

DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or a compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision nor any recourse of any kind.

The publication by the OIE of a self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE.

Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- (i) any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration,
- (ii) the use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- (iii) any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Self-declaration of country freedom from Rabies virus by Slovakia

Declaration sent to the OIE on 9 October 2020 by Professor Jozef Bires, OIE Delegate of Slovakia and Chief Veterinary Officer, State Veterinary and Food Administration, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic.

1. Introduction

The aim of this declaration is to demonstrate that Slovakia fulfils and meets requirements for declaration as a rabies-free country in compliance with Article 8.14.2. of the 2019 OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Terrestrial Code)*. The self-declaration covers the whole country. The starting date of the self-declared rabies virus freedom is 1 July 2021.

2. Notification duty and effective system of control

In Slovakia, according to Article 37, Section 2, Letter I of the [Act No. 39/2007](#) on Veterinary Care as amended, rabies is subject to compulsory notification (Annex 4, Page 88 of the Act).

The control of animal diseases and disease reporting

1. immediately report to the veterinary administration authority any suspicion of a disease referred to in para 17 and 18 and the diseases listed in Annexes no. 4 and 5, the death of an animal suspected of having these diseases and allow its examination,

Until the current act came into force, compulsory notification was subject to the following Acts in chronological order since the date of constitution of Slovakia on 1.1.1993: Act No. 87/1987 Coll. on Veterinary Care, Act No. 337/1998 and No. 488/2002 on Veterinary Care.

Based on Article 17, Section 2 and Article 37, Section 2, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll., every natural or legal person authorized to dispose of live animals is obliged to notify the veterinary authority of any suspicion of any disease and death of animal without any delay, and to allow examination of such animal.

In case of failure of notification of the disease, death of an animal or not allowing examination of such an animal:

- a natural person commits an offence according to Article 48, Section 4, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 300 EUR up to 800 EUR may be imposed on her/him, due to Article 48, Section 5, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 400 EUR up to 1000 EUR may be imposed on her/him.

- legal or natural person-entrepreneur commits an administrative offence according to Article 50, Section 2, Letter b) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 2500 EUR up to 40 000 EUR may be imposed on her/him according to Article 50, Section 4, Letter a) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll. and a penalty from 10 000 EUR up to 160 000 EUR may be imposed on her/him.

Since 2000, the National Rabies Eradication Programme in compliance with WHO criteria (autumn and spring vaccination campaign) has been regularly applied on an annual basis. In this programme, the legal powers, control mechanisms, diagnostics procedures, system of notification and measures upon the disease occurrence and animal movement are laid down. The National Rabies Eradication Programme in Slovakia guarantees monitoring and directs preventive measures that ensures an effective disease control system.

Since 2007, Slovakia has implemented a Veterinary Information System (VIS). The VIS has two components: veterinary activities and laboratory testing. VETPROF system was the predecessor of VIS from 1996 until 2007. The veterinary activities component include: list of farms (both game and animal production farms), planning of preventive activities, movement of animals, entering the results of inspections, disease report, and statutes of farms and holdings. The laboratory activities component include: disease test results, residue levels, and food safety and quality of feeding stuff. The system includes records of monitoring (passive and active surveillance) of rabies, laboratory testing and cases of rabies. The system is accessible to all state administration bodies in the veterinary field and also to contracted private veterinarians.

3. Results obtained based on the system of control and rabies surveillance

Monitoring of rabies is performed in domestic and wild animals. Monitoring of rabies in domestic animals is performed by veterinary examination of susceptible species in case of disease suspicion or by a clinical examination of animals that have exposed a human being or an animal to rabies virus. (Clinical examination of domestic animals is carried out on the 1st, 5th and 14th day after exposure, the veterinarian performing an examination will issue a veterinary certificate about examination of the animal health status as described below:

1. In the case of suspicion of rabies, the respective District Veterinary and Food Administrations (DVFA) orders the measures in compliance with the Article 8(3)(f) and Article 17(3) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll.

On the suspicion of rabies occurrence in domestic animals, the respective DVFA orders the owner/keeper of the animal(s) on the measures for control of animal diseases and determines the date for their fulfilment, by which

a) it orders:

1. catching of stray animals by professionally eligible or owner/keeper of the animal
2. disinfection of the place of killing or death of suspected rabid animal and thorough disinfection and incineration of all items which could have come into contact with such animal,
3. safe disposal of dead and killed animals at a rendering plant after sampling,
4. isolation and monitoring of all susceptible animals which came or could have come into contact with an animal suspected of rabies,
5. safe disposal of milk obtained from cows suspected of rabies and prohibition of the use of products of warm-blooded animals for human consumption and for feeding purposes if these animals came or could have come in contact with an animal suspected of rabies,
6. obligation to report each case of exposure of people and/or animals, behaviour changes in domestic animals, death of domestic animals and/or wildlife in an outbreak and at-risk population.

b) it prohibits

1. movement and collection of susceptible animal species,
2. free movement of susceptible animals in an outbreak,

The respective DVFA, in case of rabies is NOT confirmed, lifts the measures for disease control, otherwise orders the measures in accordance to point 4.4.9.

