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## NEWCASTLE DISEASE IN GREECE

**(Date of previous outbreak of Newcastle disease in Greece reported to the OIE:** September 1986).

*Information received on 8 January 2005 from Dr Vasilios Stylas, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:*

**Report date:** 7 January 2005.

On 7 January 2005, the Greek Veterinary Services were notified by the Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease of the European Union of confirmation of an outbreak of Newcastle disease.

The outbreak refers to one poultry farm consisting of 20,500 broiler chickens of free-range type, which is located in Arcadia prefecture, Peloponnese region.

There are no other poultry farms in the area except one farm consisting of 3,000 broilers which did not show any sign of the disease.

The Greek Veterinary Services, immediately after notification, took actions to implement stamping-out measures, according to the provisions of the European Council Directive 92/66/EEC.

### IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

*Additional information received on 8 January 2005 from Dr Vasilios Stylas, Head, Animal Health Directorate, Ministry of Agriculture, Athens:*

**Report date:** 11 January 2005.

**Reason for immediate notification:** re-occurrence of a listed disease in a country.

**Date of first confirmation of the event:** 7 January 2005.

**Date of start of the event:** 6 December 2004.

**Clinical disease:** yes.

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

**Details of outbreak:**

<i>First administrative division</i>	<i>Lower administrative division</i>	<i>Type of epidemiological unit</i>	<i>Name of the location</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Peloponnese	Arcadia	farm	Kerastari	37° 25' 15" N	22° 14' 00" E



<i>Date of start of the outbreak</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Number of animals in the outbreak</i>				
		<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
6 Dec. 2004	avi	20,500	...	6,500	14,000	0

**Description of affected population:** the infected farm consists of nine holdings located on private land.

**Diagnosis:**

<i>Laboratory where diagnosis was made</i>	<i>Diagnostic tests used</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Results</i>
VLA Weybridge, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratory for Newcastle disease).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- pathogen isolation by egg inoculation;</li> <li>- haemagglutination test;</li> <li>- haemagglutination inhibition test;</li> <li>- intracerebral pathogenicity index (ICPI) test (1.75);</li> <li>- virulent cleavage sites of RRQKRF.</li> </ul>	7 Jan. 2005	positive

**Source of outbreak:** unknown or inconclusive.

**Control measure undertaken:** stamping out.

**Vaccination prohibited:** no.

**RABBIT HAEMORRHAGIC DISEASE IN URUGUAY**  
**Additional information**

EMERGENCY REPORT (CONTD) - SEE *DISEASE INFORMATION*, **17** (53), 401, DATED 31 DECEMBER 2004

*Report by the OIE Reference Laboratory for rabbit haemorrhagic disease<sup>(1)</sup>, received on 10 January 2005 from Dr Carlos A. Correa Messuti, Ministry of Animal Production, Agriculture and Fisheries, Montevideo:*

**Report date:** 10 January 2005.

All four rabbit samples (liver and spleen) received were positive for rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus (RHDV) when tested by the sandwich ELISA test specific for RHDV.

A further sandwich ELISA performed on the same four samples with a panel of 14 monoclonal antibodies specific for RHDV and its variant RHDVa confirmed the presence of the RHDVa variant.

The RHDVa variant was first identified in Europe, in 1997. In Italy, it is slowly replacing the original RHDV strain in the field. The rabbit haemorrhagic disease virus identified in the United States of America in 2000 was also the RHDVa variant.

Under experimental conditions, the vaccine produced with the original RHDV strain protects rabbits exposed to RHDVa. However, if we consider that the antigenic drift that led to RHDVa involves an epitope that is important for protection from infection, it might be better to use a vaccine produced using the RHDVa strain.

(1) Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell'Emilia Romagna "Bruno Ubertini", Brescia, Italy

(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

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**PESTE DES PETITS RUMINANTS IN ISRAEL**  
**Additional information**

SEE *DISEASE INFORMATION*, **18** (1), 1, DATED 7 JANUARY 2005

*Information received on 11 January 2005 from Dr Moshe Chaimovitz, Director of Veterinary and Animal Health Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Beit-Dagan:*

**Report date:** 6 January 2005.

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical, post-mortem and laboratory.

