

# **Recommendations**

**of  
Conferences of OIE Regional Commissions  
organised since 1 June 2007**

**endorsed by the International Committee  
of the OIE on 29 May 2008**

**9th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East**

Damascus (Syria), 29 October-01 November 2007

- [Recommendation No. 1:](#) The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services
- [Recommendation No. 2:](#) The application of the Geographic Information Systems in the surveillance of animal diseases

Recommendation No. 1

**The role of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Associations in the promotion of the veterinary profession and upgrading of Veterinary Services**

CONSIDERING THAT

The quality of Veterinary Services of a country is an essential prerequisite for animal health and welfare, veterinary public health, food safety and hygiene and for the protection of the environment,

Veterinary Statutory Bodies regulate the registration, licensing and the eligibility for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals to continue practice,

Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations promote public confidence in the practice of veterinary medicine and other veterinary activities.

Veterinary Associations represent veterinarians and promote their recognition by society,

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides standards and guidelines on the quality, organisation and structure of Veterinary Services and Veterinary Statutory Bodies as well as on the qualifications and educational and scientific expertise of their human resources,

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries of the Middle East improve the implementation of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code Standards and fundamental principles for the quality of Veterinary Services and their human resources;
2. Member Countries not currently having autonomous Veterinary Statutory Bodies establish such bodies, in accordance with the OIE guidelines, empowering them with legal authority to:
  - i. define the educational, ethical and level of expertise of veterinarians and paraprofessionals;
  - ii. develop a code for professional ethics and conduct and the procedures to ensure compliance of the veterinarian and veterinary paraprofessional to the principles of the code;
  - iii. protect the interests of animal owners, consumers of animal products and other stakeholders by ensuring the availability of services provided by persons who are properly qualified and practice in a professional and ethical manner;

- iv. regulate the interface between the members of the profession and their clients;
  - v. maintain high standards and credibility of the profession;
  - vi. promote the art and science of veterinary medicine;
  - vii. examine complaints against veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals and take appropriate measures, including sanctions in case of violation of set standards;
  - viii. develop educational programmes for continuing professional development for veterinarians and veterinary para-professionals;
  - ix. apply the provisions of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code for independent and credible veterinary certification;
  - x. encourage safe trade of animals and animal products to regional and international markets;
  - xi. regulate and encourage the participation of accredited private veterinarians in the activities of the Veterinary Services;
  - xii. register and license to practice all veterinary para-professionals, who should work under the responsibility and supervision of licensed and registered veterinarians.
3. Member countries encourage and support the functions and activities of Veterinary Associations.
4. The OIE develop more detailed guidelines and recommendations for the establishment and functioning of Veterinary Statutory Bodies and Veterinary Associations
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((Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 1 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008))

Recommendation No. 2

**The application of the Geographic Information Systems in the surveillance of animal diseases**

CONSIDERING THAT

The Geographic Information System (GIS) helps in understanding and explaining disease dynamics including spreading patterns and can also be used as a warning tool against disease or for predicting the evolution of a recently introduced disease. Such remote sensing increases the speed of response against disease emergencies,

Although the application of the GIS in the veterinary field has been developed over the last decade and specialised software has become more affordable and "user-friendly", very few countries of the Middle East have applied such technologies,

All Veterinary Services in the Middle East have hardware and access to internet. Some use other form of digital information in their tasks but very few have computer-based mapping technologies with respect to animal health activities,

The majority of countries in the Middle East would like to build in house GIS capacity. Some even wish to establish a GIS capability within the epidemiological unit of the Veterinary Services to provide mapping services to other livestock activities in their countries on an on-call basis.

Even those countries of the Middle East that have GIS technology, are not making optimal use of their investments mainly because of lack of trained staff. GIS work in these countries is generally entrusted to focal points responsible for the notification to the OIE World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS).

