



**REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,  
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERINARY SERVICES**

**BLUETONGUE**

**CONTINGENCY PLAN  
FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS**

This document sets out the Contingency Plan for Bluetongue disease as drawn up in 2001 for the country of Cyprus.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Subject</b>
<b>1.</b>	Legal powers
<b>2.</b>	Financial provisions
<b>3.</b>	The chain of command
<b>4.</b>	The national disease control center
<b>5.</b>	Local disease control centres
<b>6.</b>	The expert group for Bluetongue
<b>7.</b>	Resources
<b>8.</b>	Manual of instructions
<b>9.</b>	Emergency vaccination
<b>10.</b>	Disease preparedness
<b>11.</b>	Epidemic scenarios
<b>12.</b>	Forms



## **SECTION 2                      FINANCIAL PROVISIONS**

Finance is available with the annual budgetary allocation to cover the costs, beyond the normal running costs of the Veterinary Services of controlling whatever disease outbreaks may occur.

### **2.1. Personnel**

The cost of staff employed by the Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Environment (MANRE) (Veterinarians, lay support Staff in the Field, Office Staff) are covered by money voted to the Department each year.

### **2.2. Small Equipment and Consumable Items**

The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services.

### **2.3. Slaughter, Destruction of Carcasses and Disinsectisation**

The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services. All these costs are covered by the Veterinary Services.

### **2.4. Compensation Payment**

The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services (Law 319/87 article 10). The compensation is 100% of the reproductive value of the animals according to the Contagious Animal Disease Law. This amount covers also part of the income loss of the affected farmers.

### **2.5. Emergency Vaccination**

The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services.

### **2.6. Disease Preparedness**

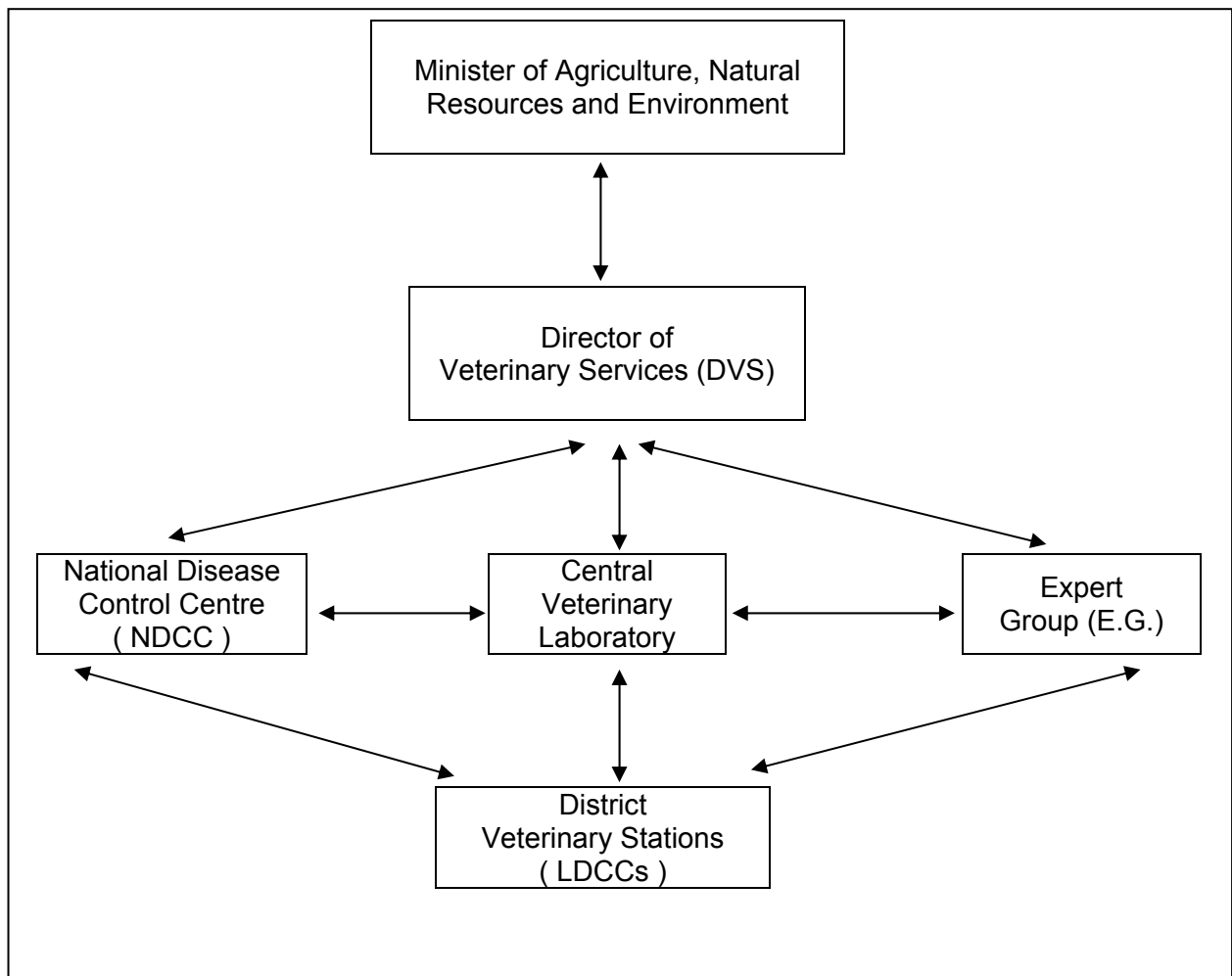
The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services.