**Date of confirmation of diagnosis:** 7 December 2004.

**Diagnosis:**

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Kimron Veterinary Institute, Beit-Dagan.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** immunohistology.

**Source of agent / origin of infection:** under investigation.

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**BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY IN CANADA**  
**Additional information**

SEE *DISEASE INFORMATION*, **18** (1), 8, DATED 7 JANUARY 2005

Information received on 12 January 2005 from Dr Brian Evans, Executive Director, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ottawa:

**Report date:** 3 January 2005.

**Date of first confirmation of the event:** 2 January 2005.

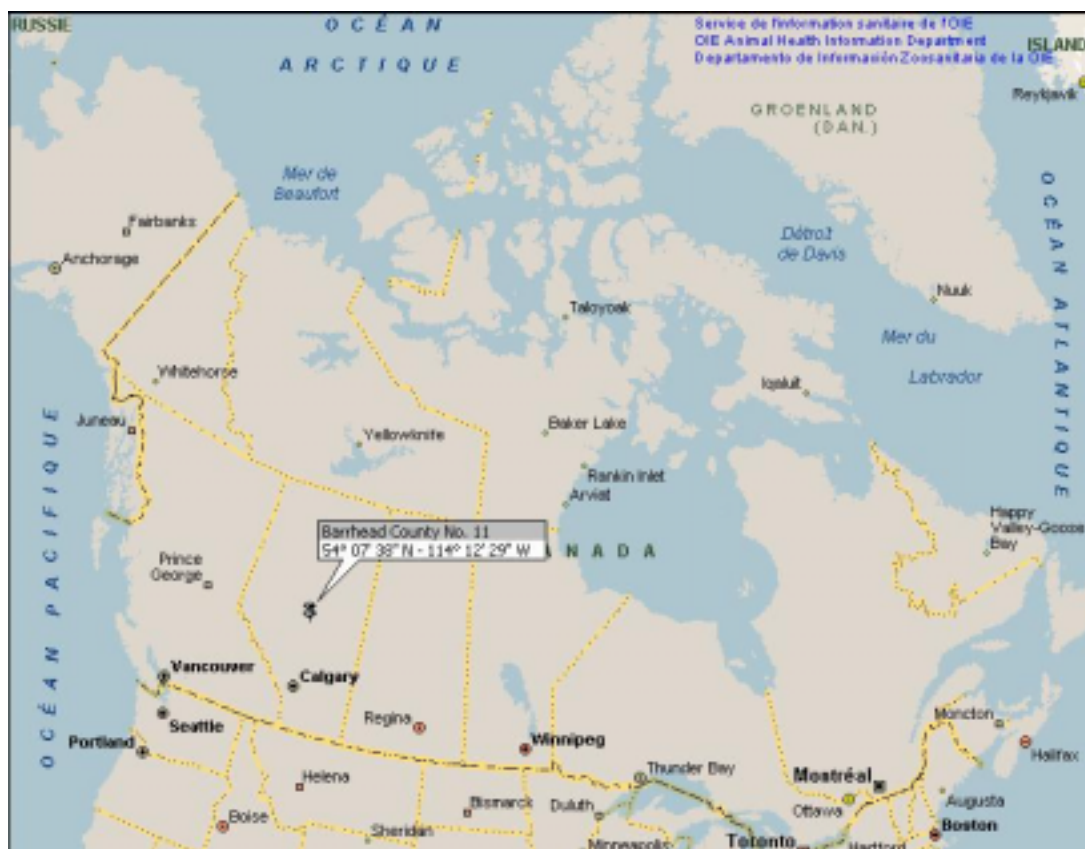
**Date of start of the event:** 17 December 2004.

