Recommendation No. 1

The role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases

CONSIDERING THAT

1. The transmission of pathogens between domestic and wild animals is a significant factor to address in controlling diseases;

2. The Veterinary Services continue to experience difficulty in controlling livestock diseases that can persist in wildlife populations;

3. There is sometimes insufficient scientific knowledge and surveillance data, including those related to emerging diseases, to make a balanced assessment of the risks to livestock production posed by the spread of pathogens in wildlife populations;

4. Understanding of veterinary professionals on wildlife pathology and the implications of wildlife diseases for veterinary public health is not optimal;

5. Vaccination of foxes against rabies and of wild boar against classical swine fever has been successfully carried out in Europe;

6. The Veterinary Services can advocate the implementation of suitable biosecurity measures in particular when zoning or compartmentalisation policies for animal production sectors are being put in place.

THE OIE REGIONAL COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

RECOMMENDS THAT

1. OIE Member Countries organise surveillance for wildlife pathogens and diseases in Europe in a more coordinated and regular manner, with particular emphasis on pathogens and diseases having an actual or potential impact on livestock and public health;

2. Through the WAHIS system, OIE Member Countries strengthen their official notification to the OIE of listed and emerging diseases when they affect wildlife, in particular when they are transmissible to livestock and have a zoonotic impact;

3. OIE Member Countries cooperate, especially when they have common borders, by sharing relevant information collected by their Veterinary Services on the spread of wildlife disease or infections;

4. The Member Countries recognise that a country should not suffer any prejudice if it declares infection of wild animals with OIE-listed pathogens or their exposure to them (i.e. presence of antibodies), insofar as the disease in question has not been notified in susceptible livestock species;
5. The Member Countries foster the development of biosecurity measures designed to prevent direct or indirect contact with wildlife, within the framework of a zoning or compartmentalisation policy, when applicable;

6. The Member Countries encourage scientific research in their respective country on the spread of pathogens in wildlife and on effective methods for controlling transmission to livestock;

7. The OIE consider the setting up of a Collaborating Centre in the Europe region on the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases, to give Member Countries in the Region easier access to a source of capacity building in this field;

8. The OIE, within the framework of the Ad hoc Group on Veterinary Education, recommend incorporating concepts of management of wildlife pathogens and diseases having an impact on domestic animals and public health in the development of the basic core curriculum and in continuing education programmes aimed at the Veterinary Services, the veterinary profession, and other relevant stakeholders;

9. The OIE continue to develop guidelines and standards relating to the role of wildlife in the control of domestic animal diseases taking into account the range of relevant stakeholders’ interests.

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(Adopted by the OIE Regional Commission for Europe on 21 September 2012 and endorsed by the World Assembly of Delegates of the OIE on 30 May 2013)