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Contents

Swine vesicular disease in Italy: in Calabria region	15
Rabbit haemorrhagic disease in the United States of America: follow-up report No. 1 (final report)	16
Equine viral arteritis in Argentina: virus isolation (correction)	16
Foot and mouth disease in Botswana	17

SWINE VESICULAR DISEASE IN ITALY In Calabria region

(Date of last previously reported outbreak in Calabria region: March 1999).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 6 February 2002 from Dr Romano Marabelli, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Public Health, Rome:

Report date: 6 February 2002.

Date of suspected outbreak: 20 January 2002.

Date of confirmation of diagnosis: 6 February 2002.

Outbreaks:

Registration No.	Location
04/2002	Civita district, Cosenza province, Calabria region

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed*	slaughtered
sui	152	...	0	152	0

* on 6 February 2002.

Control measures: control measures provided for under national and European regulations.

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RABBIT HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Follow-up report No. 1 (final report)

Information received on 8 February 2002 from Dr Alfonso Torres, Deputy Administrator, Veterinary Services, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC:

End of previous report period: 10 December 2001 (see *Disease Information*, **14** [50], 287, dated 14 December 2001).

End of this report period: 28 January 2002.

The affected premises were the domestic animal exhibit area of the Queens zoo (Queens County, State of New York). The outbreak was contained to these premises.

Total number of animals in the outbreak (corrected data*):

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
lep	8	2	3	5	0

* 3 out of 8 rabbits died. Samples were taken and 2 rabbits were positive, 1 negative to rabbit haemorrhagic disease. The remaining 5 rabbits were euthanized.

Since the emergency report, the premises has been cleaned and disinfected.

The source of the virus was not identified. The epidemiological investigations showed that a possible source of exposure could have been rabbit meat fed to the carnivores on the premises. However, the samples that were submitted from the remaining rabbit meat tested negative for rabbit haemorrhagic disease.

All investigations related to this incident were considered closed as of 15 January 2002.

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EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS IN ARGENTINA
Virus isolation (correction)

*In accordance with information received on 11 February 2002 from Dr Bernardo Gabriel Cané, President, National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA), Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, Buenos Aires, the emergency report (see *Disease Information*, **15** [6], 12, dated 8 February 2002) should be corrected as follows:*

Among the measures adopted:

"Sampling of 0.05% of the country's equine population" (instead of 0.5%).

*
* *

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN BOTSWANA

(*Date of last reported outbreak*: September 1980).

EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 9 and 14 February 2002 from Dr Motshudi V. Raborokgwe, Director of Animal Health and Production, Ministry of Agriculture, Gaborone:

Report date: 14 February 2002.

Nature of diagnosis: clinical and laboratory.

Date of initial detection of animal health incident: 7 February 2002.

Estimated date of first infection: 31 January 2002.

Outbreaks:

Location	No. of outbreaks
Matsiloje extension area* (21° 31' 099'' S – 27° 52' 598'' E), Francistown district	1 crush

* an extension area is a defined area usually comprising 8 -10 crushes manned by a veterinary assistant.

Description of affected population: the disease is limited to cattle (bovine animals of various age groups) in one crush area called Lephaneeng.

Total number of animals in the outbreak:

species	susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
bov	700	66	0	0	0

Diagnosis:

- A. *Laboratory where diagnosis was made*: Botswana Vaccine Institute (OIE Reference Laboratory for foot and mouth disease [FMD]).
- B. *Causal agent*: virus type SAT 2. Additional samples have been forwarded to the Reference Laboratory in Pirbright, United Kingdom, for virus characterisation.

Epidemiology:

- The outbreak occurred in a zone that was recognised by the OIE as an 'FMD-free zone without vaccination' (see below: Note by the OIE Central Bureau).
- Clinical search of the disease in a targeted 60-km x 10-km area revealed the affected population to reside in kraals falling within only one crush area (epidemiological unit). A total of 66 out of the 8,000 cattle clinically inspected (mouthed) had lesions, all at the said crush-pen. Close examination of affected animals showed characteristic clinical signs of lameness, and oral and feet ulcers. Animals in other crush-pens did not show any FMD lesions, indicating that possibly the disease is still confined to only one crush.

Measures taken:

- a. **Modified stamping-out policy**: infected animals were impounded and will be destroyed as soon as possible.
- b. **Area demarcation**:
 - The infected area has been determined; it is physically delineated by fenced freehold farms to the north, west and south and the veterinary cordon fence along the border with Zimbabwe to the east.
 - The adjacent area is the surveillance zone where all animals are being mouthed and serologically sampled.
- c. **Vaccination**: All animals in the infected area are being vaccinated with a locally produced trivalent SAT 1, 2, 3 vaccine, to limit disease spread. Vaccinated animals are identified with brand "1".

d. Quarantine and movement restriction:

- Country-wide ban on the movement of cloven-hoofed animals.
- All abattoirs (export and non-export abattoirs) have been closed indefinitely.

e. Biosecurity: All people and vehicles leaving the infected area and Veterinary Disease Control Zones Nos. 6 and 7 are thoroughly dipped/sprayed with 4% sodium carbonate or virucidal disinfectant. Veterinary officials working in the area observe appropriate bio-security measures.

NOTE BY THE OIE CENTRAL BUREAU

Botswana: Suspension of the status of the "FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised"

Following the laboratory confirmation of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) in Francistown district, within the zone recognised by the OIE as being free from FMD without vaccination, the status of this zone as an "FMD free zone where vaccination is not practised" has been suspended.

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