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## CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN MOLDAVIA

### EMERGENCY REPORT

*Synthesis of the translation of two faxes received on 14 August and 11 September 1998 from Dr V.M. Bahau, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Kishinev:*

**Location of the new outbreaks:** Orgeyev district.

<i>Location</i>	<i>Affected population</i>
Malaeshty village	3 breeding sows and 15 1.5- to 5-month-old piglets
Ivancha village	1 sow and 11 fattening piglets
Dyshkovo village	14 piglets
Putsuntei village	1 replacement boar and 4 piglets

### *Total number of animals in the outbreaks:*

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
31	...	5	37	7

### *Diagnosis:*

- A. *Background:*** in a peasant's farm at Malaeshty, one sow and two piglets were slaughtered on 6 August 1998 and five animals died on 10 August. On 8 September, on a farm at Ivancha, four sick piglets were slaughtered. In the farming village of Dyshkovo, two of fourteen young pigs became ill and were emergency slaughtered. On the same day, pigs became ill on a peasant's holding at Putsuntei; the boar was emergency slaughtered.
- B. *Laboratory findings:*** in each occurrence, samples were sent to the Veterinary Diagnostic Centre, which confirmed classical swine fever by immunofluorescence test.

### *Epidemiology:*

- A. *Source of agent / origin of infection:*** undetermined. The animals had not been vaccinated.
- B. *Mode of spread:*** unknown.

***Control measures during reporting period:***

- In the farm at Malaeshty, the animals that were clinically healthy (i.e. five 1.5-month-old piglets and two sows) were slaughtered on 14 August and the slaughter products were canned. In the other outbreaks, all pigs kept on the premises were killed and incinerated.
- The four affected localities were placed under quarantine, and a zone at risk was set up. The usual disease control measures were implemented. In the quarantine and at-risk zones, slaughter, import and export of animals were prohibited.

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**RINDERPEST IN TANZANIA**  
**The Delegate declares his country "provisionally free" from the disease**

*Text of a communication received on 18 September 1998 from Dr J.N. Melewas, Chief Veterinary Officer, Assistant Commissioner for Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Dar es Salaam:*

***End of previous report period:*** 18 May 1998.

***End of this report period:*** 4 August 1998.

In a notification dated 18 May 1998, Tanzania declared herself provisionally free from rinderpest in Zone A, south of the Central Railway Line (see *Disease Information*, **11** [23], 83, dated 12 June 1998).

In the notification, it was indicated that Zone B, which consists of the northern districts, between the Central Railway Line and the international border with Kenya, would be declared provisionally free should there be no rinderpest twelve months after the last outbreak.

This notification is being served to the effect that in Zone B, there has been no rinderpest disease outbreak from June 1997 to date. Rinderpest vaccination in this zone ceased in December 1997 and there is an ongoing animal disease surveillance and reporting system, both in livestock and wildlife, which is capable of detecting rinderpest if it were present.

This zone has been free from enzootic rinderpest since 1996 and the two incursions, one in the early 1980's and the recent one in 1997 were effectively eliminated by emergency vaccination campaigns. In the last vaccination campaigns which were carried out in 1997, the immunosterilisation technique was used to eliminate the infection in the districts bordering Kenya and around wildlife populations, in the Northern National Parks and Game Controlled Areas.

Considering the above, the Government of Tanzania declares this Zone B provisionally free from rinderpest, effect from July 1998.

The whole of Tanzania now enters into the OIE "pathway", having fulfilled the OIE specified conditions stipulated in the recommended standards for epidemiological surveillance systems for rinderpest.

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**UNIDENTIFIED CONDITION IN EQUIDS IN ICELAND**  
**Follow-up report**

FOLLOW-UP REPORT No. 2

*Text of a communication received on 18 September 1998 from Dr Halldór Runólfsson, Chief Veterinary Officer, Reykjavik:*

**End of previous report period:** 6 April 1998 (see *Disease Information*, **11** [14], 50, dated 10 April 1998).

**End of this report period:** 1 August 1998.

**Description of affected population:** horses are the only species affected; morbidity is almost 100%, but mortality is low or only ca. 0.2%.

**Diagnosis:** on clinical signs, often only on raised temperature and listlessness in a number of horses in the same stables or herd.

