1. Opening and adoption of agenda and appointment of a rapporteur

Dr Kazuaki Miyagishima, Deputy Director General of the OIE, welcomed the Group and commented on the agenda items for the meeting, emphasising the need to review and revise the Terrestrial Code chapter on rabies focusing on dog mediated rabies and to clarify the need for more specific guidelines on dog rabies control and to consider trade safety and facilitation options. It was emphasised that if possible the Chapter 8.10. should be finalised in time for the submission before the General Assembly in May 2011, which would create synergies with the proposed OIE global conference on rabies to be held on September 2011.

The draft agenda for this meeting as provided by the Scientific Commission was accepted by the Group. The meeting was chaired by Dr Tony Fooks, assisted by Dr Marosi Molomo and Dr Yooni Oh as rapporteurs. The Chair emphasised the amendments to be proposed should be science-based and the rationale for changes be in line with the principles of the Terrestrial Code.

The Agenda and list of participants are presented as Appendices I and II, respectively.

2. Review of the comments of the Scientific Commission on the draft text for the revised chapter proposed by the ad hoc Group

The participants noted the comments and suggestions of the Scientific Commission which recommended focusing the discussion on control of dog-mediated rabies. As per suggestion, three experts from Asian region had been invited to join the ad hoc group but only two of them were able to attend this meeting. The inclusion of canine semen as a risk factor for rabies transmission had been removed from the Chapter 8.10. because there was no scientific evidence available.

3. Review and finalisation of the draft chapter as amended and proposed by the Scientific Commission

The ad hoc Group reviewed Chapter 8.10. on rabies of the Terrestrial Code taking into account the revisions of the January 2010 meeting and the comments of the Scientific Commission. The summary of the changes made is the following:

Article 8.10.1.

Under ‘General Provisions’, the Group included non-commercial movement of rabies susceptible species, because of the risk that such animals (mainly pets), if they were not examined, might add to international animal movements.

- The Group highlighted therefore the importance of stating that the aim of the chapter included “the safety of non-commercial movements of domestic carnivores”.

 Scientific Commission/September 2010
• There was no more need to use of the term ‘genotype’ (e.g. genotype-1), since it was replaced by the species-specific names, such as ‘rabies virus’, by the International Commission for Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV). Other sections of the Chapter were adapted accordingly.

• Ferrets were included as domestic carnivores, since there was increasing trade in ferrets as a pet.

• The Group recommended restricting the 10-day infective period definition to dogs, cats and domestic ferrets, because the pathogenesis studies for estimating infective periods had been conducted only in these species.

• ‘Reservoir species’ were defined as the principal rabies risk, also for international trade.

Taking into consideration the achievements and perspectives in the control of rabies in wild carnivores, the Group recommended that OIE consider in the future a “free of terrestrial rabies status”.

Article 8.10.2.

The Group discussed that the condition for qualifying as a rabies free country related not only to the duration of freedom from rabies for 2 years, but also to the necessity to maintain the freedom through an active surveillance system. Concerning importation, the Group considered applying a differentiation between ‘reservoir species’ and non-reservoir species.

Article 8.10.2.bis

This article was a new addition by the last meeting of ad hoc Group. This article intended to encourage countries to facilitate and achieve elimination of dog-mediated rabies. For this category of status the early detection was considered the key issue for the importation of dogs.

Article 8.10.4.

The definition of ‘sufficient distance’ was based on the biology of species, including typical home range and hence necessary distance from (multiple) neighbouring infected country or zones.

In case of wild non-captive mammals (e.g. animals dedicated to translocation to wildlife reserves in another country), 6 months of captivity or quarantine were not considered practical or realistic. A 6-month quarantine would severely jeopardize wild animals’ health and welfare and could lead to increased mortalities.

