



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

VETERINARY SERVICES

**NEWCASTLE DISEASE
& AVIAN INFLUENZA**

CONTINGENCY PLAN

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

This document sets out the Contingency Plan for
NEWCASTLE DISEASE & AVIAN INFLUENZA
as drawn up in 2001 for the Republic of Cyprus.

Section	Subject
1.	Legal powers
2.	Financial provisions
3.	The chain of command
4.	The national disease control center
5.	Local disease control centers
6.	The expert group for Newcastle Disease & Avian Influenza
7.	Resources
8.	Manuals of instruction
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10.	Disease preparedness
11.	Epidemic scenarios
12.	Forms
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SECTION 1**LEGAL POWERS**

The Animal(s) Health Law 109/2001 and 3(1)1993	Annex VIII
Introducing measures for the control of Newcastle Disease (Order No 508/2001)	Annex IX
Introducing measures for the control of Avian Influenza (Order 509/2001)	Annex X

SECTION 2

FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

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

1.1. Personnel

Cost of staff employed by the Ministry of Agriculture (Veterinarians, lay support Staff in the Field, Office Staff) is covered by money voted to the Department each year.

1.2. Small Equipment and Consumable Items

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

1.3. Killing, Destruction of Carcasses and Contaminated Material, Sanitation

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

1.4. Compensation Payment

The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services (Law 109 (I) 2001 article 11 f. Indemnities for the 100% of the animal **reproductive** value (which covers a part of loss of income) or material and equipment destroyed are paid to the farmers.

1.5. Emergency Vaccination

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

1.6. Disease Preparedness

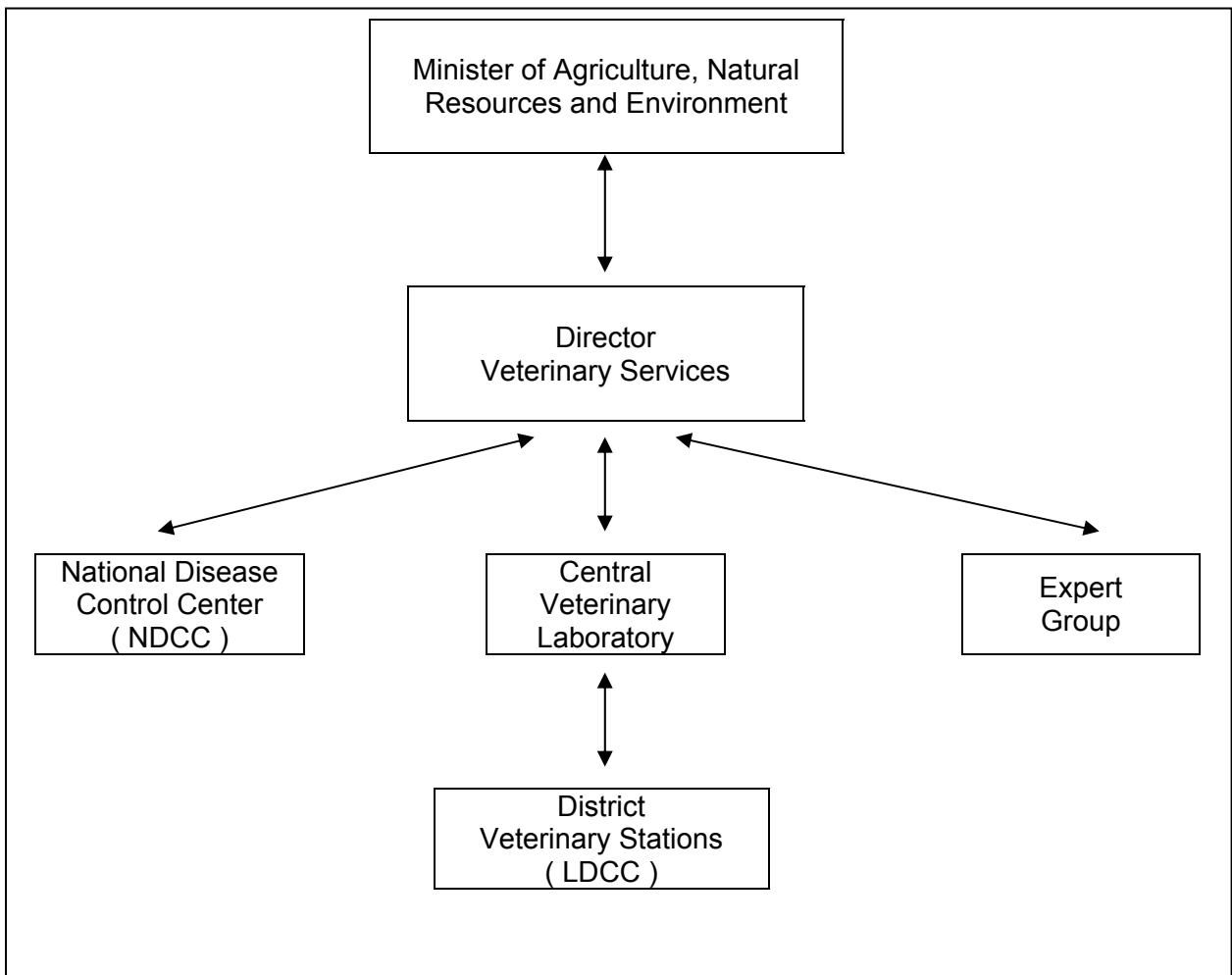
The powers are available for these costs to be met within the budgetary provisions of the Veterinary Services.