- A. Clinical findings:** the incubation period is from two to eight days. Most horses seem only mildly affected with slightly raised temperature and some degree of listlessness. However, some horses have a temperature of up to 42°C and go off their feed for a couple of days. No abnormal respiratory signs are observed. Some mares have eclampsia, but early cases can be treated with calcium infusions. Foals born to mares that were infected during pregnancy are born healthy and seem to acquire colostrum immunity. So far, horses that were infected in the first stages of the epizootic do not become reinfected again.
- B. Post-mortem findings:** hyperaemia and bleeding of the mucosa is seen in uncomplicated cases. Secondary bacterial infections are believed to be the reason for various post-mortem findings, such as swollen kidneys and atrophy of the epithelial cells in the intestinal villi and crypts.
- C. Causal agent:**
- In spite of extensive investigations in Iceland, Germany, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States of America (USA), the exact nature of the causal agent of this disease has not yet been determined. All efforts are being made to discover the exact nature of the infectious agent. It seems to be very difficult to culture this agent on various cell lines. Nasal and throat samples from horses are being sent to the OIE Reference Laboratory for equine diseases in Lexington, Kentucky, USA.
  - Electron microscope pictures from the Animal Health Trust (United Kingdom) and the behaviour of the disease strongly indicate that it is an enterovirus belonging to the family of picornaviruses. The virus is most likely common to horses in Europe and elsewhere without its being recognised as a clinical entity.

**Epidemiology:**

- A. Mode of spread:** the disease started in the Reykjavik area, with the first cases being identified in mid-February. By now it has more or less spread all over the country. The causal agent seems to spread both by direct contact between horses and with movement of people between stables. Last winter it also seemed to be spread by the wind or small birds.
- B. Other epidemiological details:** our studies indicate that horses carry the infective agent for two to three weeks, but it seems to be able to persist in horse stables for at least four weeks.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

To start with, strict measures were taken in an attempt to contain the disease to the Reykjavik area and all exports were stopped. In spite of this, the disease spread very rapidly to the whole of the south-west of Iceland, with the rest of the country being unaffected for a long time. Then, one case occurred in the north of Iceland and the disease has since spread very slowly to other areas in the north and east. Exports were resumed in June, in accordance with a new regulation demanding amongst other things a 10-day quarantine in Iceland before export.

## NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN AUSTRALIA

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: 1932).

### EMERGENCY REPORT

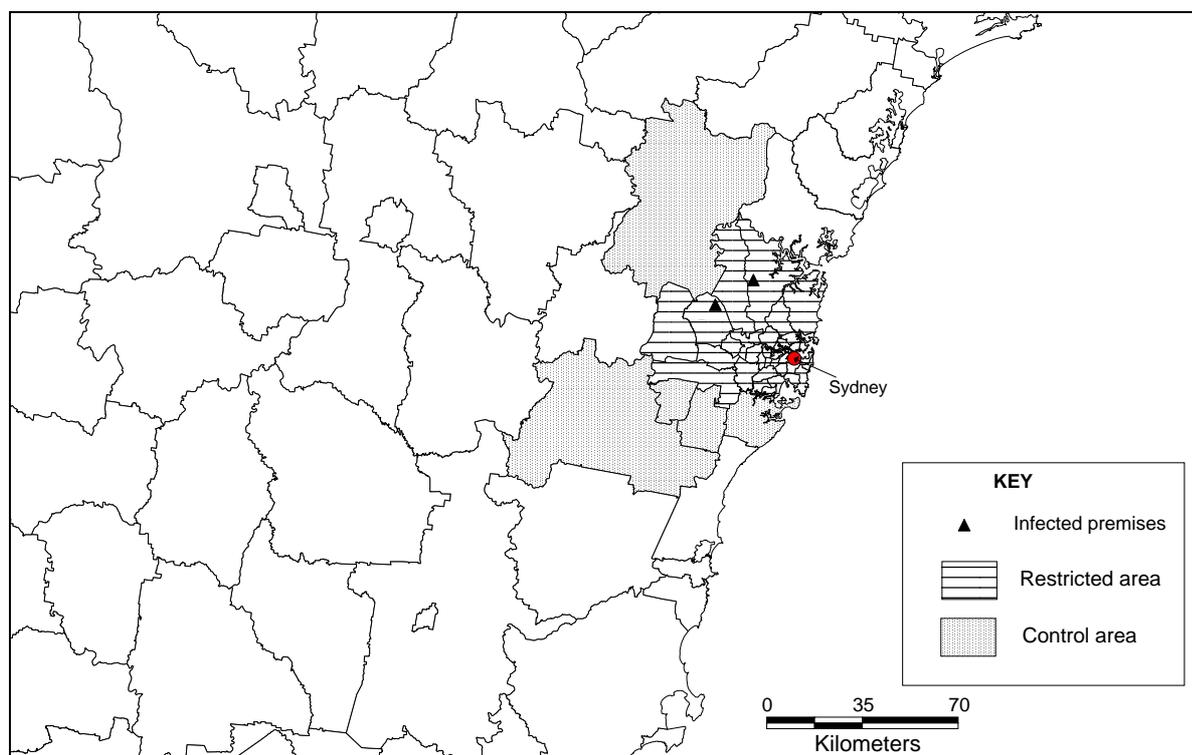
Text of an e-mail received on 21 September 1998 from Dr G. Murray, Chief Veterinary Officer, Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra:

