



Presentation at BVA Congress

24 – 26 September 2009
Cardiff, UK

PLEASE NOTE:

While this presentation may be quoted from it cannot be reprinted in full without the permission of the author and the BVA



The “Pet Regulation”



Hélène KLEIN –European Commission
BVA Congress 2009 - 25/09/2009

Background

- ❖ **1990: completion of internal market associated with abolition of veterinary checks at the Community's internal frontiers**
- ❖ **1992: harmonised animal health requirements regarding trade in and imports of dogs/cats/ferrets**
- ❖ **2000: introduction of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS)- alternative rules to quarantine**
- ❖ **2000: COM proposal harmonising the animal health requirements regarding non-commercial movements of pet animals**

3

Background

- ❖ **Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 'Pet Regulation'**
 - ✓ published on 13/6/2003
 - ✓ entered into force on 3/7/2003
- ❖ **Harmonises the rules applicable to the non-commercial movements of pets within and into the EU.**

4



'General regime'

❖ Within the EU:

- ✓ Identification
- ✓ Passport (CD 2003/803/EC)
- ✓ Valid rabies vaccination

❖ Into the EU:

- ✓ Identification
- ✓ Health certificate (CD2004/824/EC) or passport on re-entry
- ✓ Valid rabies vaccination
- ✓ Rabies antibody titration test where pet animals originate in or come from non-listed TC

5



'Transitional regime' until 30 June 2010 (*national rules*)

❖ Conditions of entry

➤ into the UK, IE, MT

- ✓ rabies antibody titration test - MS and listed TC
- ✓ quarantine - non-listed TC
- ✓ anti-tick and echinococcus treatments

➤ into SE

- ✓ rabies antibody titration test - MS and listed TC
- ✓ quarantine - non-listed TC
- ✓ anti-echinococcus treatment

➤ into FI

- ✓ anti-echinococcus treatment

❖ Different national protocols

❖ Bilateral arrangements

6



Review of the transitional regime

- ❖ Legal obligation to determine the regime to be applied as from 30/06/2010
- ❖ Impact assessment of policy options for a future regime
- ❖ Science-based proposals
 - ❖ report of EFSA and the Commission
- ❖ Various consultations
- ❖ Recent available information

7



Outcomes of the consultations – recent available information

- ❖ EFSA opinions/recommendations on
 - ✓ rabies
 - ✓ echinococcus
 - ✓ ticks
- ❖ Member State consultations
- ❖ EU-approved serology laboratories
- ❖ Recent available information on the diseases concerned

8



Commission proposal

- ❖ **Extension of the transitional regime until 31 December 2011**
 - ✓ spectacular improvement in the rabies situation in the EU in the last twenty years bringing the rabies risk across the EU to a very low level
 - ✓ Electronic identification will be the only means of identifying a pet
 - ✓ Give sufficient time for the competent authorities concerned to bring their rules in line with the general regime
- ❖ **Technical adaptations as regards:**
 - ✓ electronic identification (ISO standards)
 - ✓ rabies vaccines
- ❖ **Introduce additional Comitology**
 - ✓ preventive health measures regarding diseases other than rabies
 - ✓ Article 19 – extend scope

9



Are the current measures actually necessary? **Yes of course**

- ❖ Remember the European Voice statement: “The Pet Regulation” is one of the biggest achievement of the Prodi Commission (1999-2004)
- ❖ Ease the movements of citizens who travel with their pets
- ❖ Help ensure a sufficient level of safety of pet movements which allow the lifting of quarantine measures, in particular with regard to non-listed third countries
- ❖ Must be accompanied by permanent actions to combat illegal introduction of pet animals
 - ✓ checks at entry points
 - ✓ via campaigns raising public awareness (risk of introducing rabies, consequences in terms of public and animal health, administrative, economic and welfare impacts)
 - ✓ dissuasive penalties

10

Is this a case of 'unnecessary harmonisation' ?

- ❖ 'Harmonisation' is a wish of the Member States expressed in 2003 with the general regime and through the recent consultations
- ❖ 'Harmonisation' is essential to ease movements of people accompanied by their pets as a an alternative to different national regimes
- ❖ Our successful control of rabies should pave the way for the UK and the other Members States concerned to move to modernised and harmonised pet movement rules
- ❖ There is not scientific justification not to go towards 'harmonisation' with rules proportionate to the risk

11

***No rules can ensure 100%
protection against illegal
movements and all diseases that
pets might catch when abroad***

12