As for suspicion of rabies occurrence in wildlife, the respective DVFA orders to natural and legal persons the measures for control of animal diseases and determines the date for their fulfilment, by which

- a) it orders, in addition to the points listed above for domestic animals (points 1, 2,3,4 and 6); to hunt the wild animals suspected of rabies (showing signs according to the point "Instruction on the disease" of National rabies eradication programme) to the respective user of hunting ground.
- b) it prohibits
 - 1. movement and collection of susceptible animal species,
 - 2. free movement of susceptible domestic animals in an outbreak,
 - 3. catching of wildlife for further breeding.

The respective DVFA, in case of rabies is not confirmed, lifts the measures for disease control, otherwise orders the measures.

The measures in case of positive result on rabies are ordered by the DVFAs in compliance with the Article 8(3)(f) and Article 17(3) of the Act No. 39/2007 Coll.

The respective DVFA at confirmation of rabies occurrence in domestic animals extends the previous measures for disease control by further measures (see measures taken in the case of suspicion) for disease control and determines to the natural and legal persons the date for their fulfilment by which:

- a) it defines a rabies outbreak,
- b) it orders in that outbreak:
 - 1. marking it with warning signages with wording "CAUTION RABIES!"
 - 2. killing of susceptible animals which came in contact with an animal positive to the presence of rabies antigen,
 - 3. to perform the registration of dogs and cats and protective vaccination of dogs, cats and other carnivore over 3 months of age which have not been vaccinated against rabies so far or since the last antirabies vaccination or re-vaccination period elapsed, provided that they did not come into contact or they did not have the possibility to come into contact with an animal positive to the presence of rabies antigen,
 - 4. to perform protective vaccination of susceptible domestic animals; it will permit to use of the milk and other products obtained from them for the human consumption and feeding purposes only following gained immunity (this period will be stated based on the date of vaccine manufacturer).

After confirmation of rabies occurrence in wildlife, the respective DVFA extends the previous measures for disease control by further measures (see measures taken in the case of suspicion above for disease control and determines to the natural and legal persons the date for their fulfilment. by which:

- a) it defines a rabies outbreak,
- b) it orders in an outbreak the points listed above (points 1,2 and 3) and in addition, it orders:
 - 4. to perform protective vaccination of cattle, sheep and goats in pasture and to stable the animals until gaining the immunity (this period will be stated based on the date of vaccine manufacturer).

The holding or cadastre of the municipality or other geographically defined area, in which the rabid animal was kept, hunted or found, is defined as a rabies outbreak, based on confirmation of rabies occurrence by laboratory diagnostics.

It is necessary to observe the principles set up for working with infectious material during sampling.

In special cases, if it concerns human exposure and if it is not possible to wait for the collection line, DVFA will deliver the sample for testing by messenger. Receipt of the samples by the Veterinary Institute (VI) Zvolen is ensured continuously 24 hours a day, every day of the week and it is necessary to inform DVM by phone regarding delivery of such a sample.

The results of laboratory testing by direct fluorescent antibody test (DFA) method of samples that exposed the human and are delivered till Friday 15:00 will be sent by VI Zvolen on the same day, and the result of PCR will be announced on Monday. If the samples are delivered on Friday after 15:00 or during the weekend, VI Zvolen will send the results on Monday (DFA+PCR). On other working days, the results of the laboratory testing by DFA method will be sent on the next working day, the latest.

VI Zvolen will immediately inform SVFA SR by e-mail about positive results of laboratory testing.

In 2019, a total of 226 suspected foxes, one racoon dog, 73 dogs, 62 cats and 36 other animals have been tested. In 2020, 222 suspected foxes, one raccoon dog, 74 dogs, 51 cats and 26 other animals have been tested. These tests also included those animals which were in the period of isolation as clinical examination was prescribed (1st, 5th, and 14th day) because the animals had shown various clinical signs suggestive of rabies and these animals have been killed and tested.