Article 8.10.4.bis

The Group agreed that vaccination as well as revaccination should be undertaken in accordance with the vaccine manufacturer’s instruction. The variety of vaccines available did no longer justify a rigid, generic prescription of time frames related to vaccination in the Terrestrial Code.

Article 8.10.5.

Since micro-chipping to identify individual pet animals (including ferrets) was not available in all countries, the option of using clearly readable tattoos was added. Vaccination should be undertaken in accordance with the recommendation of vaccine manufacturers. Serological tests should be carried out 3 to 12 months prior to shipment instead of 3 to 24 months. If animals were not fulfilling the three conditions - (1) being permanently marked, (2) vaccinated and (3) having a proof of antibody titer from the vaccination, the animal should be quarantined for 6 months.

Article 8.10.6.

The Group decided to treat separately ‘domestic ruminants and suids’ from ‘domestic equids’. For domestic ruminants and suids, as a general rule and for these species, vaccination was hardly ever practiced for the purpose of international trade. It was considered sufficient to check for clinical signs the day prior or on the day of shipment.
Concerning domestic equids, international movements, permanent or temporary, were frequent. For this reason and due to more frequent direct contact of horses with people, it was advisable that the horses be vaccinated according to the *Terrestrial Manual* or kept separately for 6 months prior to shipment (no contact with reservoir species) in an establishment where no report of rabies cases was recorded in the past 12 months.

*Article 8.10.8.bis*

The Group recommended that Chapter 6.11. on zoonoses transmissible from non-human primates be reviewed by the Working Group on Wildlife Diseases taking into consideration the revisions of the chapter on rabies.

The Group highlighted the importance of the chapter 8.10. in the prevention of human rabies, be it in animal owners or staff working in the animal field. Special emphasis was given to the chapter’s impact on global canine rabies elimination, which was considered as one of major public and animal health goals under the One Health approach.

4. **Discussion of the report of the Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP), Banna, Italy, 17 – 20 May 2010**

The Chairman briefly informed the Group about the Partners for Rabies Prevention (PRP) meeting held in May 2010. The participants of the PRP meeting were from different background such as industry, scientists, policy makers, NGOs, WSPA, OIE, and FAO. The highlights were the planned re-assessment of the global burden and cost of rabies by PRP, updates on the new diagnostic tools and immuno-contraception methods and the launching of the online “Rabies Blueprint”.

The Group noted that advances in dog rabies control were being made by the publication of this blueprint for rabies elimination in dogs (http://www.rabiesblueprint.com).

Note was taken of the need to produce, update and integrate OIE guidelines relevant to dog rabies elimination. The Group noted the importance of the information contained in the Blueprint and recommended that a similar document be produced for the OIE Members to provide more guidance on rabies surveillance and control. The *ad hoc* Group on rabies wished to emphasise to the Scientific Commission and the OIE the usefulness of developing a more extensive OIE guideline for dog rabies elimination as a next step.

The next PRP meeting would take place on 17 October 2010 in Guadalajara (Mexico).

5. **Discussion of the comments during the 78th General Session on diagnostic kits for rabies**

The Group reviewed the recommendations made by the Biological Standards Commission and noted comments by Dr Vallat. Dr Francois Diaz from the Scientific and Technical Department updated the Group on the progress for the rabies ELISA test for antibody titration. It was noted that an expert panel would be constituted in September 2010 with the specific terms of reference to assess the fitness for purpose of the ELISA test for international trade purpose.

The *ad hoc* Group recommended that consideration be given to testing also dog anti-sera from naïve, unvaccinated animals to determine the probability of false positive results. The Group felt that there was a need for evaluation of commercially available rapid diagnostic kits for rabies by the OIE. The Group emphasised the need for a cheap, reliable and standard serological test for use in rabies endemic countries and for international trade.