## SECTION 3 THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

- 3.1. Responsibility for the control of Bluetongue rests with the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment who delegates the direction of control strategies to the Director of Veterinary Services (D.V.S).
- 3.2. The D.V.S. has delegated contingency planning for Bluetongue to the officer in charge of the National Disease Control Center (N.D.C.C.) (name and address of the center at Annex III.)

In the event of an outbreak of disease the N.D.C.C. will co-ordinate the national strategy under the overall direction of the D.D.V.S.

The District Veterinary Officers at the District Veterinary Stations which act as Local Disease Control Center (L.D.C.C.) are responsible for Bluetongue control (infected premises and restrictions in their territory).



## **SECTION 4 THE NATIONAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTRE (N.D.C.C.)**

4.1. The Director of the Department of Veterinary Services (DVS) with the support of the National Disease Control Centre (NDCC) is responsible for:

- Direction of Local Disease Control Centres (LDCCs)
- Liaison with Diagnostic Laboratories
- Liaison with European Commission
- Arranging financial provisions for the Contingency Plan
- Arranging training programmes and nominating personnel for Community Training Programmes
- Arranging disease awareness campaigns
- Directing the national strategy in the event of an outbreak of disease
- Deployment of staff and other resources to Local Disease Control Centres (LDCCs)
- Determination of protection and surveillance zones
- Deciding on the closure of entry points if necessary
- Sanctioning the release of vaccine and determination of vaccination zones
- Negotiating emergency financial provisions to cover the cost associated with an Epidemic
- Liaison with agricultural trading bodies, the media and reports to OIE

4.2. The NDCC is equipped with the facilities of the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the Department of Veterinary Services in Nicosia.

These equipment are the following:

- Means of communication including telephones both static and mobile and fax.
- Computers linked to the Local Disease Control Centres, the Diagnostic Laboratories and the other important centres.
- A computerized or, failing that, a paper system for herd identification and animal location.
- Printers for the computers
- Photocopiers
- Maps of 100,000 and 50,000 scale
- Files containing other information, in addition to what is accessible through the computer network, that will be useful in directing control measures.
- A list of national and international organizations, such as slaughterhouses, livestock markets, breeding associations, farming organizations and all centres, that would be affected by a disease outbreak and would have to be notified if Bluetongue was confirmed.
- An up date list of staff, within and outside service, who could be called on, to give assistance in a disease emergency, with details of their training and experience in control List A diseases and their ability to communicate in more than one Community language.

The National Disease Control Centre is staffed by: -

2 Veterinarians

4 Support Staff

In the event of a disease outbreak staff will be supplemented.