SECTION III THE CHAIN OF COMMAND

- 3.1. Responsibility for the control of Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI) rests with the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Environment who delegates the direction of control strategies to the Director of the Veterinary Services (D.V.S).
- 3.2. The D.V.S. has delegated contingency planning for ND & AI to the officer in charge of the National Disease Control Center (N.D.C.C.) (name and address of the center at Annex 1.)

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

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



SECTION 4 THE NATIONAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTER (N.D.C.C.)

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

Direction of Local Disease Control Centre (LDCCs)

Liaison with Diagnostic Laboratories

Arranging financial provisions for the Contingency Plan

Arranging training programs and nominating personnel for Community Training Programs

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 Centers (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

Liaison with European Commission

4.2. The NDCC is equipped with the facilities of the Animal Health and Welfare Division of the 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 Centers, the Diagnostic Laboratories and the other important centers.

A computerized or, failing that, a paper system for herd identification and animal location.

Printers for the computers

Photocopiers

Maps of 1:50,000 and 1:10,000 scale

Files containing other information, in addition to what are 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 centers, that would be affected by a disease outbreak and would have to be notified if ND or AI were 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 center can be contacted 24 hours a day (see Annex I)

SECTION 5

LOCAL DISEASE CONTROL CENTERS (LDCC's)

5.1. ND and AI preparedness and control at the local level is the responsibility of the District Veterinary Officer (DVO) who acts inter alia as the Local Disease Control Center (LDCC). Each center is in charge of a Senior Veterinarian who is responsible through the Director of Veterinary Services. There are five (5) LDCC's. The list of Centers and a map showing the area covered by each, as at Annex II.

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 LDCC's 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 1:50,000 for the surveillance zone and 1:10,000 scales for the protection zone.

Files containing other information, in addition to what are 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 ND or AI were confirmed.

Mobile phones (1 - 2) for the field staff.

Additionally the LDCC's can be supplemented as necessary from the central store at the NDCC. A list of the form and notices used by the centers is at Annex III.

In the LDCC's store are dispensable all equipment necessary for killing of birds, dispose of carcasses and sanitation procedures.

5.4. The responsibility of the LDCC's includes:

Deployment of staff and other resources if necessary after the approval of the N.D.C.C.

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, carcass disposal plants, animal feed suppliers hunting and shooting organizations, 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 ND and AI expert groups and transport of specimens to diagnostic laboratories.

Liaison with the National disease control center 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 and contact animals.

Disinfections and cleansing of infected premises and elsewhere in protection / surveillance zones.

Arranging compensation to poultry owners.

Inspection of poultry units in protection/surveillance zone. Standing instructions that all farms and poultry 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.

