VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR VACCINATION OF BIRDS KEPT IN THE ZOO AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA IN 2006, SUBMITTED BY LATVIA FOR APPROVAL BY THE COMMISSION

28 February, 2006
VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR VACCINATION OF BIRDS KEPT IN RIGA NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA

Introduction

In accordance with Commission decision 2005/744/EC of 21 October 2005, a vaccination programme for the vaccination of birds kept in the zoo against avian influenza is planned to be initiated.

The recent spread of the avian influenza virus H5N1 to the European Union suggests that there is a risk of disease spreading within the wild bird population.

Since the migratory routes of wild birds are one of the ways of spreading the virus, there is a risk of detecting avian influenza virus within the territory of Republic of Latvia during the spring migration season, which starts within a few weeks.

Riga National Zoological Garden is situated near bird migratory flyways, and most of the birds at the zoo are kept in outdoor facilities with open pond areas. The way that the H5N1 situation has evolved in recent weeks, Riga National Zoological Zoo is considered at being in risk from avian influenza.

However, some bird species in the zoo cannot be held indoors permanently due the practical and animal welfare reasons, and other species are endangered and included in breeding programmes. It will therefore be appropriate to use vaccination of birds in the zoo, as a tool to prevent infection and for preservative reasons.

The efficiency of the existing vaccines on other species than poultry has not been demonstrated so far, but as the planned vaccination only involve species of which there are limited trade, the vaccination of these birds should not endanger the other animal health status.

The zoo participating in the vaccination programme

There is one zoo in Latvia. It is situated in the capital city, Riga.

Address: Riga National Zoological Garden, Meža prosp. 1, LV-1014, Rīga.

There are a total of 410 birds kept at the zoo. All of them now are kept indoors or in enclosures, covered by net. The species and numbers of birds to be vaccinated are included in Annex I.

Vaccine to be used

The following vaccine has been selected for vaccination in the zoo:

Nobilis® Influenza H5N2, Intervet (an inactivated vaccine).

The vaccine will be distributed via the Food and Veterinary Service.

Execution of the vaccination campaign

The vaccine will be used in accordance with the instructions from the manufacturer.
The application will be intramuscular or subcutaneous injection.
Revaccination will take place after 6 weeks.
The vaccination in the zoo will be conducted as fast as possible, but not exceeding 96 hours.
The vaccination will be carried out under the supervision of a state veterinary inspector.
Vaccinated birds will be individually identifiable (marked with rings or microchips). The identity record of these birds will be elaborated and kept for 10 years.
Any residuals of vaccine will be returned to the Food and Veterinary Service of Republic of Latvia, with a written record of the number of birds vaccinated and the number of doses used.

**Laboratory testing**
Prior the first vaccination, blood samples will be taken of 10% of the birds and analysed by IDEXX ELISA method for antibody detection. The sampling will be repeated at least 30 days after the revaccination for testing the serum titers against avian influenza via HI test.
The tests will be conducted by the Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory of National Diagnostic Centre.
The record of the tests will be kept for at least 10 years.

**Trade/movement restrictions**
The vaccinated birds of question will not be traded or moved to other facilities in Latvia unless permission is granted from the Food and Veterinary Service of Republic of Latvia.
Trade or movement within the Community will only be permitted after specific authorization from the Member State of destination.
Products of vaccinated birds will not enter the food chain.

**Information to be compiled by the zoo**
Riga National Zoological Garden has to submit a plan to the Food and Veterinary Service, Republikas laukums 2, Riga.
The vaccination plan should contain the following information:
- The date of vaccination.
- Name, surname, license No. and phone No. of the veterinarian who will conduct the vaccination and blood sampling.
- List of birds – species (Latvian and Latin name), identification (ring or microchip No.) and bird numbers to be vaccinated.
- Map of locations where the vaccinated birds are kept at the zoo.
- Estimated amount of vaccine needed.
Supervision by the Food and Veterinary Service

FVS review the plan, submit it to the Commission and officially present in the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

FVS will grant a written permission to the Zoo to conduct the vaccination.

The FVS will grant a written permission to the FVS Office of Riga City to deliver the vaccine doses needed.

State veterinary inspector will be present during the vaccination procedure.

After the vaccination the zoo has to submit report to the FVS Office of Riga City.

The report shall contain information on numbers and identification of the birds that have been vaccinated and blood sampled and the results of the laboratory tests.

Dissemination of information on Latvian vaccination programme in the zoo

A report of the execution of the Latvian programme in the zoo including the test results will be provided for the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.
Annex No. 1

Preliminary list of birds to be vaccinated in Riga National Zoological Garden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird Category</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ostriches (Struthioniformes)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassowaries (Casuariiformes)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pelicans, cormorants (Pelecaniformes)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storks, herons, ibises (Ciconiiformes)</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfowl (Anseriformes)</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diurnal birds of prey (Falconiformes)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallinaceous birds (Galliformes)</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranes (Gruiformes)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doves (Columbiformes)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parrots (Psittaciformes)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turacos (Cuculiformes)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owls (Strigiformes)</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kookaburras, hornbills (Coraciiformes)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passerine birds (Passeriformes)</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total** 410