

FOREWORD

The *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals (Terrestrial Manual)* aims to prevent and control animal diseases, including zoonoses, to contribute to the improvement of animal health services world-wide and to allow safe international trade in animals and animal products. The principal target readership is laboratories carrying out veterinary diagnostic tests and surveillance, along with vaccine manufacturers and users, and regulatory authorities in Members. The main objective is to provide internationally agreed diagnostic laboratory methods and requirements for the production and control of relevant vaccines and other biological products.

This ambitious task has required the cooperation of highly renowned animal health specialists from many WOAAH Members. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH, founded as OIE), received the mandate from its Members to undertake this task on a global level. The main activities of the organisation, which was established in 1924, and in 2023 comprised 183 Members, are as follows:

1. To ensure transparency in the global animal disease and zoonosis situation.
2. To collect, analyse and disseminate scientific veterinary information on animal disease control methods.
3. To provide expertise and encourage international solidarity in the control of animal diseases.
4. Within its mandate under the WTO (World Trade Organization) Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement), to safeguard world trade by publishing health standards for international trade in animals and animal products.
5. To improve the legal framework and resources of national Veterinary Services.
6. To provide a better guarantee of the safety of food of animal origin and to promote animal welfare through a science-based approach.

The *Terrestrial Manual*, covering infectious and parasitic diseases of mammals, birds and bees, was first published in 1989. Each successive edition has extended and updated the information provided. This twelfth edition includes over 15 updated chapters. The structure of the edition remains unchanged: Part 1 contains ten introductory chapters that set general standards for the management of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and vaccine production facilities; Part 2 comprises specific recommendations and includes eight chapters of recommendations for validation of diagnostic tests and three chapters of recommendations for the manufacture of vaccines; Part 3 comprises chapters on WOAAH listed diseases and other diseases of importance.

As a companion volume to the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*, the *Terrestrial Manual* sets laboratory standards for all WOAAH listed diseases as well as several other diseases of global importance. It describes the diagnostic tests available and fit for purpose, including those that are suitable for certifying individual animals prior to movement. The *Terrestrial Manual* has become widely adopted as a key reference book for veterinary laboratories around the world. Aquatic animal diseases are included in a separate *Aquatic Manual*.

The task of commissioning chapters and compiling the *Terrestrial Manual* was assigned to the WOAAH Biological Standards Commission by the World Assembly of national Delegates. Manuscripts were requested from specialists (the WOAAH designated experts at WOAAH Reference Laboratories when relevant) in each of the diseases or the other topics covered. When needed, an *ad hoc* Group of experts was convened tasked with updating or developing a chapter. The chapters were reviewed and approved by the Biological Standards Commission for circulation to all WOAAH Member Countries for review and comment. The Commission, elected every 3 years by the Assembly, took the resulting comments into consideration, often referring back to the contributors for further clarification, before

finalising the chapters and approving them for circulation a second time to all WOAHA Members. The final texts were then presented for adoption by the Assembly at the General Session held in May each year.

The Standards presented in each chapter of the *Terrestrial Manual* are International Standards in accordance with the mandate of the WOAHA as recognised by the WTO under the SPS Agreement, and considering their approval by the WOAHA World Assembly.

A procedure for the official recognition of commercialised diagnostic tests, under the authority of the Assembly, was finalised in September 2004. Data are submitted using a validation template that was developed by the Biological Standards Commission. Submissions regarding terrestrial animal diseases are evaluated by appointed experts, who advise the Biological Standards Commission before the final opinion of the WOAHA World Assembly is sought. All information on the submission of applications can be found on the WOAHA website.

The *Terrestrial Manual* continues to expand and to extend its range of topics covered. In 2022, it was decided to no longer publish a paper edition of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The online version of the *Terrestrial Manual* is therefore the only valid version of the *Terrestrial Manual*. The *Terrestrial Manual* is available in English and Spanish on the WOAHA website.

At the 89th General Session in May 2022, the World Assembly of Delegates adopted Resolution No. 10, recognising that “OIE” will be replaced by “WOAHA” as part of a rebranding of the Organisation, which will be applied in future editions of the *Terrestrial Manual*.

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