

Recommendation No. 1

Implementation and maintenance of animal traceability in the Americas: overview of current status and impact for international trade

CONSIDERING THAT:

1. Based on the response to the questionnaire, the level of development and performance of animal traceability system varies greatly among Member Countries of the Americas;
2. Many Member Countries of the Americas have not yet adopted national legislation on animal traceability;
3. The vast majority of Member Countries of the Americas believe that animal traceability is a priority and this topic will remain a worldwide priority in the coming years;
4. Across the Americas, the levels of development, interest and readiness for animal traceability amongst species are, in order from highest to lowest: bovine, porcine, poultry, equine, ovine, and caprine;
5. In the Americas, of the three important components of animal traceability, the lowest level of performance is in domestic movements registration, whereas performance for animal identification/registration, the quality of import/export information, and establishment registration is generally stronger;
6. The vast majority of Member Countries of the Americas consider that a very important outcome of animal traceability is to support disease control and surveillance activities;
7. The main impediments in the development of an animal traceability system identified by the Member Countries of the Americas are, in decreasing order, the lack of: financial resources to support implementation, interest from industry, infrastructure to read, report and collect animal traceability information, legislative support, technical support and willingness to modify current practices;
8. The OIE *Terrestrial Code*'s chapters 4.1 on "General principles on identification and traceability of live animals" and 4.2 on "Design and implementation of identification systems to achieve animal traceability" provide key elements for the development and implementation of an animal traceability system;
9. The OIE PVS Tool identifies "Identification and Traceability" as a Critical Competency and an essential component in the quality of Veterinary Services; and
10. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) provides complimentary standards relevant to the development and implementation of animal traceability systems.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE AMERICAS

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. The Member Countries include in the development of their animal traceability systems, including related national legislation, the principles of animal traceability found in Chapter 4.1 and 4.2 of the OIE *Terrestrial Code* with the purpose of supporting disease control and surveillance activities;
2. Member Countries use the OIE standards and cooperate in ensuring that traceability requirements for both imports and exports are appropriate in ensuring safe trade;
3. Member Countries improve their capacity for the traceability of terrestrial and aquatic animals as well as for beehives prioritising aspects providing more obviously favourable benefit-cost and/or industry support, including initial lower cost options such as export market, species/production system, vaccination, zoning or 'book-end' (origin, death, import, export) only traceability systems;
4. Member Countries assess and share lessons learned and best practices on traceability for terrestrial and aquatic animals as well as for beehives;
5. Member Countries take advantage of the OIE PVS Pathway and request missions of this programme in order to assess their compliance with OIE standards and get support on their animal health strategies, including for animal traceability;
6. Member Countries encourage the establishment of a Collaborating Center on animal identification and traceability which could provide and coordinate capacity building activities on animal traceability to Member Countries, including at regional level;
7. Member Countries consider the implementation of other relevant international standards such as those of ISO in their animal traceability systems, noting that the adoption of such standards is free and can support the interoperability of traceability systems at regional and international levels;
8. The OIE work with OIE Delegates to advocate the importance of animal traceability systems to high level decision-makers so to trigger proper resourcing; and
9. The OIE continue to provide proper resourcing of the PVS Pathway in order to provide Member Countries with missions to improve their Veterinary Services, including for identification and traceability, in a timely manner.

(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for the Americas on 18 November 2016 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 25 May 2017)