The centre can be contacted 24 hours a day (see Annex III)

## **SECTION 5 LOCAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTRES (LDCCs)**

- 5.1. Bluetongue preparedness and control at the local level is the responsibility of the District Veterinary Officer (DVO) who acts inter alia as the incharge officer of the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC). Each centre is in charge of a Senior Veterinarian who is responsible through the Director of Veterinary Services. There are five LDCCs. The list of Centres and a map showing the area covered by each, as at Annex IV.
- 5.2. In the event of an outbreak the DVS may decide to set up a temporary LDCC in the location of the disease outbreak.
- 5.3. The LDCCs are provided with similar equipment to the NDCC (Section 4.2.) which will include at least the following:-
  - Means of communication including telephones, both static and mobile, and fax.
  - Computers linked to the Veterinary Service network and capable of communicating by e-mail.
  - A computerized or, failing that, a paper system for herd identification and animal location including details of holdings with large numbers of stock or which for other reasons are considered to be at particular risk.
  - Printers for the computers.
  - Photocopier.
  - Maps of 100.000 for the surveillance zone and 50.000 scale for the protection zone.
  - Files containing other information, in addition to what is accessible through the computer network, that will be useful in directing control measures.
  - An up-to-date list of organizations and persons in the area covered by the LDCC who would be affected by a disease outbreak and who will have to be notified if Bluetongue is confirmed.
  - Mobile phones (1-2) for the field staff.

All the authorized insecticide drugs and equipment necessary to investigate and control of the disease are available in the LDCC (Appendices I and II).

Additionally the LDCCs can be supplemented as necessary from the central store at the NDCC. A list of the forms and notices used by the centres is at Annex V.



5.4. The responsibility of the LDCC includes:

- Maintaining disease awareness and preparedness within its territory.
- Conducting disease awareness campaigns.
- Conducting and participating in disease preparedness exercises.
- Maintaining a link with the Central Veterinary Laboratory regarding the submission and transport of specimens.
- Maintaining links with the police, local authorities, agricultural and trading authorities, markets, abattoirs, carcase disposal plants and private Veterinarians.
- Directing and implementing the local control strategy in the event of a disease outbreak.
- Arranging the epidemiological investigations in liaison with the Bluetongue Expert Ggroup and transport of specimens to diagnostic laboratories.
- Liaison with the National Disease Control Centre to determine the extent of the protection and surveillance zone.
- Closing border entry points if necessary.
- Liaison with the police to isolate infected premises and to arrange movement controls and closure of markets.
- Supervising quarantine and all procedures at infected premises including valuation, slaughter and disposal of infected animals.
- Disinsectisation with authorized insecticides of animals, holdings and their surroundings in particular habitats in which the culicoides thrive.
- Arranging compensation to livestock owners.
- Inspection of livestock units in protection/surveillance zone. Standing instructions that all farms and livestock premises in the protection zone will be visited. All premises in the surveillance zone which are considered to present a particular risk will be visited in accordance with the recommendations of the expert group.
- In the event of emergency vaccination the deployment of the vaccinators.

5.5. Other authorities will also have responsibilities in the event of an outbreak.

- The Police - assisting with the security of infected premises, and, movement restrictions. The veterinary authority is legally empowered to demand the aid of the police.
- The Local Authority - joint responsibilities for maintaining the protection and surveillance zones.
- Meteorological service - assisting with information for epidemiological aspects regarding the spread of the vectors.

5.6. District Veterinary Stations which serve as Local Disease Control Centres are normally staffed by:

3-5 veterinarians  
3-5 veterinary support staff  
3 office support staff

The officer in charge is a veterinarian. In the event of a disease outbreak the head of the centre can call for other staff in liaison with veterinary headquarters. Staff are always on call to deal with disease emergencies.

5.7. The Local Disease Control Centre will provide support for the Bluetongue expert group in carrying out their investigations and will liaise with the group to determine the Local Disease Control Strategy.

## **SECTION 6            THE EXPERT GROUP (E.G.) FOR BLUETONGUE**

- 6.1. An Expert Group has been established and, although its members have other duties, the E.G is permanently operational. The E.G has (Annex VI) a permanent membership, which can be enlarged if the situation so demands in a time of crisis.
- 6.2. For further qualification two veterinarians from the E.G will be specialized on Bluetongue epidemiology in the near future.
- 6.3. On their return to Cyprus the two veterinarians have to train other veterinarians on the same aspect. The intention is to have at least one veterinarian trained in epidemiology in each D.V.O.
- 6.4. As soon as a report of suspected Bluetongue is made, the E.G will be immediately mobilized and will become involved by having access to preliminary reports from the field enquiry and may be by visiting the area.
- 6.5. The E.G members will contact training courses as directed by the National Disease Control Centre (See Section 10).

