Recommendation No. 1: Brucellosis in the Americas: prospects for diagnosis and control using new vaccines
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Recommendation No. 1

**Brucellosis in the Americas: prospects for diagnosis and control using new vaccines**

**CONSIDERING THAT**

Brucellosis is a disease affecting humans and most domesticated mammals, which causes economic repercussions and public health hazards,

Brucellosis occurs in a number of species of non-traditional farmed animals and in some species of wildlife,

New species of *Brucella* are emerging,

It has been demonstrated by several countries that eradication of brucellosis is achievable,

A survey of OIE Member Countries in the Americas has confirmed that brucellosis is managed in very different ways and remains widely distributed,

Control programmes for brucellosis include extensive vaccination of livestock and mass diagnostic tests to detect infected animals,

Classical *Brucella abortus* S19 and *B. melitensis* Rev1 vaccine strains contain antigens that under normal conditions elicit an antibody production that interferes with serological diagnosis,

Classical serological tests are unable to distinguish vaccinal antibodies from those induced by pathogenic strains, but new serological tests capable of making this distinction are now available,

**THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**RECOMMENDS THAT**

1. All countries in the Americas consider implementing national programmes for the prevention, control and eradication of brucellosis in species where public health or economic benefit warrant such implementation.

2. The OIE, in close cooperation with other international organisations, facilitate the improvement and modernisation of brucellosis diagnostic testing in livestock, providing training, technical advice, standardised procedures and standardised diagnostic reagents.

3. Research be initiated or continued in the following areas:
   - new, non-interfering vaccines for species other than cattle;
   - development of vaccines suitable for alternate delivery to wildlife species;
   - development of a standardised nucleic acid assays for the various species of *Brucella*;
   - validation and standardisation of diagnostic tests for all species;
   - implications of new *Brucella* sp. to humans and animals;
   - efficacy of RB51 vaccine in cattle and other species.

4. The OIE, in close cooperation with countries and other international organisations, facilitate the organisation of a regional computer network for sharing data on brucellosis and the adoption of recommendations regarding identification, diagnostic tests, vaccination, movement and husbandry of animals in the region.

*(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)*
Recommendation No. 2

Vesicular stomatitis: surveillance, diagnosis and control systems

CONSIDERING THAT

The success achieved with foot and mouth disease eradication programmes in the countries of the Southern Cone and the States of southern and central Brazil, together with the trend observed in the countries of the Andean area, make it easier to grasp the economic importance of vesicular stomatitis and underline the urgency in securing better knowledge on the disease,

There is no continental system of epidemiological surveillance specifically for vesicular stomatitis that incorporates the information available in the different institutions and countries,

There is a need to improve knowledge on the epidemiology of the disease,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. A working group be established, in conjunction with the Panamerican Foot-and-Mouth-Disease Center of the Pan American Health Organisation (Panaftosa/PAHO), to elaborate, as soon as possible, a draft document to establish an information and epidemiological surveillance system for vesicular stomatitis to serve as a basis for a hemispheric programme of disease control.

2. Panaftosa/PAHO be requested to include the formation of a group to define priorities in the field of vesicular stomatitis research as one of the objectives of the international seminar on vesicular stomatitis to be held in Bogota (Colombia) in May 2000.

3. Epidemiological investigations systematically follow any diagnosis of vesicular stomatitis with a view to eradicate the outbreak and gain insight into the epidemiology of the disease.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
CONSIDERING THAT

New World Screwworm (NWS) is a problem of public and animal health which causes enormous economic losses in both domesticated and wild animals,

The experience acquired by countries having developed a NWS eradication programme has been positive, and this may serve as an example to incite the rest of the countries in the Americas to develop their own programmes in the near future,

NWS continues to pose a threat for those countries already free of the parasite in North and Central America,

The eradication of NWS involves various factors of field operations such as curing wounds, animal movement control and a strong public awareness campaign, as well as the production and dispersal of insects using the 'sterile fly technique', which has no effect the environment and eliminates the pest in an efficient manner without harming natural food chains,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. All countries in the Americas that are either infected or have eradicated the pest consider the possibility of implementing a NWS prevention, control and eradication programme.

2. The OIE and those countries having eradicated the pest recognise that the cost of controlling an outbreak is high and that the time required to re-eradicate depends on the rapid use of an emergency animal health programme, as well as surveillance in airports, ports and along borders.

3. The production of sterile flies be continued in Chiapas (Mexico) in order to continue supporting countries in the process of eradicating the pest and in the event of a possible outbreak in pest-free countries, until such time as the new sterile fly facility is opened in Panama.

4. The Mexico-American Commission continue supporting countries with NWS eradication programmes, producing sterile insects and carrying out technical evaluations through bilateral agreements between countries, the Commission and international organisations such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

5. The Panama-United States Commission agree to work to accelerate the technical and administrative procedures that will allow the construction of the sterile fly production facility in the Republic of Panama.

6. In view of the international success of NWS eradication programmes, other insects harmful to livestock or humans be studied to include them in integrated biological control programmes and take advantage of the installations of the facility in Mexico and the trained personal working at the facility.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
Recommendation No. 4

Committee of the Americas for the Harmonisation of Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products

CONSIDERING

The importance of standardising texts, prepared by the OIE Standards Commission, on the subject of harmonisation of the registration and control of veterinary medicinal products, notably biologicals, in the Manual of Standards for Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines,

The importance given to harmonising registration and control of veterinary medicinal products among the standardising activities of Veterinary Services in the Americas region,

That the officials responsible for drug registration in those countries having participated in the Vth OIE/Pan American Health Organization Seminar, held in Havana (Cuba) in 1999, drafted a document to create a Technical Committee in order to accord a more organic and institutional character to the harmonisation of standardising and regulatory issues, in close collaboration with the OIE Collaborating Centres and Reference Laboratories competent in this field,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The creation and operation of the Committee of the Americas for the Harmonisation of Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products (Camevet) be approved, in accordance with the document drafted by those in charge of veterinary medicinal product registration in the countries having participated in the Vth OIE/Pan American Health Organization Seminar, held in Havana (Cuba) from 7 to 11 August 1999.

