

RABIES SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM IN GREECE

BACKGROUND

- Greece is considered a rabies-free country since 1987, the year of the last case identified in a dog. The data of the third decade 1971-1980, indicates that rabies prevalence was directed towards low levels as only 242 cases among domestic animals were identified
- The last period since 1980 is characterized by rabies-free years, namely 1980, 1984 and 1986, while during the year 1981, three cases among dogs only were reported and one in each one of the years 1982, 1983, 1985 and 1987

NEW DEVELOPMENT

- In November 2011 an urgent message of the veterinary services of FYROM told to the Greek veterinary services that 1 new case of rabies detected in a dead fox 3 km close to the border of Greece.
- Greek authorities in collaboration with the Bulgarian ,DG SANCO and FYROM authorities decided during the meeting held in Sofia in 21 December 2011 to establish surveillance program in foxes

PROGRAM FOR 2012

For 2012 Greek Veterinary Services are planning to establish a surveillance plan for rabies after the discussion and consultation with the European Commission (DG SANCO)

This program will be co-financing by the DG SANCO and includes laboratory tests in the brains of foxes collected from the different areas of the northern part of Greece

PROGRAM FOR 2012

- This program includes the 15 prefectures of the regions of Epirus-close to Albania, Western Macedonia-close to the FYROM , Central Macedonia-close to the FYROM and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace-close to Turkey.

IMPLEMENTATION

- This program includes the collection of brains from other susceptible of rabies species like wolves and other wild flora species and productive animals as well.
- It will be starting from in February 2012 until 31/12/2012 and it will be under the supervision of the DG SANCO and the CRL of Nancy

CONCLUSIONS

- All the data will be presented to the DG SANCO and to the OIE and the Veterinary Services of Bulgaria FYROM and Turkey will be informed by the Greek Veterinary Services through the DG SANCO and the OIE and of course through the direct communication we have already established