## **SECTION 7            RESOURCES**

### 7.1. Personnel Resources

The National Disease Control Centre maintains a list of staff who can be called on in the event of an outbreak of Bluetongue. The number of staff, the number trained (or with experience of Bluetongue control) another number able to operate in the field using another Community language are listed in Annex VII.

In addition to these personnel the N.D.C.C has negotiated stand-by arrangements for 25 Veterinarians who are employed by the Government in the National Animal Health Scheme.

It is estimated that the staff numbers given in Annex VII are sufficient to provide personnel for all outbreaks and the associated Protection and Surveillance Zones, in a "worst case" scenario.

We estimate, that the number of staff in each L.D.C.C can be expanded as the situation demands.

### 7.2. Diagnostic Laboratories

Central Veterinary Laboratories  
Veterinary Services  
1417 Nicosia  
CYPRUS

The Laboratory is capable to carry out serological tests for antibody detections, virus isolation and molecular technique for the detection of the molecular virus of Bluetongue.

Community Reference laboratory for Bluetongue  
AFRC Institute for Animal Health Pirbright Laboratory  
Ash Road  
Pirbright  
Woking  
Surrey GU  
United Kingdom

### 7.3. Equipment and Facilities

List of equipment held in stock for the contingency plans is shown in the manual of instructions.

List of equipment and facilities which are available at very short notice through standing agreements and contracts is shown in the manual of instructions

**SECTION 8            MANUAL OF INSTRUCTION**

Staff Manual of Instructions for Bluetongue (Annex VIII)

## **SECTION 9            EMERGENCY VACCINATION**

No bank of concentrated Bluetongue antigen is held.

Efforts are made Cyprus to be connected with the European Union Vaccines Bank.

## **SECTION 10      DISEASE PREPAREDNESS**

### 10.1.    Training Programmes

One Veterinarian has to be nominated to attend Community based Bluetongue training course when this is established.

Training for all other members of staff are as follows:

All new veterinarians joining the Veterinary Services are given instruction in Bluetongue diagnosis and control. The details are given in Annex IX.

All veterinarians in the service undergo a refreshing training program as detailed at Annex IX.

Training for lay personnel who will participate in field aspects on Bluetongue control and for office personnel who will staff Local Disease Control centre is undertaken at local level. (Details Annex IX).

The National Disease Control Centres and the Local Disease Control Centres staff undergo regular refresher training via a simulated Bluetongue outbreak exercise.

### 10.2.    Publicity and Disease Awareness

Lectures / demonstration are held at the Department of Veterinary Services in Nicosia.

The necessary contacts are available to increase the awareness of the farming community and other organizations as necessary.

Articles in the farming press (Agrotis, veterinary news magazines, farmer's agriculture magazines, radio and television relative programs, daily press). Soon a Web site of Veterinary Services will be established.



## **SECTION 11      EPIDEMIC SCENARIOS**

For the purposes of this contingency plan epidemic scenarios ranging from the simplest to the most complex have been created. Assessment of the financial, physical and human resources to operate a Bluetongue control and eradication campaign has been considered.

Simulated exercises shall be organized according to the above scenarios.

## **SECTION 12      FORMS**

Forms and other documents specifically for use in dealing with Bluetongue have been prepared. In each case the relevant parts of the legislation are quoted and the conditions applying to notices or authorizations are listed in Annex V.

## **ANNEXES**

- I. The Animal(s) Health Law 109 (I) 2001
- II. Order Introducing Measures for the Control of Bluetongue 435/2001
- III. National Disease Control Centre
- IV. Local Disease Control Centres
  - a) List of locations
  - b) Map showing territory covered
- V. List of forms and notices
- VI. Expert Groups
- VII. Personnel Resources
  - Number of staff available
  - Number of veterinarians trained/experienced in Bluetongue control
  - Number of veterinarians able to work in another Community language(specify)
- VIII. Manual of Instructions
- IX. Training Courses - Outlines

## **ANNEX III**

### **National Disease Control Centre**

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment  
Veterinary Services  
1417 Nicosia  
Cyprus

Animal Health and Welfare Division

Head of Centre: Dr. Giorgos Neophytou, Principal Veterinary Officer

E-mail: [cy.animo@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:cy.animo@cytanet.com.cy)

Telephone Number:       22805250 (off.)  
                                  22751919 (res.)

