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**FVE WELCOMES NEW RULES
TO KEEP EU MEMBER STATES
ECHINOCOCCUS MULTILOCULARIS FREE**

Summary

The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) welcomes the publication of a proposal for a Commission delegated Regulation permitting Echinococcus-free Member States to require a pre-movement treatment of dogs coming from non-free States

In addition FVE would like to underline that.

- The legislation should also cover the commercial movement of companion animals, especially puppies.
- An EU wide echinococcosis risk assessment study is needed to be followed by an appropriate prevention and control strategy throughout the Community.
- Veterinarians across Europe encourage the promotion of permanent identification and accessible registration of all pet dogs and cats. Information sharing between existing registration databases should be improved.

Brussels, 19 July 2011

Alveolar echinococcosis, caused by the larval stages of the tapeworm *Echinococcus multilocularis* (EM) is considered as one of the most severe human parasitic diseases in non-tropical areas. People can become infested through the ingestion of EM-eggs, excreted by infested wildlife (foxes) and dogs. Incidence and geographic spread of the disease in Europe are increasing.

FVE welcomes the adoption of a proposal for a Commission delegated Regulation permitting Member States free of *Echinococcus multilocularis* to require dogs arriving from non-free countries to be treated against tape worms before entering the country.

President

Christophe Buhot

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Rafael Laguens
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Countries currently recognized as free that would benefit from the delegated Regulation are Finland, the United Kingdom, Ireland and Malta. The Regulation is planned to enter into force per January 1, 2011 after scrutiny by the European Parliament and the Council. Such measure is in line with the EFSA¹ & ECDC² "European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2009"³, released in March 2011, whereas the total number of confirmed cases of Echinococcus in humans counts for 790.

The Regulation provides that within 1 to 5 days before travelling to one of these four Member States, a dog needs to receive a specific treatment administered by a veterinarian. The details of the treatment should then be introduced by the vet in the pet's passport. FVE welcomes the measure to keep countries free of the Echinococcosis, but also strongly recommends further initiatives on an EU wide *Echinococcosis* risk assessment study that should be linked to an appropriate prevention and control strategy throughout the whole Community.

FVE believes permanent identification and accessible registration of all pet dogs and cats throughout the Community is an important tool in the prevention and control of animal health and welfare issues.

As consequence FVE already recommend to all pet owners to make sure their pets are micro chipped prior to travelling. In case an animal would get lost ISO-standard chips are very helpful to reunite animals with their owners.

Background

- According to the [Regulation \(EC\) No 998/2003](#) pet dogs, cats and ferrets travelling with their owner for non-commercial movements to another Member State must be accompanied by a passport, or when imported from a third country by a certificate, providing proof of a valid anti-rabies vaccination.
- European Union Summary Report on Trends and Sources of Zoonoses, Zoonotic Agents and Food-borne Outbreaks in 2009 <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2090.pdf>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. The FVE position papers and opinions

- FVE (FVE/09/doc/051) position on Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and the Council amending Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 on the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_health/fve_09_051_movement_pet_animals.pdf

2. The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 44 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries, representing a total of around 200 000 veterinarians.

3. For further information, consult the FVE website <http://www.fve.org> or contact the FVE Secretariat on tel +32 2 533 70 20 or by e-mail to info@fve.org

¹ European Food Safety Authority

² European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

³ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/pub/2090.htm>