**Clinical disease:** yes.

**Nature of diagnosis:** laboratory.

**Details of outbreak:**

<i>First administrative division</i>	<i>Lower administrative division</i>	<i>Type of epidemiological unit</i>	<i>Name of the location</i>	<i>Latitude</i>	<i>Longitude</i>
Alberta	Edmonton district	farm	Barrhead County No. 11	54° 07' 38" N	114° 12' 29" W



<i>Date of start of the outbreak</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Number of animals in the outbreak</i>				
		<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
17 Dec. 2004	bov	...	1	...	1	0

**Description of affected population:** the infected animal has been determined to be a Holstein cow aged 98 months. The animal was purchased in March 2000 for use as a family milk cow. The herd of origin where the animal was born and was resident until 1999 has been confirmed.

**Diagnosis:**

<b>Laboratories where diagnosis was made</b>	<b>Diagnostic tests used</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Results</b>
Provincial TSE <sup>(1)</sup> Laboratory, Edmonton, Alberta	ELISA <sup>(2)</sup> rapid test	28 Dec. 2004	positive
National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD), Winnipeg, Manitoba	western blot rapid test	29 Dec. 2004	positive
National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD), Winnipeg, Manitoba	immunohistochemical test	2 Jan. 2005	positive

**Source of outbreak or origin of infection:**

- unknown or inconclusive;
- fomites (humans, vehicles, feed, etc.).

**Control measures:**

- A. Undertaken:** quarantine.
- B. To be undertaken:** stamping out.

**Treatment of affected animal:** no.

**Other details/comments:**

The infected animal was born on 5 October 1996, prior to the introduction of the 1997 ruminant feed ban. It is suspected that the animal most likely became infected through the consumption of contaminated feed at an early age while resident in the herd of birth.

No part of the animal entered the human or animal food systems. The carcass has been transported to a federal laboratory facility for incineration. A comprehensive epidemiological investigation is underway.

In accordance with Article 2.3.13.5. of the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the progeny born to the infected animal within the previous two years have been traced. There was no progeny born in 2004 and the 2003 progeny has been confirmed to have been previously slaughtered. In addition, the birth cohorts of the positive animal born within the 12-month interval of the infected animal which may have been exposed to the same feed sources are also being traced.

All such animals remaining alive will be detained and their movements controlled, and when slaughtered they will be sampled for testing purposes and completely destroyed.

In parallel, a thorough investigation of feed sources on the farm of birth is under way.

(1) TSE: transmissible spongiform encephalopathy  
(2) ELISA: enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay

## ANTHRAX IN PERU

### IMMEDIATE NOTIFICATION REPORT

Translation of information received on 12 January 2005 from Dr Oscar Dominguez Falcon, Director General for Animal Health, National Animal Health Service (SENASA), Ministry of Agriculture, Lima:

**Report date:** 11 January 2005.

**Reason for immediate notification:** a sudden and unexpected increase in the distribution, incidence, morbidity or mortality of a listed disease prevalent within a country or zone/compartment.

**Date of first confirmation of the event:** 11 January 2005.

**Date of start of the event:** 27 December 2004.

**Nature of diagnosis:** post-mortem.

<i>First administrative division</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Change</i>	
		<i>in disease incidence</i>	<i>in mortality</i>
		<i>New rate</i>	<i>New rate</i>
Pampa La Julia	bov	20	20%
	cap	12	12%

**Description of affected population:** the outbreak occurred in Sama Valley, Pampa La Julia division, in Tacna department, at the border with Chile. The outbreak area contains 55 head of cattle and 26 goats on a piece of land covering 36.8 hectares. In the perifocal area there are 2,900 head of cattle. During the outbreak 11 cattle and 3 goats died.

### Diagnosis:

<i>Laboratory where diagnosis was made</i>	<i>Species examined</i>	<i>Diagnostic tests used</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Results</i>
SENASA Animal Health Laboratory	bov	- culture on tryptone soya agar and blood agar; - isolation of the bacterium; - biochemical tests.	6 Jan. 2005	11 Jan. 2005

**Source of outbreak:** unknown or inconclusive.

### Control measures undertaken:

- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- vaccination;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishment(s).