**Nature of diagnosis:** laboratory.

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** 16 September 1998.

**Estimated date of first infection:** 1 August 1998.

Location	No. of outbreaks
33° 40' S - 151° 0' E, State of New South Wales	2 poultry farms



### Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
avi	88,000 layers 9,000 pullets 10 geese 4 ostriches	...	...	...	...
fau	many wild pigeons	...	...	...	...

**Diagnosis:** raised mortality was first investigated on 6 August 1998. The disease picture on this farm was confused due to the fact that active Marek's disease was also present. Diagnosis has been based on typical clinical signs and post-mortem findings. The first evidence of Newcastle disease virus was test results from sera collected on 26 August 1998, which were tested retrospectively when Newcastle disease was suspected on 10 September 1998.

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Australian Animal Health Laboratory, Geelong.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:**

- Serological tests.
- Immunohistology.
- Isolation of a Newcastle disease virus from the tissues of affected birds.
- Chorioallantoic membrane (CAM) antigen localisation test, which gave positive results for virulent virus.
- Gene sequence studies, which have determined a pathogenic sequence around the cleavage site of the F protein.
- The intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) is currently being determined.

**C. Causal agent:** tests in chickens are presently being undertaken to confirm sequence, and other information, to establish whether this is a highly virulent strain.

**Epidemiology:**

The disease does not appear to be spreading rapidly. Samples from feral pigeons on the farms have indicated acute infection.

The two farms are approximately 20 km apart and there is an epidemiological connection. These farms supply eggs and meat to the domestic market in the Sydney metropolitan area. No birds, poultry or products have been exported from these properties. No poultry have been processed in an export abattoir.

There is no evidence of infection elsewhere in Australia.

**Control measures during reporting period:**

- Imposition of quarantine on the two affected farms – on 17 and 18 September 1998, respectively.
- Slaughter of all birds on the infected farms – commencing on 21 September – and disinfection of the properties.
- Declaration of a restricted zone of approximately 3 km around the infected farms. Determination of the size and scope of the restricted zone has been based on the nature of the affected poultry farms and the location of other poultry enterprises in the area.
- Declaration of a surveillance zone of more than 10 km around the infected farms. The disease has been regionalised according to the principles established by the OIE. Therefore, no restrictions have been placed on the movement of poultry or poultry products within Australia, except from the surveillance zone. Therefore, the rest of Australia should be recognised as a virulent Newcastle disease-free zone.
- Tracing is being undertaken.
- A comprehensive surveillance programme has been instituted, based on monitoring mortality and production records, serology and dead bird examination.

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## NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN BELGIUM

(*Date of last previously reported outbreak:* June 1998).

### EMERGENCY REPORT

*Synthesis of the translation of six reports received on 21 September 1998 from Dr L. Hallet, Counsellor General, Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Brussels:*

**Nature of diagnosis:** laboratory.

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** 6 August 1998.

