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Risks of rabies introduction via dog import

Taiex Workshop "Rabies"
4-5 December 2008

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Import rules

(Regulation (EU) No 998/2003)

From third country to EU:

- Vaccination + serological test + vet certificate

To Finland: + tapeworm (ec) tx

To Ireland, Malta and UK: + tick and tapeworm tx



Risks with import in accordance with Regulation

- Related to moving an animal incubating the disease
- Infection prior to immunisation (only preventable through quarantine)
- Risk equal to rabies-incubating pets in the population of origin. Less than 1/million negligible



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But is in accordance always
in accordance....??



Not in accordance...

- Animals are younger than certified in pet passport (and how to prove)
- Microchip does not correspond with pet passport
- AR vaccination carried out before microchip ID
- Antibody count < 50 UI/ml in animals vaccinated
- ...



Risks with (illegal) import

- Depends on origin of animal, vaccination status of the animal, ..
- Risks increasing due to more tourism and more international travel
- But how many animals are (illegally) imported????



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FNOVI Survey

- Survey amongst vets and CA
Oct 07
- 154 responses
- Outcomes:
 - Travel documents correct in only 15%
 - 85% have MC-ID but 80% not in accordance with passport data



Outcomes Italian Survey

- Chips often bought in Italy but applied in third country
- Irregularities seen were only reported to CA in 10%
- Health condition in vet certificate “good/excellent” although often distemper, parvo, endoparasites, mange, respiratory diseases.
- **NO Rabies**



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Germany -> Turkey, Hungary, Nepal &
Azerbaijan

Finland -> horse from Estonia (2003)

France -> 17 cases between 68 and
2000: 16 dogs and 1 cat

-> 5 cases (2001-2005)

Of these 22, 4 led to further spread in
domestic pets.

....



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Way forward

- correct identification with certification
- increase checks at the borders!
- UEVP and EASVO will start survey to map dog/cat trade in Europe

Diseases don't respect borders

Did you bring their papers?

Your pet cannot enter the EU without the correct certification