- 5.6. District Veterinary Stations which serve as Local Disease Control Centers 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 center can call for other staff in liaison with veterinary headquarter. Staff are always on call to deal with disease emergencies.

- 5.7. The Local Disease Control Center will provide support for the ND and AI 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 ND & AI

- 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 IV) 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 ND & AI epidemiology in the near future.
- 6.3. The Expert Group has 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 N.D or AI 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 Center (See Section 10).

SECTION 7

RESOURCES

7.1. Personal Resources

The National Disease Control Center in poultry maintains a list of staff that can be called on in the event of an outbreak of N.D or AI. The number of staff, the number trained (or with experience of N.D and AI control) another number able to operate in the field using another Community languages are listed in Annex V.

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 V 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 isolation and identification of the ND and AI viruses and serological tests for antigen and antibody detections, as well

The Veterinary Services of Cyprus has a closed relationship with the European reference Laboratory for ND & AI in Weighbridge, U.K, for confirmation of isolates.

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**MANUALS OF INSTRUCTION**

1. Staff Manual of Instructions for Newcastle Disease. Appendix VII A
2. Staff Manual of Instruction for Avian Influenza. Appendix VII B

SECTION 9

EMERGENCY VACCINATION

Almost 100% of the poultry is voluntary vaccinated against ND with vaccines provided by private firms. In case of ND outbreak they can immediately supply Veterinary Services with small amount of inactivated or live vaccine. An adequate amount could be provided in two or three day's time.

Vaccination against AI is not allowed and no any stock of vaccine is held locally.

SECTION 10 DISEASE PREPAREDNESS

10.1. Training Programmes

Efforts are made at least one Veterinarian to visit Italy to take advantage from the Italian experience based on the last outbreaks of AI and ND

Training for all other members of staff are as follows:

All veterinarians joining the Veterinary Services are given instruction in N.D and AI diagnosis and control. The details are given in Annex VI.

All veterinarians in the service undergo a refresher-training program as detailed at Annex VI.

Training for lay personnel who will participate in field aspects on N.D and AI control and for office personnel who will staff Local Disease Control Centre is undertaken at local level. (Details Annex VI).

The National Disease Control Centers and the Local Disease Control Centers staff undergo regular refresher training via a simulated N.D and AI 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). The Veterinary Services web site is being prepared and soon could be visited.

SECTION 11 EPIDEMIC SCENARIOS

For the purposes of this contingency plan epidemic scenarios have been created. Assessment of the financial, physical and human resources to operate an ND and AI 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 ND and AI 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 III.

SECTION 13. ANNEXES

- I. National Disease Control Center
- II. Local Disease Control Centers
 - (a) List of locations
 - (b) Map showing territory covered
- III. List of forms and notices
- IV. Expert Groups
- V. Personnel Resources
 - Number of staff available
 - Number of veterinarians trained/experienced in ND & AI control
 - Number of veterinarians able to work in another Community language
- VI. Training Courses - Outlines
- VII. Manual of Instructions A and B
- VIII. The Animal(s) Health Law 109 (I) 2001
- IX. Introducing Measures for the Control of ND Order 508/2001
- X. Introducing Measures for the Control of AI Order 509/2001

ANNEX I

National Disease Control Center

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

Animal Health and Welfare Division

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

E-mail: cy.animo@cytanet.com.cy

Telephone Numbers: 22805250 (off.)
 22751919

Veterinary Officer in charge of Contingency Plans: Christos Hadjipapas, V.O A'
Telephone Numbers 22805278 (off.)
 22 330498 (res.)
 99 624696 (mobile)

ANNEX II

Local Disease Control Centers and Map

1. Nicosia District Veterinary Station
1417 Nicosia
D.V.O.: Dr. A. Hadjikostis
Tel.no.: 22 805240
Mobile: 99 628845
Fax no.: 22 332803

2. Lemesos District Veterinary Station
3042 Limassol
D.V.O.:Dr. I. Ioannou
Tel.no.: 25 305195
Mobile: 99628843
Fax no.: 25 305256