<b>Outbreak No.</b>	<b>Location</b>
2/98	Bever district, Flemish Brabant province
3/98	Stembert district, Liège province
4/98	Genappe (Vieux-Genappe) district, Walloon Brabant province
5/98	Dalhem district, Liège province
6/98	Pepingen district, Flemish Brabant province
7/98	Achène (Ciney) district, Namur province

**Description of affected population:** hobby flock of pigeons.

### Total number of animals in the outbreaks:

<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
726	232	141	190	0

### Diagnosis:

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** CERVA-CODA.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** immunofluorescence and virus isolation; determination of intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI):

- outbreak No. 2/98: IPIC = 0.73;
- outbreak No. 3/98: IPIC = 0.79;
- outbreak No. 4/98: IPIC = 0.6; other tests have been undertaken to determine the pathogenicity of the virus;
- outbreak No. 6/98: IPIC = 0.77.

### Source of agent / origin of infection:

- outbreak No. 2/98: possible exposure to the virus through contacts with wild pigeons;
- outbreaks Nos. 3, 5, 6 and 7/98: possible exposure to the virus during participation in pigeon exhibitions.

### Control measures during reporting period:

- outbreaks Nos. 2/98 to 6/98: modified stamping out; confinement, during at least 60 days, of all the remaining pigeons;
- outbreak No. 7/98: stamping out;
- delineation of a 500-m zone around each outbreak;
- screening;
- movement control inside the country.

## EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALOMYELITIS IN PANAMA

(Date of last previously reported outbreak: 1995).

### EMERGENCY REPORT

Translation of an e-mail received on 21 September 1998 from Dr E. Evans, National Director of Animal Health, Ministry of Plant and Animal Production Development, Panama City:

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 10 June 1998.

Location	No. of outbreaks
Darien province, in the south-eastern part of the country	36

Total number of susceptible animals in the area:

susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
4,530	...	46	0	0

### Diagnosis:

- A. Background:** on 10 June 1998, the official veterinary service examined a one-year-old mixed-breed horse presenting nervous signs. The horse received symptomatic treatment and subsequently recovered. On 13 June 1998, the service received another report about two horses that were exhibiting clinical signs of a neurological disorder. The appearance of sick horses with similar signs in different areas gave cause for concern.
- B. Clinical findings:** the clinical signs are compatible with neuropathy. The first animal observed presented a rigidity in the hindquarters. In the second case, the equid was prostrate and sweating, with a temperature of 40°C. The same signs were present in the cases examined subsequently, along with stiffness of the neck, grinding of teeth, abdominal respiration and dyspnea. These animals died in a period of between three and ten days. Death came when they fell down and became rigid. Ten equids were treated with anti-inflammatory drugs, muscle relaxants, antipyretics and antibiotics. Eight of them recovered.
- C. Laboratory studies and field observations:** a sample taken from the brain of a horse suspected of having rabies (for which test results proved negative) was submitted to histopathological testing. Lesions compatible with equine encephalomyelitis were found. Serum and whole blood samples were taken from subsequent cases. Mouse inoculations and peripheral blood smears were performed to rule out haematozoa. The serum samples were sent to the Ministry of Health's *Laboratorio Conmemorativo Gorgas* to test for antibodies against eastern equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), western equine encephalomyelitis and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis by means of immunofluorescence. The tests detected the presence of EEE antibodies. Three weeks later, samples were taken from some of these animals (paired serum tests). They indicated a recent EEE infection.

### Sanitary measures:

- The province of Darien was placed under quarantine.
- Epidemiological vigilance was stepped up in the affected area and in the country as a whole, especially in those provinces where, in the past, outbreaks of encephalomyelitis have taken place.
- The movement of equids in or out of the infected areas was prohibited.
- The vaccination of equids in the focal and perifocal area has begun.

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**CLASSICAL SWINE FEVER IN GERMANY**  
**The Delegate declares his country free from the disease**

*Text of a fax received on 25 September 1998 from Dr W. Zwingmann, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Forestry, Bonn:*

**End of this report period:** 25 September 1998.

The last outbreak of classical swine fever (CSF) in domestic pigs in Germany occurred on 16 March 1998. In Germany a stamping-out policy without vaccination against CSF is practised.

In application of Article 2.1.13.2. of the *International Animal Health Code*, Germany may be considered free from CSF in domestic pigs from 16 September 1998.

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