Monitoring of rabies in wild animals is covered by the state budget. The oral vaccination of foxes against rabies is under the National Rabies Eradication Programme in Slovakia. The monitoring of rabies in wild animals is done by laboratory examination in all susceptible animal species and serological and virological examinations of foxes hunted (after finishing of each vaccination campaign, in the part of Slovakia where the vaccination was conducted). Each year, following the oral vaccination campaign, monitoring is performed through the evaluation of the seropositivity of foxes and the intake of the bites (through the TTC biomarker used in the vaccine) in the areas where vaccination was conducted.

Oral vaccination of wildlife red foxes:

Vaccines (type, dosage): chosen by using tender procedure - Lysvulpen a.u.v. - contains modified attenuated vaccine strain of rabies SAD Bern, multiplied in cell cultures, antibiotics and stabilizing medium. Mixture is filled into plastic capsules (blisters) coated with bait substance with tetracycline. Tetracycline serves as an indicator of the vaccination. It is possible to distinguish vaccination virus from the field virus by means of monoclonal antibodies. The bait is brown-black colour, round or square shape, firm consistence. Inside the bait there is a plastic capsule (blister) with multilingual printing "**Attention – vaccine against rabies**". The content of the capsule is reddish. If the bait is ingested by fox, vaccine capsule is perforated, and vaccine comes into contact with the oral mucous membrane. An immunogenetic effect is induced via the lymphatic system.

By air distribution: chosen by tender procedure - private company AERO SLOVAKIA a.s, Aiport Janikovce. 949 07 NITRA. Slovakia; By hand distribution: official veterinarians and hunters

The type of laboratory tests used in Slovakia

Serological tests:

ELISA – locally made – blocking system using biotinylated goat polyclonal antibodies for detection anti G protein antibodies.

FAVN – modify with immunoperoxidase detection of virus (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

virological tests: FAT – antigen detection on impressions or smears with FITC conjugated antibodies (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

RT PCR

Confirmation of Rabies field virus:

Indirect immunoperoxidase technique using monoclonal antibodies: W187.5, W187.6, Z144.88(purchased from Tübingen)

RFLP – on amplicons of pseudogene using TAQ1 restriction endonuclease (WHO, 1996).

Typing of Rabies virus:

Sequencing and phylogenetic analyses of Slovakian rabies virus field strains

Sequencing analyses using region coding nucleoprotein, phosphoprotein, matrix and glycoprotein (4890bp) (Campos et al., 2011; Dirbakova, Veterinary Institute Zvolen Slovakia, unpublished) followed by the sequence alignment and phylogenetic analyses using Clustal V method from MegAlign Lasergene of DNASTAR Lasergene ver9 package programme

Other used tests:

- PCR method using Lyssavirus-specific primers (WHO, 1996)
- Virus cultivation on Neuro-2a cell cultures in microtitration plate.
- Visualisation of antigen is performed with indirect immunoperoxidase technique using sheep polyclonal serum (WHO 1996, OIE 2000)

Monitoring of vaccination:

TTC marker detection:

Fluorescent microscopy (published by Stöhretal et al., 1990)

Diagnostic tests comply to the specific Chapter relative to rabies virus in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals 2019.

The results of monitoring in the period from 2000 to 2020 are presented in Table 1 as Annex II.

Since 1994, oral vaccination of foxes has been successfully carried out in Slovakia. In August 2006, a positive case of rabies in fox was confirmed in Slovakia. From August 2006 until 8 January 2013 no positive case of occurrence of rabies was confirmed on the territory of Slovakia. Based on the matter of fulfilment and observance of requirements stated in Article 8.11.2 of the *Terrestrial Code* 2008, in 2009 Slovakia self-declared itself as a rabies-free country.

In January 2013, after the period of 6 years without occurrence of rabies in Slovakia, 7 new positive cases of rabies were confirmed near the border with Poland. In 2014, no case of rabies was confirmed in the territory of Slovakia. Subsequently, in the period from January until September 2015, 5 positive cases of rabies in foxes were confirmed again near the border with Poland. In 2016, 2017 and up to the end of July 2018 no positive cases of rabies were confirmed in the territory of Slovakia. The numbers of positive cases of rabies in domestic and wild animals between 1993 and 2018 are illustrated in Figure1.

