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**NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN FINLAND
Lifting of sanitary measures**

Text of a fax received on 14 August 1996 from Dr Saara Reinius, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki:

S. R. - 2 No. 2

Final date of previous report period: 29 May 1996 (see *Disease Information*, **9** [20], 66).

Final date of this report period: 14 August 1996.

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

Geographical identification of the outbreak: Oulu University.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: no further spread of the disease has been recorded.

Control measures taken during report period: restrictions on the infected premises were lifted on 15 July 1996. Restrictions on the protection zone (3-km radius) and on the surveillance zone (10-km radius) were lifted on 24 July 1996.

Finland remains free from Newcastle disease.

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**NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
In psittacine birds**

Text of a fax received on 14 August 1996 from Dr L.J. King, Administrator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

S. R. - 2 No. 1

Final date of previous report period: 24 July 1996 (see *Disease Information*, **9** [28], 107).

Final date of this report period: 12 August 1996.

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: the following table summarises activities to date by State.

State	No. of premises			No. of birds	
	investigated	quarantined	with swab collection	swabbed	with tissue collection
Missouri	11	11	11	497	12
Oklahoma	5	4	5	12	0
Total	16	15	16	509	12

Trace backs are still continuing. Introduction of the disease was through the purchase of birds from an illegal source.

Comments concerning diagnosis: the table below summarises the laboratory results by State.

State	Viscerotropic velogenic virus				Other pathotype*
	Tissue samples		Swabs		Swabs
	positive results	negative results	positive results	negative results	positive results
Missouri	7 birds/ 4 premises	5	0	497	0
Oklahoma	0		0	11	1
Total	7 birds/ 4 premises	5	0	509	1

* The initial laboratory examination of the Oklahoma Newcastle disease virus indicates that this may be a different strain from those isolated in Missouri. Additional tests on this virus are ongoing.

Comments concerning affected population: on 16 July 1996, viscerotropic velogenic Newcastle disease virus was isolated from two six-week-old double yellow headed Amazon parrots purchased from an Oklahoma distributor. All premises investigated (11) are either private homes or pet bird breeding facilities, where no birds have become ill. No commercial poultry units are on or near the premises. There are no additional premises to be investigated.

Control measures taken during present report period: a stamping-out policy was utilised, which includes the purchase and destruction of the affected lot of young parrots. All affected and suspect premises have been placed under quarantine.

RABIES IN MALAYSIA (PENINSULAR)

Text of a fax received on 16 August 1996 from Dr A.M. Babjee, Delegate of Malaysia to the OIE, Kuala Lumpur:

S. R. - 1

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 8 August 1996.

Estimated date of first infection: 1 August 1996.

Geographical identification of the outbreak: town of Padang Besar (6°39'N-100°19'E), State of Perlis.

Comments concerning affected population: a stray dog attacked and bit the face and hand of a three-year-old boy.

Comments concerning diagnosis: the stray dog was euthanised and samples sent to the Veterinary Research Institute in Ipoh (State of Perak).

Comments to date concerning epidemiology of the disease: Padan Besar is about 0.5 km from the border with Thailand. It is believed that the rabid dog crossed the border, since the affected area is under routine surveillance and random sampling has been carried out regularly in this area to detect rabies.

Control measures taken to date:

- a) stray dog eradication programme;
- b) the hospital authorities have been informed of the incident and the patient has been admitted for treatment;
- c) surveillance activities have been intensified to determine the extent of the disease.

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