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE MIDDLE EAST

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Member Countries should consider as a first step to improve animal surveillance networks in their territories and provide appropriate training to members of such networks,
2. Member Countries should work towards improving data quality collection, storage and analyses while developing the use of GIS tools for spatial analysis related to animal health activities,
3. OIE:
  - a) provide necessary support to Veterinary Services for the application of GIS to animal health activities,

- b) organise in collaboration with its Collaborating Centres on epidemiology and additional geospatial expertise, regional training courses on the application of GIS technology for Veterinary Services particularly for OIE - WAHIS focal points,
  - c) prepare and publish guidelines in the use of GIS in animal health.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Middle East on 1 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

**25th Conference  
of the  
OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania**

Queenstown (New Zealand), 26-30 November 2007

[Recommendation No. 1:](#) Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Region with special emphasis on Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea

[Recommendation No. 2:](#) Poultry production food safety in Asia





Recommendation No. 1

**Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Region with special emphasis on  
Porcine Epidemic Diarrhoea**

CONSIDERING THAT

A number of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases such as porcine epidemic diarrhoea (PED) and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) are becoming increasingly important in the region,

The causes of newly observed diseases of pigs are complex and multifactorial,

Porcine epidemic diarrhoea has been reported in several countries of the region and is responsible for significant economic losses to farmers,

It is not certain that porcine epidemic diarrhoea meets the criteria to be considered an OIE listed disease,

Vaccination of piglets against PED in the region does not seem to be cost effective,

Many emerging and re-emerging animal diseases seem to have entered the region through importation of breeding animals,

Not all countries of the region regularly report emerging and listed diseases to the OIE.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. Veterinary Services of the region encourage studies and research to determine the nature of the agent, spread and economic impact of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases such as PED and PRRS;
2. The OIE examine the possibility of recognising an OIE Reference Laboratory or Collaborating Centre for emerging and re-emerging diseases of swine in the region rapidly. In the meantime, consideration should be given by existing relevant OIE Reference Laboratories to assist countries of the region in the diagnosis of these diseases and also to undertake research in vaccines with the aim of producing more robust and cost-effective vaccines;
3. Veterinary Services carry out appropriate import risk analyses in order to ensure that all necessary precautions are taken by importing countries and territories especially those free from PED and PRRS when importing live animals and animal commodities from PED and PRRS infected countries and territories;

4. Veterinary Services of the region commit themselves in accordance with their obligations as Members to implement the new World Animal Health Information System (WAHIS) of the OIE and to report listed and emerging and re-emerging diseases of swine to the OIE in a timely manner;
  5. OIE consider developing guidelines on good husbandry and biosecurity practices to guard against multifactorial pig diseases in the region.
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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Asia, the Far East and Oceania on 30 November 2007 and endorsed by the International Committee of the OIE on 29 May 2008)

Recommendation No. 2

**Poultry production food safety in Asia**

CONSIDERING THAT

Consumers worldwide have become more sensitive to policies governing the microbiological and toxicological safety of food of animal origin,

Poultry production food safety is an essential prerequisite to ensure consumer confidence,

Veterinary Services and other stake holders are conscious that the health of animals during the production stage has an important bearing on food safety,

An effective mechanism to ensure poultry production food safety should include training of farmers, farm personnel and veterinarians and ensure that appropriate diagnostic facilities including laboratory tests are available. Such training would have applicability to other animal production systems,

Appropriate legislation and enforcement mechanisms regarding food safety including poultry disease surveillance, monitoring and traceability do not exist in many countries of the region.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA, THE FAR EAST AND OCEANIA

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. The OIE pursue its efforts in establishing standards and guidelines on animal production food safety;
2. The OIE in collaboration with its Collaborating Centres, Reference Laboratories and other relevant organisations such as FAO, organise or co-organise training programmes for the personnel of Veterinary Services involved in relevant food safety activities. Such training should cover the nature of food safety systems, risk analyses, surveillance, emergency management, compartmentalisation, monitoring and traceability mechanisms throughout the production chain;
3. The OIE in collaboration with other international organisations assist developing countries of the region in upgrading their laboratories for surveillance and monitoring of animal production food safety including training of laboratory staff on analytical techniques and good laboratory practices;
4. Veterinary Services of the region become more involved in animal production food safety issues including good practices particularly in farms and slaughter houses to reduce the risk from pathogens, toxins, residues or other contaminants to support the production to safe food;

5. Veterinary Services organise training programmes for farmers, para-professionals and veterinarians on good agricultural and hygienic practices in farms and food processing plants;
  6. Members adopt and enforce appropriate legislation in accordance with OIE guidelines to ensure that necessary controls are implemented at the various stages along the animal food production chain to ensure that farm and processing plant practices do not have an adverse effect on food safety.
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