3. Ammochostos District Veterinary Station
7530 Ormedia
D.V.O.: Dr Charalambos Theodorou
Tel.no.: 24 721571
Mobile: 99 518271
Fax no.: 24 722811

4. Larnaca District Veterinary Station
1417 Nicosia
D.V.O.: Dr. S. Yiallouros
Tel.no.: 24630275
Mobile: 99654994
Fax no.: 24630675

5. Paphos District Veterinary Station
8100 Paphos
D.V.O.: Dr. L. Stephanou
Tel.no.: 26 306269
Home: 26960130
Mobile: 99419471
Fax no.: 26306198

Maps: available

ANNEX III

List of Forms and Notices

ND/ A.I. 01	Proforma for receiving of suspected disease
ND/ A.I. 02	Notice declaring infected place
ND/ A.I. 03	Notice imposing emergency restrictions
ND/ A.I. 04	Inspection of infected holding
ND/ A.I. 05	Extension of emergency restriction area
ND/ A.I. 06	Licence for movement of poultry in area to which form 02 restriction apply
ND/ A.I. 07	Licence for movement of eggs in area to which form restriction 02 apply
ND/ A.I. 08	Veterinary Officers preliminary report – Farm inventory
ND/ A.I. 09	Telephone report
ND/ A.I. 10	Withdrawal of notice declaring infected holding
ND/ A.I. 11	Withdrawal of emergency restrictions
ND/ A.I. 12	Request for testing suspected material
ND/ A.I. 13	Submission of diagnostic samples
ND/ A.I. 14	Animal disease notification
ND/ A.I. 15	Notice to owner or person in charge of poultry exposed to infection or to occupier of premises where such poultry are situated, imposing restriction
ND/ A.I. 16	To the owner of the infected holding
ND/ A.I. 17	Letter to all Veterinary Surgeons uncontrolled and surveillance area
ND/ A.I. 18	Licence for person to enter or leave an infected place
ND/ A.I. 19	Statement of poultry killed
ND/ A.I. 20	Notice to the general public in an infected area
ND/ A.I. 21	Instructions to the poultry farmers in the infected area
ND/ A.I. 22	Licence for the movement of poultry through a protection zone by motorway
ND/ A.I. 23	Notice of intention to kill poultry and seizure for destruction of poultry products or other materials believed they are contaminated
ND/ A.I. 24	Valuation of seized poultry
ND/ A.I. 25A	Valuation of seized poultry products and other material
ND/ A.I. 25B	Destruction of seized poultry products and other material
ND/ A.I. 26	List of poultry found dead, killed and disposed by Vet Officials
ND/ A.I. 27	Notice imposing protection & surveillance zone controls
ND/ A.I. 28	Letter to farmers in the protection zone explaining the controls

ND/ A.I. 29	Letter to poultry farmers in the surveillance zone
ND/ A.I. 30	Report of the epidemiological enquiry & tracing back form
ND/ A.I. 31	Inspectors certificate of disinfection
ND/ A.I. 32	Outbreaks history sheet
ND/ A.I. 33	Vaccination Form
ND/ A.I. 34	Leaflet

ANNEX IV

I. The Expert Group for Newcastle Disease & Avian Influenza

Dr Christos Hadjipapas
Dr Kyriacos Georgiou

ANNEX V

Personnel Resources

1. Number of Staff who can be called upon in the event of an N.D and A.I outbreak

All 260 staff in the Government Veterinary Services (Veterinarians, Technicians and Administrative Staff) is trained in certain aspects at ND and AI Control and in the worst case scenario could be called up on.
Additional staff should be deployed in the case of “worst” scenario.

2. Number of Veterinarians Trained / Experienced in Control

All Veterinary Staff are trained and have seen in video and CD-ROM clinical signs of ND and AI as part of their training. Because of the length of time, which has elapsed since the last outbreak of ND in Cyprus, few have had the experience of a live outbreak. Avian Influenza never has been recorded in Cyprus, so nobody has the experience of a live outbreak.

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

There is 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 VI

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 LDCC's and other selected individuals attended an epidemiology course held at the NDCC and Central Veterinary Laboratory at Nicosia.

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