6. **Rabies vaccines and diagnostic procedures in the *Terrestrial Manual* in relation to the proposed *Terrestrial Code* chapter revisions (to the attention of the Biological Standards Commission)**

The Group analysed the draft chapter on rabies of the Terrestrial Manual (to be adopted in May 2011). The Group added a few recommendations or comments to preserve consistency between the rabies chapters in both, the *Terrestrial Code* and the *Terrestrial Manual*. The comments related to the new classification of Lyssaviruses, serological diagnostic test results interpretation and more detailed explanations needed for pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis in food animals. The Group further recommended that OIE take the initiative to promote marketing and administration of high quality rabies vaccines for dogs, in particular in rabies endemic countries.
7. Review of Terrestrial Code chapters cross-referenced in the rabies chapter

a) Chapter 7.7. Guidelines on stray dog population control

The Group provided suggestions and comments on the document. As a next step a *ad hoc* Group could be invited to specifically address detailed revision of this chapter or the Working Group on Animal Welfare (as the authors of this chapter) with invited experts could re-consider the chapter 7.7. including the comments provided in this meeting. The Group extensively discussed the experience that killing of sick animals was more acceptable (to the stakeholders) than killing of healthy animals. Combating rabies in dogs through combination of vaccination and contraception was desirable and pilot projects were underway. The Group highlighted that based on their experience all matters related to euthanasia in dogs had been subject to controversies in many countries and regions of the world, regardless of the stakeholders involved (governmental services, NGOs, private veterinarians etc.).

b) Model international veterinary certificate for dogs and cats originating from rabies infected countries

The Group simplified the international veterinary certificate contained in this *Terrestrial Code* chapter and adjusted its content to the revisions in the rabies chapter. The Group discussed whether this chapter was needed since recommended procedures for veterinary certificates were already described in the other chapters of Section 5 of the *Terrestrial Code* in a generic manner.

8. Update on the organisation of the OIE Global Conference on rabies in 2011

The Scientific and Technical Department informed the Group that two regional conferences on rabies were initiated by the OIE in the past, one in Kiev (2005) and another in Paris (2007). In continuation of OIE’s initiatives on rabies control at the animal source, a Global Conference on Rabies Control was scheduled and under detailed planning. The conference would take place in Seoul, Republic of Korea, early September 2011. The Republic of Korea kindly accepted to host this global conference. The Ministry for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Korea (in particular the National Veterinary Research and Quarantine Services) were currently in dialogue with the OIE Headquarters to arrange for the setting up of the conference. The conference was to focus on strategies and institutional approaches needed for elimination or control of dog rabies. Members of the *ad hoc* Group offered their assistance to the preparation of the conference.

9. Finalisation and adoption of the draft report

The *ad hoc* Group reviewed and amended the preliminary draft report provided by the two rapporteurs. The Group agreed that the report and revised chapters would be subject to a short period of circulation in the Group for minor comments and final adoption.

In his concluding remarks, the chair thanked the rapporteurs and all other participants of the *ad hoc* Group for their active participation and meaningful discussion.

.../Appendices
MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON RABIES

Paris, 4 - 6 August 2010

Agenda

1. Adoption of agenda and appointment of rapporteur

2. Review of the comments of the Scientific Commission on the draft text for the revised chapter proposed by the ad hoc Group.

3. Review and finalisation of the draft chapter as amended and proposed by the Scientific Commission

4. Discussion of the report of the Partners for rabies prevention (Banna, Italy, 17 – 20 May 2010)

5. Discussion of the comments during the 78th General Session on diagnostic kits for rabies

6. Rabies vaccines and diagnostic procedures in the Terrestrial Manual in relation to the proposed Terrestrial Code chapter revisions (to the attention of the Biological Standards Commission)

7. Review of cross referenced Terrestrial Code chapters (chapters 7.7. and 5.11.)

8. Update on the organisation of the OIE Global Conference on Rabies Control

9. Finalisation and adoption of the draft report
## MEETING OF THE OIE AD HOC GROUP ON RABIES

Paris, 4 – 6 August 2010

### List of Participants

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