

WHO (HQ-EMRO-MZCP)/OIE – Intercountry Expert
Workshop on Protecting Humans from Domestic and
Wildlife Rabies in the Middle East
Amman, Jordan, 23-25 June 2008

CYPRUS RABIES REPORT

**Dr Elias Pantechis, Veterinary Officer
Animal Health and Welfare Division
Veterinary Services of Cyprus**

Legislation

■ EU Legislation

- Council Decision *89/455/EEC* introducing Community measures to set up pilot projects for the control of rabies with a view to its eradication or prevention
- Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council *2003/99/EC* on the monitoring of zoonoses and zoonotic agents
- Council Decision *90/638/EEC* laying down Community criteria for the eradication and monitoring of certain animal diseases

Legislation (2)

■ EU Legislation (Continued)

- Council Decision *90/424/EEC* on expenditure in the veterinary field
- Council Directive *92/65/EEC* laying down animal health requirements governing trade in and imports into the Community of animals, semen, ova and embryos not subject to animal health requirements laid down in specific Community rules
- Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council (*EC*) No *998/2003* on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals

Legislation (3)

■ EU Legislation (Continued)

- Council Regulation (EC) No 866/2004 on a regime under Article 2 of Protocol 10 to the Act of Accession
- Commission Decision 94/275/EC on recognising rabies vaccines

■ National Legislation

- The Animal Health Law of 2001 – 2007
[N.109(I)/2001, N.82(I)/2003, N.119(I)/2007]
- The Law for the registration and keeping of dogs of 2002 – 2005
[N.184(I)/2002, N.137(I)/2005]

Surveillance programme

- Notifiable disease
- Cases investigated
 - Wild carnivores found dead
 - Stray dogs caught crossing or roaming over the buffer zone
 - Imported animals of susceptible species dying during quarantine period
 - Animals of susceptible species with symptoms consistent with rabies infection
- Diagnostic method used
 - Fluorescent antibody test (FAT)

Epidemiological situation

■ History

- 1930`s → 2 incidents in imported dogs under quarantine
- Rabies never diagnosed in domestic animals or wildlife since
- Rabies never diagnosed in humans

■ Rabies-free country

- Vaccination compulsory for dogs, cats and ferrets either entering into the territory of Cyprus or traveling to countries requiring vaccination

Epidemiological situation (2)

■ Number of specimens tested

YEAR	SPECIES					RESULTS	
	Dogs	Cats	Foxes	Monkeys	Other	Positive	Negative
1998	1	-	-	-	-	0	1
1999	1	-	-	1	-	0	2
2000	12	-	4	-	-	0	16
2001	13	1	2	-	-	0	16
2002	5	1	-	-	-	0	6
2003	4	1	-	1	-	0	6
2004	2	3	-	1	-	0	6
2005	3	-	1	1	1	0	6
2006	3	-	-	1	3	0	7
2007	2	-	-	4	1	0	7

Entry of pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) into the territory of Cyprus

■ Health requirements (Regulation (EC) No 998/2003)

❖ Rabies

➤ Vaccination: compulsory

➤ Age at vaccination: at least 3 months old (entry of younger animals is not allowed)

➤ Date of vaccination: at least 30 days prior to the movement of the animal

➤ Escorting documents: Passport or Health Certificate (for third countries) certifying a valid anti-rabies vaccination

Entry of pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) into the territory of Cyprus (2)

- Neutralising antibody titration: Animals originating from third countries not listed in section 2 of part B and in part C of annex II of the Regulation
 - ✓ At least 0.5 IU/ml
 - ✓ Blood sampling at least 30 days after vaccination and 3 months prior to the movement
 - ✓ EU approved laboratory

Entry of pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) into the territory of Cyprus (3)

- If a pet animal does not meet the requirements of the Regulation, it may be:
 - Re-exported
 - Isolated in quarantine (max. 6 months)
 - Euthanized if re-exportation or isolation in quarantine are not feasible

Entry of pet animals (dogs, cats, ferrets) into the territory of Cyprus (3)

■ Animals isolated in quarantine

YEAR	SPECIES		ORIGIN		REASON FOR QUARANTINE			
	DOGS	CATS	EU	TC	NO VACCINATION	NO MICROCHIP OR TATTOO	NO TITRATION	OTHER
2007	92		29	63	43	2	37	10
		22	1	21	10	1	6	5
2008	23		12	11	14	1	3	5
		6	1	5	2		3	1

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!***

epantechis@vs.moa.gov.cy