spongiform encephalopathy.

Lesions in these areas were florid and considered, in conjunction with the electron microscope demonstration of fibrils (consistent with scrapie-associated fibrils), adequate proof of a spongiform encephalopathy. No transmission experiments have been conducted.

A complicating factor in determining the aetiology of the clinical signs was the presence of a spinal cord lesion, showing diffuse demyelination possibly indicative of trauma.

This is the first recorded case of spongiform encephalopathy in a cheetah in the world.

The cheetah almost certainly became infected at Marwell Zoo in the United Kingdom prior to importation in 1989.

In view of the Pearl Coast Zoo closing and attempts to rehouse the cheetahs in other zoos unsuccessful, regrettably, the remaining two litter-mate cheetahs have been euthanased under an agreed procedure in accordance with international endangered species protection arrangements, to ensure maximum scientific information may be obtained.

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### VIRAL HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE OF RABBITS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM / GREAT BRITAIN

*Text of a fax received on 22 April 1992 from Dr K.C. Meldrum, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Surbiton:*

S. R. - 1

*Nature of diagnosis:* clinical, post mortem and laboratory (confirmed on 22 April 1992).

*Date of initial detection of animal health incident:* 24 March 1992.

*Estimated date of first infection:* unknown.

*Number of separate outbreaks identified so far:* two (2).

*Geographical identification of the outbreaks:* England:

1. North Ascot, Sunninghill district, Berkshire county
2. Blackwater, Yately district, Hampshire county.

*Details concerning the outbreaks:*

| No. | Species | No. of animals in the outbreaks | No. of cases | No. of deaths | No. of animals destroyed | No. of animals slaughtered |
|-----|---------|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | lep     | 39                              | ...          | 5             | ...                      | 0                          |
| 2   | lep     | 70                              | ...          | 37 *          | ...                      | 0                          |

\* rabbits which died or were culled

*Comments concerning affected population:* show rabbits on two private premises.

*Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:* the first death of a doe occurred on 24 March 1992 and its suckling rabbits were fostered at premises Nos. 1 and 2. Investigations commenced after the foster doe at premises No. 1 died on 27 March 1992.

The last deaths were on 4 April 1992 at premises No. 1 and on 15 April 1992 at premises No. 2.

These are the first cases of the disease in Great Britain. More than 100 show contacts have been traced with negative results. Investigations into the cause of the outbreak are continuing.

*Control measures taken to date:* movement restrictions were imposed as a precautionary measure on 8 April 1992 on both premises, and on a third premises to which a rabbit had gone as a pet. These movement restrictions are continuing.

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### NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN ISRAEL *ERREUR! SIGNET NON DÉFINI.*

*Text of a fax received on 23 April 1992 from Dr A. Shimshony, Director of Veterinary Services and Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Beit Dagan:*

S. R. - 2 No. 1

*Final date of previous report period:* 17 April 1992 (see *Disease Information*, 5 [15], 48).

*Final date of this report period:* **Erreur! Signet non défini.** 23 April 1992.

*Estimated date of first infection:* unknown.

*Number of separate outbreaks identified so far:* one (1).

*Geographical identification of the outbreak:* Nir Gallim, Rehovot district.

*Latest details concerning the outbreak:*

| No. | Species | Number of animals in the outbreak | Data since last report |                  |                             |                               |
|-----|---------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|     |         |                                   | Number of new cases    | Number of deaths | Number of animals destroyed | Number of animals slaughtered |
| 1   | avi     | 0                                 | 0                      | 0                | 0                           | 0                             |

*Diagnostic details:*

*A. Conclusions to date concerning nature of agent:* mesogenic virus.

*B. Comments concerning diagnosis:* the pathogenicity of the isolated virus has been assessed by determination of mean death time in embryonated eggs.

*Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease:* agent seems to have been recently introduced; no additional outbreaks recorded.

*Control measures taken during report period:* control area around the outbreak, including quarantine measures and animal movement restrictions.

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### **RABIES IN SPAIN (MELILLA)**

*Translation of the text of a fax received on 23 April 1992 from Dr Q. Pérez Bonilla, Deputy Director General of Animal Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid:*

A case of rabies has been confirmed in a dog vaccinated in June 1991, in Melilla, a Spanish province in northern Africa.

On 1 April 1992, after attacking its owner, the dog showed clinical signs such as anorexia, asthenia and hydrophobia, began biting objects and died the same day.

On 7 April 1992, rabies was diagnosed by the Malaga State Laboratory, using the fluorescence antibody test.

From 1 January to 20 April 1992, six cases of rabies were confirmed in the Spanish provinces in northern Africa -five in Melilla and one in Ceuta. All cases concerned dogs.

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