2. This Committee be named ‘Committee of the Americas for the Harmonisation of Registration and Control of Veterinary Medicinal Products’ (Camevet), in order to clearly indicate that it includes all countries in the region interested in participating, without modifying the texts adopted during the Vth OIE/PAHO Seminar mentioned in Point 1.

3. The OIE Regional Representation for the Americas be named the secretariat ex-officio with the objective of coordinating the activities of Camevet, including the drafting of an annual report to be presented to Camevet and to the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
Recommendation No. 5

Risk analysis

CONSIDERING

That the importance of risk analysis in the framework of international trade is indicated in the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization,

The priority that the OIE Strategic Plan for the Americas accords to the review of methods of risk analysis and epidemiological surveillance,

That the Centers for Epidemiology and Animal Health (CEAH) in the United States of America are an OIE Collaborating Centre for Animal Disease Surveillance Systems and Risk Analysis,

The importance of encouraging the participation of national Veterinary Services in the use and development of methods of risk analysis and epidemiological surveillance,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. A technical group on risk analysis and epidemiological surveillance be created in the region, consisting of country experts, with the support and guidance of the CEAH and the OIE Regional Representation for the Americas.

2. This technical group prepare documents and instruction manuals for the harmonisation and the promotion of risk analysis methods, in collaboration with the OIE, and provide technical assistance to those countries requesting it.

3. The relationship between the Regional Representation and the CEAH be strengthened in order to coordinate activities in the region and analyse the mechanisms of financial sustainability which will allow the development of these activities.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
Recommendation No. 6

**Bovine spongiform encephalopathy: repercussions on animal health, links with public health and consequences for international trade**

**CONSIDERING THAT**

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) has important repercussions on animal health, public health and international trade,

The OIE International Animal Health Code Commission has continuously proposed revisions of the chapter on this disease in light of new findings,

The complexity of this new disease requires caution in the evaluation, management and handling of risks,

The existing health situation, as well as the absence of risk factors for this disease on the American continent and on other continents, where no indigenous cases have been detected and where active surveillance systems exist, is completely different from the conditions present in Europe,

Certain countries in the region show low prevalence of progressive neurological diseases,

**THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS**

**RECOMMENDS THAT**

4. Research continues with the objective of clarifying certain epidemiological aspects of this disease and developing diagnostic methods for live animals.

5. The OIE International Animal Health Code Commission take into consideration the existing situation on continents other than Europe and favour the drafting of less restrictive recommendations allowing the recognition of disease-free countries without indigenous cases.

6. The recommendations in OIE *International Animal Health Code Appendix 4.5.1.2.* entitled ‘Surveillance and monitoring systems for bovine spongiform encephalopathy’, which provides an outline of a random sampling system for the examination of brains, be improved and enlarged, taking into account the necessity for less restrictive measures for low-risk continents and keeping in mind the low occurrence of progressive neurological diseases in certain countries.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
Recommendation No. 7

Continental Plan for Classical Swine Fever Eradication in the Americas

CONSIDERING

The document giving the basis for a continental eradication programme for classical swine fever (CSF), as presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), resulting from the specialist meeting on this subject held in Santiago (Chile) in October 1999,

The high social impact that this disease has in vast sectors of animal production on the continent (in small holdings, family production, etc.) as well as the economic losses occurring in the industrial production sector, which harm national and/or international trade in animals and animal products,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The document presented by the FAO to this 15th Conference of the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas be considered as a preliminary proposal to be improved upon by the suggestions of countries of the region to be received within a delay of 60 days in order to make the necessary adjustments.

2. The FAO be confirmed as Technical Secretariat of the Continental Plan with the responsibility of collecting the suggestions from Member Countries in view of the elaboration of a final document, which will be submitted to the countries no later than 60 days after reception of the suggestions.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)
Recommendation No. 8

OIE categorisation of animal diseases

CONSIDERING

That one of the main objectives of the OIE is "to inform Governments on the occurrence of animal diseases, changes in their distribution world-wide and means of controlling them",

That the current OIE categorisation of animal diseases into Lists A and B has not been reviewed recently and therefore shows certain inconsistencies,

That the current OIE categorisation of animal diseases should be more flexible and facilitate the inclusion of new emerging animal diseases of significant epidemiological importance,

The need to take into account the growing importance of the potential zoonotic consequences of many animal diseases and the need for consistency of approach in the long term with the *International Aquatic Animal Health Code* and the interface with wildlife diseases,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE envisage changing the current categorisation of animal diseases from Lists A and B to a classification of animal diseases into two new categories:
   - animal diseases of immediate notification due to their particularly high epidemiological significance (within 24 hours),
   - animal diseases of periodic notification, at least annually.

2. The inclusion of any animal disease in the category of immediate notification be solely based on the etiological and epidemiological characteristics of the disease and its potential for dangerous and widespread dissemination (directly or through vectors) in order to meet the information needs of Member Countries in support of disease control effectiveness.

3. The OIE, as a scientific reference body, establish a framework to raise the awareness of OIE Member Countries of the fundamental purpose of the listing of diseases based on notification obligations, which is to provide timely and quality information in support of disease control strategies.

4. This recommendation be examined by the Administrative Commission of the OIE in order to determine the most appropriate manner to effect the necessary change.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 10 March 2000)