

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FÜR
GESUNDHEIT UND FRAUEN



Vaccination programme

aimed at the vaccination of birds in
zoos against Avian Influenza

submitted by Austria to obtain approval by
the Commission.

As of 21st April 2006

GZ
BMGF-74700/0079-IV/2006
Unit IV/B/9

1. Introduction:

In accordance with Commission Decision 2005/744/EC of 21 October 2005 the Austrian zoos intend to carry out a vaccination programme of birds kept in zoos.

During the past months the spread of Avian Influenza Subtype H5N1 over vast parts of Europe was observed resulting in the occurrence of many cases of H5N1 infection in wild birds in Austria (107 confirmed cases of H5N1 in Austria, distributed among the Federal Provinces of Wien, Steiermark, Vorarlberg, Oberösterreich und Niederösterreich as of 21.04.2006). One possible source likely to spread the virus is wild aquatic birds.

These infected wild birds represent a threat to birds kept in zoos which are either especially precious or at risk of becoming extinct. The Austrian zoos are equipped with spacious nature-oriented installations with open sheets of water making possible keeping of different rare species in a way appropriate to these species. These water installations with open access in parts are frequently visited by wild aquatic birds, too. Thus, the nature-oriented installations can not be sufficiently protected from wild aquatic birds by other means than roofing due to their sizes (some waters extending to more than 5.000 m² surface) and other different factors (terrain features, stock of old trees). Direct contact between zoo birds and wild aquatic birds can not be avoided. Vaccination measures thus represent an important and effective instrument for the protection of these zoo birds from Avian Influenza.

We would like to stress that these vaccinations are not deemed to replace other bio security measures but only complement them.

2. Austrian zoos participating in the vaccination programme

The zoos listed below will implement the vaccination scheme presented:

Alpenzoo Innsbruck

Weierburggasse 37a
6020 Innsbruck

Zoo Salzburg

Gemeinnützige GmbH
5081 Anif

Zoo Schmiding

Schmidingerstraße 5
4631 Krenglbach

Schönbrunner Tiergarten

Maxingstrasse 13b
1130 Wien

Tier- und Naturpark Schloss Herberstein

Buchberg1
8222 St. Johann bei Herberstein

3. Vaccine used

The vaccine „Nobilis H5N2“ of the company Intervet (Intervet International, Boxmeer, The Netherlands) was selected for the intended vaccinations.

The vaccine used is an inactivated vaccine. It will protect by cross immunity, vaccinated animals can be easily determined from animals infected with the circulating H5N1 strain via the N2 antigen.

(For further information please refer to: www.avian-influenza.com/control/vaccines_intro.asp)

The vaccine was already applied in other European zoos and there are results at hand on the experiences made in applying it to zoo birds.

4. Order and distribution of vaccine

The vaccine will be ordered by the Bundesministerium für Gesundheit und Frauen (Federal Ministry of Health and Women) and subsequently allocated to the official veterinarians competent for the specific zoos.

Having carried out of the vaccinations the official veterinarians will store the remaining amounts of vaccine.

The costs of the vaccines will be borne by the respective zoos.

5. Dosage and application of vaccine

In accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and the reports at hand on the experiences made in applying the vaccine, intramuscular application will be the method preferred (or subcutaneous application as an alternative).

Dosages will be 0.25 ml for birds of less than 1.5 kg body weight (bw), 0.5 ml for those between 1.5 kg and 20 kg bw and 1 ml for birds of more than 20 kg bw.

Pelicaniformes, Strigiformes and Struthioniformes: 1 ml.

6. Vaccination scheme

The official veterinarian hands out the vaccine to the respective veterinarian responsible for the zoo who then carries out the vaccination under the surveillance of the competent official veterinarian.

The vaccinations will be carried out as quickly as possible, in any case within 96 hours.