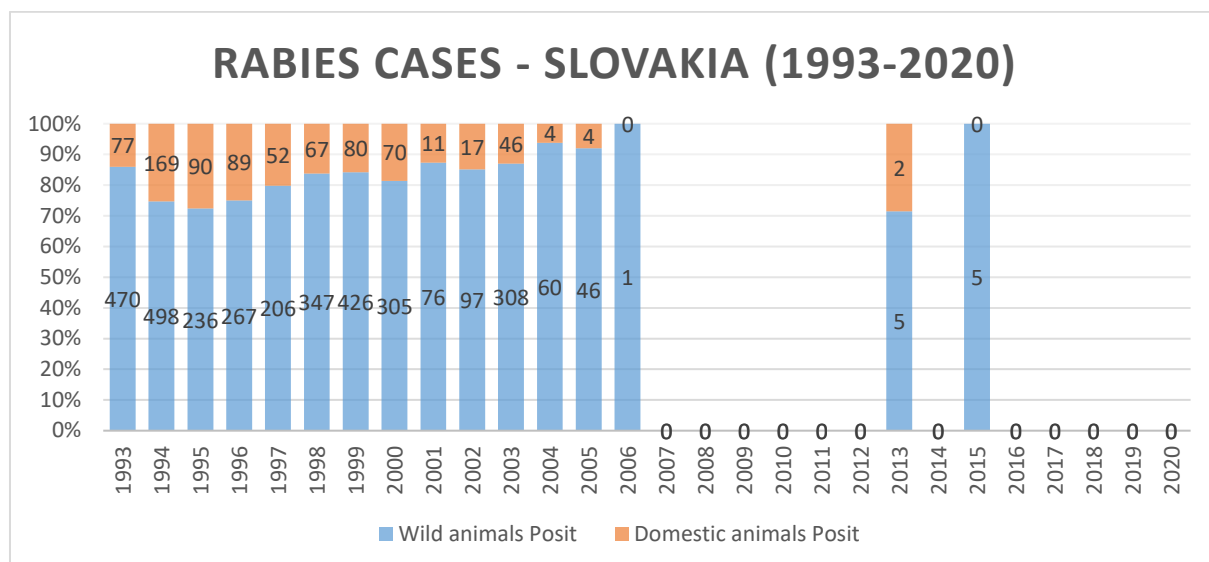


Figure 1 Cases of rabies in Slovakia for period from 1993 to 2020 (2020* - period from 1 January to 31 July 2020)

The last positive case of rabies in Slovakia was confirmed in a red fox in Prešov region in 2015. In domestic animals, the last positive case of rabies was confirmed in May 2013.

In animals imported to Slovakia, no case of rabies has been recorded in the past 24 months.

Imports and movements of animals are recorded at the place of origin or the place of entry into the EU in the unified central database tracing system for monitoring the movement of animals and products of animal origin as well as organic products, fishery products, wood, plant and plant protection products within EU and coming from the territories outside the EU.

In case of confirmation of rabies outside the quarantine, this system enables to identify the location of animals and subsequently to trace contacts with animals which could be of secondary risk. The veterinary measures in case of suspicion or confirmation of rabies are the same for all detected cases whether they are located in the quarantine sites. The veterinary measures are set out in detail in the current Eradication Program, which is annually updated, taking into account the development of the situation.

Diagnostics of rabies are carried out by the State Veterinary Institute Zvolen (SVI Zvolen) which is the Reference Laboratory for rabies.

4. Preventive measures

In Slovakia, occurrence of rabies is mainly in wild animals, primarily in foxes which presented a serious problem. Oral vaccination of foxes has been carried out in order to eradicate the disease.

The first oral vaccination of foxes started in 1994. This action had started in two campaigns annually – in spring and autumn. Baits with contents of the vaccine were laid out by air and by hand. The campaigns were conducted continuously until 1997, when they stopped because of the lack of financial resources. Subsequently, there was an increase in the occurrence of rabies in wild animals and also domestic animals. The rabies situation from 1993 to 1999 is documented in Table No. 2

Table 2: Number of rabies positive cases between 1993 and 1999 in animals (wild and domestic)

The number of positive rabies cases diagnosed between 1993 and 1999								
Year	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	Total
Wild animals	470	498	236	267	206	347	426	2450
Domestic animals	77	169	90	89	52	67	80	624
Total	547	667	326	356	258	414	506	3074

The State Veterinary and Food Administration of the Slovak Republic (SVFA SR) responded to the increase in the number of rabies cases by elaborating the National Rabies Eradication Programme in Slovakia, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture of the Slovak Republic. Since 2000, oral vaccination of foxes is regularly performed according to this programme. The eradication programme is annually reviewed and based on the analysis of achieved results, the methodology for performance of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies is amended.

The methodology of oral vaccination contains instructions for further cooperation with organizations. It also determines the date of performance for individual campaigns of oral vaccination of foxes against rabies and defines the vaccination territory intended for distribution by air and by hand, and the distribution and amount of vaccine baits intended by air and by hand. In addition, it describes the characteristics of the vaccination bait, way of distribution of the vaccination baits and their management. Veterinary inspectors of animal health of the Regional Veterinary and Food Administrations are the coordinators of air and hand distribution of the vaccination baits, ensuring tasks on the particular area such as the contact with supplier organization, air company, providing information to media and authorities at regional and district level, controlling the storage and transport of the vaccine, supervising the performance of distribution of the vaccination baits, daily reporting of the course of oral vaccination, and the evaluation of the course.