### Vaccination in response to the outbreak:

<i>First administrative division</i>	<i>Species</i>	<i>Total number of vaccinated animals</i>	<i>Details of the vaccine</i>
Tacna district	bov	1,100	attenuated live virus vaccine
Sama district	bov	2,685	attenuated live virus vaccine

**Treatment of affected animals:** no.

**Other details/comments:**

Without first checking the accuracy of their information with SENASA, some of the media incorrectly reported this outbreak of anthrax to be foot and mouth disease. The national directorate of SENASA sent the media concerned an explanatory letter to ask them to rectify their mistake and accept responsibility for any consequences that may result (the last outbreak of foot and mouth disease in the country was reported in July 2004 after more than 44 months of remission<sup>(1)</sup>).

(1) See *Disease Information*, **17** (38) 268, dated 17 September 2004

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**HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA IN THAILAND**  
**Follow-up report No. 40**

*Information received on 14 January 2005 from Dr Yukol Limlamthong, Director General, Department of Livestock Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Bangkok:*

**End of previous report period:** 6 January 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [1], 7, dated 7 January 2005).

**End of this report period:** 13 January 2005.

**Identification of agent:** highly pathogenic avian influenza virus subtype H5N1.

**Details of new outbreak:**

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
						susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Rayong province	Klaeng district	village	Village No. 1	4 Jan. 2005	avi	40	10	10	30	0

**Description of affected population in the new outbreak:** native chickens.

**Diagnosis:**

<b>Laboratory where diagnosis was made</b>	<b>Diagnostic tests used</b>	<b>Results</b>
Regional Veterinary Research and Development Center, ChonBuri	- pathogen isolation by egg inoculation; - haemagglutination test; - haemagglutination inhibition test.	positive

**Source of outbreak:** unknown or inconclusive.

**Control measures undertaken:**

- stamping out;
- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- screening;
- zoning;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishments.

**Treatment of affected animals:** no.

**Vaccination prohibited:** yes.

**Other details/comments:** the outbreak is part of the highly pathogenic avian influenza epizootic affecting the country since the re-occurrence of the disease on 3 July 2004.

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**AVIAN INFLUENZA IN HONG KONG, SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
in wild birds (additional information)**

*Information received on 14 January 2005 from the Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), Hong Kong:*

**Report date:** 14 January 2005.

Below is a follow-up report of the genetic analysis of the H5N1 viruses isolated from individual grey herons reported on 3 November 2004 (see *Disease Information*, **17** [45], 332, dated 5 November 2004) and 13 December 2004 (see *Disease Information*, **17** [51], 382, dated 17 December 2004). The genetic analysis was conducted by the Department of Microbiology, the University of Hong Kong.

Both isolates were confirmed as highly pathogenic H5N1 viruses by PCR<sup>(1)</sup> and sequencing results. Phylogenetic analysis showed both viruses were closely related in all eight gene segments.

However, they were novel reassortants with HA and NA genes similar to a H5N1 virus isolated from geese in December 2002 but four internal genes from a novel source. These viruses are not the same as H5N1 viruses that infected family members in Fujian in 2003, nor the viruses causing human fatalities in Thailand and Vietnam, or HPAI outbreaks in poultry in the East and South-East Asian regions in 2004.

(1) PCR: polymerase chain reaction

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**AVIAN INFLUENZA IN HONG KONG, SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION  
OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
in a wild bird**

EMERGENCY REPORT

*Information received on 14 January 2005 from the Director of the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), Hong Kong:*

**Report date:** 14 January 2005.

**Nature of diagnosis:** post-mortem and laboratory.

**Date of initial detection of animal health incident:** 10 January 2005.

**Estimated date of primary infection:** between 4 and 8 January 2005.

**Outbreaks:**

Location	No. of outbreaks
New Territories, ecological mitigation area of the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Project	1



**Description of affected population:** a Chinese pond heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) (migratory bird).