Zoos taking part in the scheme have to mark the vaccinated birds individually by enringing or micro-chipping. Records on the vaccinated birds have to be filed which must be kept by the respective zoos carrying out vaccination for at least ten years.

The official veterinarians will store the remaining amounts of vaccine.

Booster shots will be given 30 days after the first vaccination.

Blood samples are to be taken from at least 10 % of all bird species that were vaccinated prior to vaccination and 30 days after boosting and must be sent to the national reference laboratory for Avian Influenza, AGES (Agentur für Gesundheit und Ernährungssicherheit, Institut für veterinärmedizinische Untersuchungen Mödling, Robert Kochg. 17, 2340 Mödling).

On this occasion blood samples shall be taken mainly from birds of those species where so far there are no serological data available on the used H5N2 vaccine, the remainder of required serological data shall come from other bird species. The approved testing method used in the laboratory shall be the haemagglutination inhibition test.

7. Restrictions

Vaccinated birds and their products must not enter the food chain.

Vaccinated animals must not be moved from the zoos unless there was no case of an H5N1 infection present within a radius of 10 kilometres around the respective zoo within the three months prior to movement.

Movement of vaccinated birds between the zoos or trade in these birds shall not be allowed unless permitted by the competent authority (Federal Ministry of Health and Women) and then must be carried out under control by the official veterinarian.

The movement of vaccinated animals will be notified via TRACES.

8. Bio security Measures

In addition to the vaccination measures the zoos taking part in the scheme will take further measures to reduce the Avian Influenza risk.

In particular, they are obliged to arrange for training of keepers with emphasis on the vaccinations carried out and instructions as to the clinical symptoms of Avian Influenza.

The veterinarians responsible for the zoos shall carry out regular inspections of the vaccinated birds.

The entrance areas of shacks housing birds shall be equipped with disinfection mats.

Precautions are being taken as to keep vaccinated birds from areas with direct access of visitors (e.g. petting zoos).

Neither equipment nor zoo personal must get into contact with poultry establishment.

When carrying out the vaccinations, sentinel chicken of the order Galliformes shall be used.

9. Reporting

The Federal Ministry of Health and Women shall be provided with a detailed report on the said vaccination measures and results from the tests.

This report shall contain at least

- time and place of vaccination,
- name of the owner of the zoo,
- names of veterinarians carrying out the vaccination and of the supervising official veterinarian, and
- a list of the vaccinated birds including their identification.

Furthermore, a map shall be drawn up showing the facilities where the vaccinated birds are kept.

This report shall be drawn up after each vaccination (basic immunization or boosting) or upon request by the Federal Ministry of Health and Women.

ANNEX I:

1. List of animals in the participating zoos

Table of zoo birds for whom vaccination is being applied for:

Schönbrunner Tiergarten

orders	number
Strutioniformes	8
Pelicaniformes	30
Ciconiiformes	35
Phoenicopteriformes	113
Anseriformes	19
Falconiformes	8
Gruiformes	10
Strigiformes	8
Coraciformes	2
sum	233

Zoo Salzburg

orders	number
Gruiformes	8
Psittaciformes	7
Anseriformes	10
Strutioniformes	2
Pelecaniformes	9
Phoenicopteriformes	19
Galliformes	22
Ciconiiformes	2
Columbiformes	50
sum	129

Zoo Schmiding

orders	number
Phoenicopteriformes	80
Gruiformes	10
Pelecaniformes	10
Ciconiiformes	39
Coraciformes	13
Strutioniformes	13
Anseriformes	53
Psittaciformes	22

Falconiformes	13
Columbiformes	3
sum	256

Alpenzoo Innsbruck

orders	number
Ciconiiformes	2
Anseriformes	8
sum	10

Herberstein Tier- und Naturpark

orders	number
Psittaciformes	8
Anseriformes	10
Pelecaniformes	4
Coraciformes	2
Gruiformes	2
Strutioniformes	21
Galliformes	15
Passeriformes	1
Strigiformes	1
sum	64