Cooperating organizations are the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the SR, Slovak Hunting Association and its territorial organizations, Ministry of Health of SR, local authorities of Slovakia.

Within preventive measures public awareness concerning rabies plays a very important role. Raising awareness regarding rabies among citizens breeders and third parties involved is performed by publishing of relevant information on the web site, in the media, via leaflets or using the consultation and training for hunters, relevant authorities as well as private veterinarians (topics: rabies sampling obligation, the procedure following the baiting of dogs and injuring the humans and needs of subsequent clinical examination in that matter)

Oral vaccination of foxes is performed twice each year - in spring and autumn. The number of baits laid out in particular years, vaccine strain used, and the target animals' number are stated in Table No. 3 and Table No. 4 as Annex III.

Slovakia continued with oral vaccination of foxes. The latest campaign was in April 2021 by using of 367 796 vaccine baits SAD Bern (both used by plane and hand distribution - the same area as in 2020). The next campaign continues in autumn 2021 and it is highly expected that the immunisation of foxes will continue also in the following years.

Since the neighbouring countries in the north and western part of Slovakia are declared as rabies free countries and because of current favourable situation of rabies in south of Slovakia, vaccination area Slovakia is not applied in the territories of the DVFAs: Bratislava, Senec, Dunajská Streda, Galanta, Trnava, Senica, Komárno, Nové Zámky, Levice, Nitra, Topoľčany, Šaľa, Nové Mesto nad Váhom, Trenčín, Prievidza, Púchov, Žiar nad Hronom, Zvolen, Veľký Krtíš, Lučenec, Rimavská Sobota, Banská Bystrica and Martin. On the territory of DVFA Liptovský Mikuláš only the district of Liptovský Mikuláš will be vaccinated (see the map). Vaccination is done in the remaining districts, corresponding to numbers 24 to 40 in table 5 and marked in red on the map.

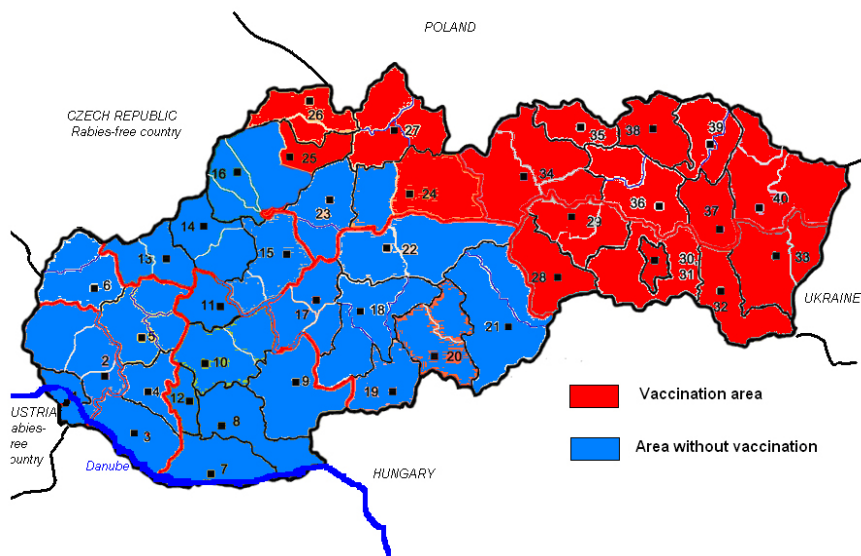


Figure 2: Map of Slovakia showing areas where vaccination is followed and areas without vaccination.

Table No.5: Districts in Slovakia where rabies vaccination is practiced and where vaccination is not followed.