**Total number of animals in the outbreak:**

<i>species</i>	<i>susceptible</i>	<i>cases</i>	<i>deaths</i>	<i>destroyed</i>	<i>slaughtered</i>
fau	...	1	1	0	0

**Diagnosis:** the bird was found dead on 10 January 2005 and was submitted for post-mortem and virological examination on the same day.

**A. Laboratory where diagnosis was made:** Tai Lung Veterinary Laboratory, AFCD.

**B. Diagnostic tests used:** the following tests were conducted on cloacal and tracheal swabs and lung and brain tissues:

- chick embryo inoculation with haemagglutination inhibition testing using specific reference sera from CVL<sup>(1)</sup> Weybridge, United Kingdom (OIE Reference Laboratory for avian influenza);
- viral genome detection by real-time RT-PCR<sup>(2)</sup> tests using H5 specific primer sets from the Southeast Poultry Research Laboratory, Atlanta, Georgia, United States of America;
- N1 typing was conducted by conventional RT-PCR<sup>(2)</sup> following procedures from the Department of Microbiology, Hong Kong University (HKU);

Chicken embryos were killed within 48 hours.

Genetic sequencing of the haemagglutinin cleavage site will be conducted at HKU.

**C. Causal agent:** avian influenza virus subtype H5N1.

**Epidemiological details:**

- This species of heron is distributed in East and South-East Asia, where it inhabits a wide range of habitats such as marshes, paddy fields, tidal mudflats, estuaries and flood plains. Its main diet consists of fish, worms, molluscs, small frogs and aquatic invertebrates.
- In the winter of 2003-2004, about 200-300 of these birds were recorded in the Deep Bay area of Hong Kong area (including Lok Ma Chau).
- No spread has been detected. All poultry farms within 5 km of where the heron was found have been checked and no unusual mortality or illness were detected.
- Local poultry farms are routinely under a constant monitoring and surveillance programme involving serological and virological testing and have individual farm biosecurity plans which include bird proofing of all sheds. All chicken farms are routinely vaccinated with inactivated H5N2 vaccine and each batch of chickens has 60 unvaccinated individually identified sentinels monitored throughout the production life of the batch.
- Extensive virus culture and surveillance is conducted in wholesale and retail poultry markets and in bird parks and wild bird populations throughout Hong Kong. During 2004, over 13,300 faecal or cloacal/tracheal swabs from poultry farms, 23,900 swabs from wholesale or retail live poultry markets, 4,738 swabs from waterfowl and aviaries in recreational parks, 5,322 swabs from pet bird shops and markets and 7,433 swabs from wild birds were tested in Hong Kong as part of the avian influenza surveillance programme. The only cases of H5N1 infection detected in 2004 were the peregrine falcon reported on 19 January (see *Disease Information*, **17** [5], 18, dated 30 January 2004) and the grey herons reported on 3 November and 13 December (see *Disease Information*, **17** [45], 332, dated 5 November 2004, and *Disease Information*, **17** [51], 382, dated 17 December 2004).

(1) CVL : Central Veterinary Laboratory.

(2) RT-PCR: reverse transcriptase – polymerase chain reaction

## SCRAPIE IN HUNGARY in an imported animal

### EMERGENCY REPORT

Information received on 14 January 2005 from Dr Tibor Bálint, Chief Veterinary Officer, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Budapest:

**Report date:** 13 January 2005.

Scrapie was confirmed in a sheep originating from Romania. This sheep aged more than five years was imported into Hungary for immediate slaughter in December 2004.

The animal was sampled within the framework of the National Monitoring Programme for Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy. The sample was examined at the Central Veterinary Institute, Budapest, by rapid test on 16 December 2004 and the results were positive. Therefore, on 17 December the test was repeated on samples from the obex and the cerebellum. The results were positive in both cases. After the positive rapid test, all parts of the animal in question (including the hide) were disposed of as specified risk material. On 21 December, the State Veterinary Service of Romania was informed of the positive rapid test.

