International movement of pet animals

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Evolution of the rabies situation in the EU

Constant reduction of the incidence of rabies

Map extracted from http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org
EU financial support on rabies eradication

✓ **Veterinary fund**
- Funding for rabies started in 1989
- 1993-2010 more than € 80M
- 50% EU co-financing → 75% from 2010 for carrying out lab tests and purchasing and distributing baits

- EU close to eradication → cooperation with bordering countries from 2007
- 100% for bordering areas of non-EU countries
- 2011 allocated budget: € 24M

✓ **Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance**
- Rabies projects for the W. Balkans and Turkey
Veterinary fund expenditure for rabies

Year
Euro

[Graph showing the trend of veterinary fund expenditure for rabies from 1994 to 2010.]
Results of the EU oral vaccination programmes

- number of cases in wildlife
- number of cases in dogs and cats
EU legal framework (1)

- **90s: creation of a single market**
  - free movement of people
  - abolition of veterinary checks at internal borders
  - harmonised animal health requirements regarding trade in and imports of dogs/cats/ferrets
  - national rules for pets remained in place
  - quarantine system maintained in the UK, IE, SE

- **2000: progress in rabies eradication in EU-15**
  - replacement of quarantine system in UK, IE, SE by antibody titration test for EU pets
  - Discussion on a vaccination-only policy for pet movement within EU
EU legal framework (2)

- **2003: Regulation (EC) No 998/2003**
  - harmonised rules for movements within and into the EU of pet dogs/cats/ferrets accompanying their owners
  - national rules in place in the UK, IE, MT and SE for 5 years (test maintained)

- **Development of a fully harmonised policy**
  - in 2006 EFSA assessed the risk of abandoning the test
  - decision to prolong national rules until 31/12/2011
    - areas would be close to eradication
    - increase in EU-support to national programmes
Conditions for moving a pet from a Member State into another

I. Marking requirements

II. Rabies vaccination requirements

III. Identification requirements
I. Marking requirements

- Link between animal and identification document (sanitary status)
- Microchip [or tattoo applied before 3 July 2011]
- ISO 11784 compliant microchip (otherwise obligation of own reader)
- ISO 11785 compliant reader
Pet registration in the EU

- **No EU registration requirements for non-travelling pets**
  - most pets never moved to other countries
  - unnecessary administrative and financial burden
- Mandatory for dogs in some Member States for purposes other than animal health (national taxes, dangerous breed)
- Voluntary in “Europetnet” for lost pets
II. Vaccination requirements

- Inactivated or recombinant vaccine
- Vaccine
  - marketing authorisation in Member States, or
  - licensed in a third country (in compliance with OIE manual)
- Administration by a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority
- Period of validity indicated in passport
III. Identification requirements

- Identification document issued by a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority
  - documents compliance with marking and rabies vaccination requirements
  - validity = lifespan of the animal
  - Format = model passport
  (Decision 2003/803/EC)
Conditions for moving a pet from a third country into a Member State

I. Actively marked
II. Valid anti-rabies vaccination
III. Valid anti-rabies titration test
   ➔ not required for countries listed in Part C of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 998/2003
IV. Certification
Anti-rabies titration test

- sample collected by an authorised veterinarian
  - not less than 30 days after vaccination and
  - not less than 3 months before movement
  - does not apply on re-entry
- OIE prescribed neutralisation test
  - titre equal or greater than 0.5 IU/ml
  - performed in an approved laboratory
    - Proficiency testing- EU reference lab designated by Decision 2000/258/EC
- Test not to be renewed following a satisfactory result provided the animal is revaccinated within the period of validity
Procedure for Third Countries to be listed

- Application to the Commission
- Provide evidence of the following:
  - Mandatory notification of cases of rabies to the authorities
  - Efficient monitoring and reporting system in place for at least two years
  - Structure and organisation of veterinary services sufficient to guarantee the validity of animal health certificates
  - Measures for the prevention and control of rabies in place, including import rules
  - Regulations in force on the licensing and marketing of anti-rabies vaccines
Certification requirements

- animal health certificate issued by
  - an official veterinarian on the basis of supporting documentation; or
  - a veterinarian authorised by the competent authority and subsequently endorsed by an official veterinarian

- Compliance with requirements to be verified before issuing the certificate.

- Validity: 4 months or until the date of expiry of the anti-rabies vaccination

- Model certificate (Decision 2004/824/EC)
  - or EU passport accepted (on re-entry)
Veterinary checks for pet movements

- **movements between Member States**
  - targeted or random documentary and identity checks.

- **movements from a third country into a Member State**
  - at travellers’ points of entry designated by Member States

- Measures in case of non-compliance,
  - return to country of provenance;
  - isolation until compliant with legislation
  - put down without financial compensation
    - where return is not possible and isolation not practical
Transitional measures until 31/12/2011 (national rules)

- IE, MT and UK are allowed to:
  - accept only microchips (no tattoo)

- IE, MT, SE and UK are allowed to:
  - require a test for pets coming from “listed” third countries
  - to require pets coming from “non-listed” third countries to undergo quarantine on arrival
Conditions to move a dog/cat/ferret into a Member State for commercial reasons

- Articles 10 and 16 of Directive 92/65/EEC
  - Requirements for pets (Reg.(EC) No. 998/2003)
    - plus
    - Clinical examination by an authorised veterinarian 24h before dispatch, documented in the passport or import health certificate

- Official veterinarian
  - Issues certificate
  - Notifies the movement to the Member State of destination (TRACES)
    - (TRACES: the EU TRAde Control and Expert System for traceability)

- Entry from third countries
  - identity, documentary and physical checks at designated Border Inspection Posts
More information on
http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/liveanimals/pets/index_en.htm