Districts where vaccination is not followed		Vaccination followed	
1	Bratislava	24	Liptovský Mikuláš
2	Senec	25	Žilina
3	Dunajská Streda	26	Čadca
4	Galanta	27	Dolný Kubín
5	Trnava	28	Rožňava
6	Senica	29	Spišská Nová Ves
6	Senica	30	Košice – mesto
7	Komárno	31	Košice – okolie
8	Nové Zámky	32	Trebišov
9	Levice	33	Michalovce
10	Nitra	34	Poprad
11	Topoľčany	35	Stará Ľubovňa
13	Nové Mesto nad Váhom	36	Prešov
14	Trenčín	37	Vranov nad Topľou
15	Prievidza	38	Bardejov
16	Púchov	39	Svidník
17	Žiar nad Hronom	40	Humenné
18	Zvolen		
19	Veľký Krtíš		
20	Lučenec		
21	Rimavská Sobota		
22	Banská Bystrica		
23	Martin		

Preventive measures in domestic animal holdings are performed in compliance with the Act No 39/2007 Coll. on Veterinary Care as amended where the owner or keeper of the animal is obliged to ensure, at his/her own expenses:

1. vaccination and revaccination against rabies of susceptible carnivore animals older than 3 months, according to the vaccination scheme of producer of used vaccine.
2. the owners are obliged to keep their animals immunized and assure their examination and vaccination according to their physiological and biological needs. Vaccination is carried out by an inactivated registered vaccine in all susceptible carnivores in compliance with the vaccination programmes of the producers of vaccines, but no more than the third month of the age of animal at latest.

Vaccination of other susceptible domestic animals is authorised by the local DVFA, under the conditions approved by SVFA SR, in case of indicated preventive vaccination of cattle, sheep and goats in the event of case of rabies in wild animals before sending out the animals concerned for grazing.

Compulsory identification of dogs:

The dog owner is obliged to ensure permanent identification of the dog bred in Slovakia by a transponder that meets the technical requirements according to a special regulation, before the first change of dog ownership, but no later than 12 weeks of age.

The information must be inserted into the database of pet animals within 24 hours by the private veterinarian, who identified the animal.

A pet which is the subject of the movement must be identified and accompanied by a pet passport and its identification data must be registered in the central register of pet animals. The computer database for the central register of companion animals is operated by the Chamber of Veterinary Surgeons of Slovakia. In Slovakia, the Central Register of Pet Animals is created for dogs, which contains individual identification of a pet, computer database for the central register of pet animals and data from pet passports.

5. Effective procedures in movement and import

Slovakia applies conditions for movement of companion animals within EU and conditions for import of companion animals and other animals susceptible on rabies from the third countries in compliance with valid EU and national legislation and recommendations. This can be found below as Annex IV.

a) Companion/pet animals

Movement of dogs, cats, and ferrets from the EU Member States into the territory of Slovakia in non-commercial movement must meet the following requirements: the animals must be clearly identified by tattooing (if performed until 3 July 2011) or microchip, they must be accompanied by a passport issued by an authorized veterinarian, they must have a valid vaccination against rabies.

Non-commercial movement from the third countries to Slovakia is possible under compliance with requirements stated above, whereby in case of the third countries not stated in the list according to the Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 on non-commercial movement of companion animals a test on antibody titre against rabies is also needed.

In case of non-commercial movement from the third countries to the territory of Slovakia, the animal must be accompanied by a health veterinary certificate due to the Regulation (EU) No 576/2013. When re-entering the territory of Slovakia after entering the third countries, the veterinary certificate is not required.

During commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets from EU Member States to the territory of Slovakia, the animals must meet the same requirements as in the non-commercial movement and they must be accompanied by the health certificate which is in compliance with the specimen according to Annex E to the Directive 92/65/EC.

Requirements for import of dogs, cats and ferrets from third countries in commercial contact are laid down in the Implementing Decision (EU) No. 2019/294, establishing the lists of the third countries authorised for import, and also an animal health certificate for import of dogs, cats and ferrets from the third countries.

Data confirming compliance with requirements for movement of dogs, cats and ferrets may be confirmed only by a veterinarian authorised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, who is obliged to verify the identity of an animal prior each recording of the change. As far as a vaccination of the animal against rabies or the other disease was carried out by a veterinarian non-authorised for issuing passports, such vaccination is not considered to be valid for the purposes of movement.

Detailed information regarding movement of companion animals is published on [SVFA SR web site](#).

b) Other commercial and wild animals susceptible to rabies

Movement of farm animals/livestock and wild animals susceptible to rabies from the territory of EU Member States to the territory of Slovakia in non-commercial/commercial movement is possible only if all legislative requirements are met: e.g. they must be labelled, clinically healthy, if required by legislation vaccinated (e.g. susceptible carnivores if they are at least 3 months old must be vaccinated against rabies and at least 21 days must have elapsed after the vaccination) and must be accompanied by a veterinary certificate or other document in accordance with applicable EU legislation.

In case of import of live animals from third countries that are not fully harmonized by EU and no import requirements are set – in such a case SR defines their own requirements to meet at least minimum EU legislation requirements for animal movement (see above). We set the requirements for import from the third countries so that they fully comply with the recommendations according to Article 8.14.5, 8.14.7 to 8.14.10 of the *Terrestrial Code* (2019).