On 12 January 2005, scrapie was confirmed on the basis of the positive results of the confirmatory tests (histopathology and immunocytochemistry) carried out at the Central Veterinary Institute. The State Veterinary Service of Romania and the European Commission were also informed of the confirmation of scrapie.

The Central Veterinary Institute will send a sample to the European Union Reference Laboratory for further investigations.

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## BLUETONGUE IN PORTUGAL Follow-up report No. 4

Translation of information received on 14 January 2005 from Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Lisbon:

**End of previous report period:** 17 December 2004 (see *Disease Information*, **17** [52], 391, dated 24 December 2004).

**End of this report period:** 14 January 2005.

**Date of first confirmation of the event:** 16 December 2004.

**Date of start of the event:** 7 December 2004.

**Clinical disease:** yes.

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical and laboratory.

### Details of outbreak:

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
						susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Alentejo	Burtualhas – Sta. Eulália	farm	Elvas municipality	7 Dec. 2004	ovi	135	49	22	113	0

**Diagnosis:**

<i>Laboratory where diagnosis was made</i>	<i>Species examined</i>	<i>Diagnostic tests used</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Results</i>
National Veterinary Research Laboratory, Lisbon	ovi	PCR (polymerase chain reaction)	16 Dec. 2004	positive

**Source of outbreak:**

- unknown or inconclusive;
- vectors.

**Control measures undertaken:**

- control of arthropods;
- stamping out;
- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- screening;
- zoning;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishment;
- application of insecticide on the premises;
- registration of susceptible populations within a 20-km radius around the outbreak;
- insect traps are being used for vector monitoring.

**Treatment of affected animals:** no.

**Vaccination prohibited:** no.

**Other details/comments:**

- Due to the clinical situation, stamping out was applied to the flock on 5 January 2005.
- One outbreak had already occurred in the same municipality.

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**BLUETONGUE IN PORTUGAL  
Follow-up report No. 5**

*Translation of information received on 14 January 2005 from Dr Carlos Agrela Pinheiro, Director General of Veterinary Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries, Lisbon:*

**End of previous report period:** 14 January 2005 (see *Disease Information*, **18** [2], 21, dated 14 January 2005).

**End of this report period:** 14 January 2005.

**Date of first confirmation of the event:** 13 December 2004.

**Date of start of the event:** 24 November 2004.

**Clinical disease:** yes.

**Nature of diagnosis:** clinical and laboratory.

**Details of outbreak:**

First administrative division	Lower administrative division	Type of epidemiological unit	Name of the location	Date of start of the outbreak	Species	Number of animals in the outbreak				
						susceptible	cases	deaths	destroyed	slaughtered
Alentejo	Alcaldinho – St. Maior	farm	Alandroal municipality	24 Nov. 2004	ovi	340	30	10	0	0
					cap	5	0	0	0	0

**Diagnosis:**

Laboratory where diagnosis was made	Species examined	Diagnostic tests used	Date	Results
National Veterinary Research Laboratory, Lisbon	o/c	ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay)	29 Nov. 2004	56 sheep positive
National Veterinary Research Laboratory, Lisbon	ovi	PCR (polymerase chain reaction)	13 Dec. 2004	1 sheep positive

**Source of outbreak:**

- unknown or inconclusive;
- vectors.

**Control measures undertaken:**

- control of arthropods;
- quarantine;
- movement control inside the country;
- screening;
- zoning;
- disinfection of infected premises/establishment;
- application of insecticide on all the remaining animals;
- registration of susceptible populations within a 20-km radius around the outbreak;
- insect traps are being used for vector monitoring.

**Treatment of affected animals:** no.

**Vaccination prohibited:** no.

**Other details/comments:** three outbreaks had already occurred in the same municipality.

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