Fax: 22 805176

## ANNEX IV

### Local Disease Control Centers and Map

1. Nicosia District Veterinary Station  
1417 Nicosia  
D.V.O.: Dr. A. Hadjikostis  
Tel.no.: 22805240  
Mobile: 99628845  
Fax no.: 22332803
  
2. Lemesos District Veterinary Station  
3042 Limassol  
D.V.O.:Dr. I. Ioannou  
Tel.no.: 25305195  
Mobile: 29628843  
Fax no.: 25305256
  
3. Ammochostos District Veterinary Station  
7530 Ormedia  
D.V.O.: Dr. C. Theodorou  
Tel.no.: 24721571  
Mobile: 99518271  
Fax no.: 24722811
  
4. Larnaca District Veterinary Station  
6532 Larnaca  
D.V.O.: Dr. S. Yiallouros  
Tel.no.: 24304275  
Mobile: 99654994  
Fax no.: 24304270
  
5. Paphos District Veterinary Station  
8100 Paphos  
D.V.O.: Dr. St. Leonidou  
Tel.no.: 26306269  
Mobile: 99419471  
Fax no.: 26306198

MAPS: Available

## **ANNEX V**

### **LIST OF FORMS AND NOTICES**

- Form BT 1. Proforma for receiving the suspected case
- Form BT 2. Notice imposing measures to control the disease.
- Form BT 3. List of susceptible animals in the suspected holding.
- Form BT 4. Veterinary Officer' s preliminary report – farm inventory – vector' s places inventory.
- Form BT 5. Extension of movement restrictions.
- Form BT 6. Submission of pathological specimens (Vet 4) to the Central Veterinary Laboratory.
- Form BT 7. Submission of pathological specimens to the Community Reference Laboratory – Pirbright.
- Form BT 8. Withdrawal of restrictions.
- Form BT 9. Animal Disease Notification.
- Form BT 10. Notice confirming the present of Bluetongue.
- Form BT 11. Notice of intention to kill the infected animals.
- Form BT 12. Valuation of the infected animals.
- Form BT 13. Form confirming killing of infected animals and disposal of the carcasses.
- Form BT 14. Epidemiological Enquiry.
- Form BT 15. Tracing request.
- Form BT 16. Notice imposing Protection Zone controls.
- Form BT 17. Notice imposing Surveillance Zone Controls.
- Form BT 18. Letter to all Veterinary Surgeons in the Protection and Surveillance Zones.
- Form BT 19. Bluetongue leaflet.

## **ANNEX VI**

### I. The Expert Group for Bluetongue disease

Dr. Caralambos Theodorou  
Dr. Popi Stylianou

## **ANNEX VII**

### **Personnel Resources**

**1. Number of Staff who can be called upon in the event of a Bluetongue outbreak**

All 260 staff in the Government Veterinary Services (Veterinarians, Technicians and Administrative Staff) are trained in certain aspects at Bluetongue Control and in the worst case scenario could be called up on.

**2. Number of Veterinarians Trained / Experienced in Bluetongue Control.**

All Veterinary Staff are trained and have seen clinical Bluetongue as part of their training. Because of the length of time which has elapsed since the last outbreak of Bluetongue in Cyprus, few have had the experience of a live outbreak.

**3. Number of staff able to operate in the field using another community language**

There are 200 staff from the Veterinary and Technical grades who are fluent in at least one Community Language but there are others who are less able but could get by.

The Languages are:

English  
German  
Portugal  
French



## **ANNEX IX**

### **Training courses - Outlines**

#### **1. Veterinary Officer Background Course**

A two weeks course for all new-entrant Veterinary Officers divided between the Central Veterinary Laboratory and the NDCC.

#### **2. Epidemiology Courses**

The staff of the LDCCs and other selected individuals attend an epidemiology course held at the Central Veterinary Laboratory and NDCC at Nicosia.

Courses are held as required to ensure adequate numbers of trained people in all parts of the country.