- https://www.svps.sk/zvierata/dovoz_vyvoz_Stavovce.asp: Imports of non - harmonized goods subject to veterinary control from third countries - vertebrates
- https://www.svps.sk/english/Non_harmonized.asp: model certificates for import of consignments (Non harmonized Goods) into Slovakia.
- <https://www.svps.sk/dokumenty/zvierata/ZdravotnePoziadavkyDovozMasozravcov2019.pdf>
- Health requirements for import of live animals of order Carnivores (Carnivora) into Slovakia

6. Conclusion

Considering that:

1. Slovakia is a country free from infection with rabies virus since 2015;
2. Rabies is a compulsory notifiable disease. In addition, that reporting of suspicious cases are in accordance with the Chapter 1.1 of the *Terrestrial Code*;
3. There have been no cases of indigenous acquired infection in the past 24 months;
4. A surveillance system has been in place for the past 24 months and are in accordance with the relevant Chapter 1.4. and Article 8.14.12. of the *Terrestrial Code*;
5. Following the epizootiological [animal health] situation in the neighbouring countries, the SVFA SR decided to continue with the oral vaccination of foxes in the following years on the risk parts of the territory of Slovakia;
6. The rabies management and procedures will continue in accordance with the Act No 39/2007 Coll. on Veterinary Care, therefore the preventive measures, monitoring and measures upon import of animals regarding rabies will further be complied;

The OIE Delegate of Slovakia declares that the country complies with the requirements for a country free from rabies as of 01 July 2021, in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 1.6. and Article 8.14.2. of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* (2021 edition) and consistent with the information provided in OIE-WAHIS.

Statement to be included in the self-declaration document.

I, the undersigned, PROF. JOSEF BIREŠ, DVM.

Delegate of SLOVAK REPUBLIC

to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), takes responsibility for the self-declaration of freedom from

RABIES

(disease)

DISCLAIMER

The OIE, after performing an administrative and technical screening of a self-declaration concerning the disease-free status of a country, a zone or compartment ("self-declaration"), as described in the standard operating procedures for self-declarations, reserves the right to publish or not the self-declaration on its website. There shall be no right of appeal from this decision or any recourse of any kind.

The publication by the OIE of self-declaration on its website does not reflect the official opinion of the OIE. Responsibility for the information contained in a self-declaration lies entirely with the OIE Delegate of the Member concerned.

Neither the OIE nor any person acting on its behalf may be held responsible for:

- (i) Any errors, inaccuracies or omissions in the content of a self-declaration,
- (ii) The use which may be made of the information contained in a self-declaration;
- (iii) Any direct or indirect consequences of any nature arising from or relating to the use of the information contained in a self-declaration.

Drawn up on 13, 05, 2021

Signature of the Delegate:



Table 1: Results of rabies monitoring in Slovakia from 2000 to 2020

Year	Wild animals				Domestic animals				The total number of animals	
	Red fox		Other		Dogs and cats		Other		Positive	Negative
	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative		
2020	0	719	0	26	0	125	0	13	0	883
2019	0	691	0	41	0	135	0	9	0	876
2018	0	699	0	42	0	151	0	6	0	898
2017	0	1 743	0	61	0	163	0	8	0	1 975
2016	0	1 716	0	51	0	172	0	7	0	1 946
2015	5	1 874	0	33	0	217	0	9	5	2 133
2014	0	1 396	0	32	0	226	0	10	0	1 664
2013	4	3 535	1	45	2	213	0	4	7	3 797
2012	0	3 369	0	44	0	242	0	13	0	3 668
2011	0	3 264	0	60	0	279	0	20	0	3 623
2010	0	2 922	0	42	0	323	0	16	0	3 303
2009	0	3 203	0	86	0	391	0	28	0	3 708
2008	0	3 422	0	77	0	484	0	25	0	4 008
2007	0	3 751	0	86	0	445	0	31	0	4 313
2006	1	3 630	0	105	0	485	0	21	1	4 241
2005	44	1 767	2	126	4	654	0	42	50	2 589
2004	54	1 563	6	109	3	660	1	50	64	2 382
2003	295	1 791	13	159	43	676	3	72	354	2 698
2002	94	1 452	3	130	16	713	1	80	114	2 375
2001	72	1 027	4	116	11	674	0	62	87	1 879
2000	292	1 416	13	164	66	793	4	69	375	2 442
Total	861	44950	42	1635	145	8221	9	595	1057	55401

Annex III

Table No.3: The number of vaccine baits used within realization of the National Rabies Eradication Programme – period 2000-2021

