RABIES SURVEILLANCE

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General mandate of the OIE

One of the OIE’s main objective

To ensure transparency in the global animal disease situation, including zoonosis
Founding intergovernmental mandate for ensuring transparency of animal health information

Only two organizations have a global legal framework asking to collect and release global health information:

- **1924** “OIE Organic Basic Texts”
- **1951** “International Sanitary Regulations”
Obligation for notification

By deciding to join the OIE, a Member agrees to fulfil its international commitment to notify to the OIE as laid down in the Chapters 1.1. of the OIE’s Terrestrial and Aquatic Codes ("Notification of diseases and Epidemiological Information")
How is the information collected?
Introduction and objectives

• **Aims of Surveillance:**
  • demonstrating absence / presence of disease or infection
  • detecting as early as possible exotic or emerging diseases

• **Prerequisites for reliable information:**
  • comply with Chapter 3.1. (Veterinary Services);
  • surveillance data complemented by other sources (scientific publications, research data)
  • transparency of surveillance activities (Chapter 1.1. - Notification of diseases, infections and infestations, and provision of epidemiological information)
Surveillance to demonstrate freedom

Principles for declaring a country or a zone free from disease or infection in relation to the time of last occurrence and in particular for the recognition of historical freedom
Surveillance for distribution and occurrence

• Determine the distribution and occurrence of infection or disease.
• Used to assess progress and aid in control or eradication of selected diseases or infections.
• Relevance for the international movement of animals and products.
• Designed to collect data about a number of variables (prevalence or incidence of infection; morbidity and mortality rates; role of wildlife, etc.).
OIE Notification requirements regarding rabies


For the purposes of the Terrestrial Code:

- Is a notifiable disease
- Rabies is a disease caused by one member of the *Lyssaviruss* genus: the Rabies virus & all mammals are susceptible to infection;
- A case is any animal infected with the Rabies virus species;
Introduction: Background and purpose.

- Facilitate the design, implementation and evaluation of animal health surveillance systems, to provide reliable information.

- Based on the principles of surveillance defined in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code and on disease-specific surveillance methods, requiring specific diagnostic tests (prescribed tests), (Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals).
Critical components in the design and implementation of a surveillance system

- Surveillance system should be based on a surveillance plan
- The surveillance plan have to describe:
  - Purposes
  - Roles of stakeholder
  - Scope and features
  - End products / expected outputs of surveillance
  - Way to use the surveillance information
  - Criteria for evaluation of the surveillance system
Performance: assessment and evaluation of surveillance systems

1. Identify objectives of the evaluation
   Which questions we wish to ask and what we want to achieve with surveillance

2. Describe the surveillance system

3. Question 1: What are the purpose and objectives and are they appropriate?

4. Question 2: What are the impacts of the system?

5. Question 3: Is the combination of surveillance activities best suited to meet the surveillance objectives?

6. Question 4: Are the selected surveillance activities being implemented well?

Conclusions and recommendations

Fig. 4
Flow chart showing the evaluation of a surveillance system
Self declaration of freedom

The OIE Member Countries have the possibility to self-declare their country or a zone within their territory free from certain OIE-listed diseases other than those diseases for which the OIE has put in place a specific procedure for official recognition of disease status such as African horse sickness (AHS), bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), classical swine fever*, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP), foot and mouth disease (FMD) and peste des petits ruminants*.

*Resolution N° 29 adopted in May 2013 at the 81st OIE General Session
Self-declaration of freedom

- Disease without an official status
- Verification by WAHIAD
- OIE standards (Codes and Manual) taken into account
- Control measures, quantitative data and occurrence codes verified in WAHIS
- Publication in the bulletin if accepted
Rabies Free Declaration (Article 8.13.3.)

- the **disease** is notifiable and any change in the epidemiological situation or relevant events are reported in accordance with Chapter 1.1.;
- an ongoing system of **diseasesurveillance** in accordance with Chapter 1.4. has been in operation for the past two years, with a minimum requirement being an ongoing early detection programme to ensure investigation and reporting of rabies suspect **animals**;
Rabies Free Declaration (Article 8.13.3.)

- Regulatory measures for the prevention of rabies are implemented consistent with the recommendations in the *Terrestrial Code*, including for the importation of *animals*;
- No *case* of indigenously acquired rabies virus *infection* has been confirmed during the past two years;
- No imported *case* in the Orders Carnivora or Chiroptera has been confirmed outside a *quarantine station* for the past six months.
- An imported human case of rabies does not affect the rabies free status.
For discussion

• How is the status of rabies surveillance in your country?
• How do you declare rabies free zones?
• What else to be done to improve rabies surveillance?
Thank you for your attention!