How to prevent zoonotic disease outbreaks in a globalised environment

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Great challenges in the last years:

- New challenges have emerged (SARS, Avian flu)
- Trading conditions have changed radically with the volume of trade in animals & products increasing greatly
- Globalisation
- Movements of people and animals has become easier
The outbreak of a zoonoses may have devastating consequences on:

- Animal Health
- Public Health
- Economy
- Society
Animal health is a concern for all EU citizens:

• Progress has been made over the years

• A fragmented national approach to disease control has been replaced by harmonisation of animal health measures and systems of disease surveillance, diagnosis and control

• All efforts based on the principle “Prevention is better than cure”

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Role of the veterinarian:

• Involved in controls of live animals and products of animal origin
• Food industry
• Can early detect potential risks for humans
Role of the veterinarian:

- Ensure high level of public health and food safety
- Promote animal health by preventing/reducing the incidence of animal diseases/zoonoses
- Ensure application of a harmonised legal framework
How to prevent zoonotic disease outbreaks

- Early diagnosis, surveillance and crisis management
- Harmonised legal framework
- Good cooperation between involved professionals
- Improve border biosecurity
- Respect of rules during pet movements
Better Biosecurity at Borders

- EU is the biggest food importer in the world
Better Biosecurity at Borders

Increased number of animals imported by non-EU countries
Controls at borders aim to protect the EU from potential animal and public health risks arising from the increased international trade in live animals and products thereof.

The big challenge:
- improve border biosecurity
- ensure importation of safe food
The import of live animals and products of animal origin into the EU requires:

- Entrance through approved Border Inspection Posts (BIPs)
- Fulfillment of the EU health requirements
- The consignments are accompanied by the appropriate health certificates or documents
At the borders:

- Documentary check
- Identity check
- Physical check

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Documentary check

✓ The examination of the veterinary certificates or veterinary documents or other documents accompanying the consignments

✓ 100% of checks of the incoming consignments
Identity check

✓ identity check means a check by visual inspection to ensure that the veterinary certificate(s) or veterinary document(s) or other document(s) provided for by veterinary legislation tally with the product itself;

✓ 100% of checks of the incoming consignments
Physical Check

✔ Means a check on the product itself, which may include checks on packaging and temperature and also sampling and laboratory testing
Physical Check

Sampling is carried out either on a random basis or on a risk basis approach (protective measures, previous non conformities etc)
PET MOVEMENTS

The number of pet animals that are moving within or out of the EU borders has increased significantly the past few years.
Control procedures

Identity checks
Documentary checks

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Identification of the pet

- Electronic identification system: transponder
Identification of the pet

- Clearly readable tattoo applied before 3 July 2011

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Documents-Pet passport

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Requirements to be respected:

- Identification (transponder)
- Pet passport
- Health requirements as laid down in the current legislation (i.e. rabies vaccination)

* The most recent introduced case of rabies in the EU has been introduced by a kitten from a non-EU country that did not fulfill the health requirements
Conclusions:

- Prevent a zoonotic disease outbreak is a great challenge
- Harmonised approach and a solid legal framework is of great importance
- Increase biosecurity at borders
- Respect rules and harmonise the animal health requirements applicable to the pet movements in order to avoid the spread of diseases

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Thank you very much for your attention!