YEAR	Oral vaccination of foxes spring campaign	Oral vaccination of foxes autumn campaign
2000	688.180 baits SAD Bern	335.000 baits SAD Bern 353.480 baits SAD Vnukovo 32/107
2001	280.000 baits SAD Bern 487.180 baits SAD Vnukovo 32/107	298.120 baits SAD Bern 503.268 baits SAD Vnukovo 32/107
2002	298.120 baits SAD Bern 503.268 baits SAD Vnukovo 32/107	798.600 baits SAD VA-1
2003	300.000 baits SAD Bern 399.950 baits SAD VA-1	727.400 baits SAD Bern
2004	876.000 baits SAD Bern	868.500 baits SAD Bern
2005	856.900 baits SAD Bern	856.900 baits SAD Bern
2006	856.900 baits SAD Bern	856.900 baits SAD Bern
2007	856.900 baits SAD Bern	856.900 baits SAD Bern
2008	856.900 baits SAD Bern	856.900 baits SAD Bern
2009	856.900 baits SAD Bern	622.340 baits SAD Bern
2010	622.340 baits SAD Bern	622.340 baits SAD Bern
2011	328 850 baits SAD Bern	328 850 baits SAD Bern
2012	328 850 baits SAD Bern	328 850 baits SAD Bern
2013	303 750 baits SAD Bern	303 750 baits SAD Bern
2014	303 750 baits SAD Bern	303 750 baits SAD Bern
2015	303 700 baits SAD Bern	303 900 baits SAD Bern
2016	303 900 baits SAD Bern	310 150 baits SAD Bern
2017	310 150 baits SAD Bern	310 150 baits SAD Bern
2018	316 400 baits SAD Bern	316 400 baits SAD Bern
2019	316 400 baits SAD Bern	351 150 baits SAD Bern
2020	367 380 baits SAD Bern	367 380 baits SAD Bern
2021	367 796 baits SAD Bern	

Table No.4: Estimated number of target animals (wildlife from 2000 to 2020)

Estimated number of target animals		
Years	Foxes	Raccoon dog
2000	cca 19.500 – 25.000	-
2001	Cca 23.000 -26.000	-
2002	cca 28.000-30.000	-
2003	cca 30.000	-
2004	cca 30.000	-
2005	cca 28.000-30.000	-

2006	cca 28.000-30.000	-
2007	cca 30.000- 35.000	-
2008	cca 20.000- 25.000	-
2009	cca 25.000-28.000	-
2010	cca 20.000- 25.000	-
2011	cca 27.000- 30.000	-
2012	cca 27.000- 30.000	-
2013	cca 29.000- 32.000	cca 1 234
2014	cca 31.000- 33.000	cca 1 250
2015	cca 31.000- 33.000	cca 1358
2016	cca 31.000- 33.000	cca 1 648
2017	cca 34.000-35.000	cca 1 802
2018	cca 35.000 – 39.000	cca 1 895
2019	cca 34.000	cca 1733
2020	Available in summer 2021	

Annex IV

- Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 June 2013 on the non-commercial movement of pet animals and repealing Regulation (EC) No 998/2003
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 of 28 June 2013 on the model identification documents for the non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets, the establishment of lists of territories and third countries and the format, layout and language requirements of the declarations attesting compliance with certain conditions provided for by Regulation (EU) No 576/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/561 of 11 April 2016 amending Annex IV to Implementing Regulation (EU) No 577/2013 as regards the model of animal health certificate for dogs, cats and ferrets moved into a Member State from a territory or a third country for non-commercial
- Commission Implementing Decision (EU) No. 2019/294 of 18 February 2019 laying down the list of territories and third countries authorised for import of dogs, cats and ferrets to the Union and the model health certificate for such imports
- Council Directive 92/65/EEC of 13 July 1992 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 referred to in Annex A Part (I) to Directive 90/425/EEC
- Commission Regulation (EU) No. 206/2010 of 12 March 2010 laying down list of third countries, territories or parts thereof authorised for the introduction into the European Union of certain animals and fresh meat and the veterinary certification requirements
- Legislation for import of live animals from the third countries is published in a table, where to every commodity a basic EU legislation is assigned regarding authorised third countries, model certificates and basic EU and SR legislation related to animal health regarding import of animals including requirements related to rabies

https://www.svps.sk/dokumenty/zvierata/Dovoz_Zive_Zvierata_2017.pdf

- Legislation for import of live animals from the third countries that are not completely harmonized by EU and requirements for import are not defined – in such case SR has defined its own requirements

https://www.svps.sk/zvierata/dovoz_vyvoz_Stavovce.asp

https://www.svps.sk/english/Non_harmonized.asp