

**VACCINATION PROGRAMME OF BIRDS KEPT IN ZOOS
AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA**

SUBMITTED BY HUNGARY



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HUNGARIAN VACCINATION PROGRAMME OF BIRDS KEPT IN ZOOS AGAINST AVIAN INFLUENZA

Introduction

In accordance with Commission Decision 2005/744/EC of 21 October, 2005 laying down the requirements for the prevention of highly pathogenic avian influenza caused by influenza A virus of subtype H5N1 in susceptible birds kept in zoos in the Member States, a campaign for the avian influenza (AI) vaccination of selected valuable and/or irretrievable indigenous bird species kept in the members of the Association of Hungarian Zoos and the Institute for Small Animal Research is planned to be performed in the upcoming weeks.

The vaccination programme is planned to be launched after its approval by the Commission and finished by the end of August 2006.

Zoos participating to the campaign

The members of the Association of Hungarian Zoos have been contacted in order to draw up an inventory of the birds which are intended to undergo preventive vaccination. Vaccination in zoos would be performed on a voluntary basis. The history of the vaccinated animals must be recorded and kept for a period of ten years after the initial AI vaccination. Birds kept closed (ensuring a high level of biosecurity) are not subject to vaccination.

The list of the participating zoos, number of the species of birds and the number of birds to be vaccinated is indicated in Table 1.

Table 1. Participating zoos in the 2006 AI vaccination campaign in Hungary, the number of the bird species and the number of birds to be vaccinated

| | number of species | number of birds |
|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden | 118 | 862 |
| Kittenberger Zoo, Veszprém | 43 | 140 |
| Debrecen Zoo | 55 | 341 |
| Nyíregyháza Zoo | 107 | 631 |
| Pécs Zoo and Aquarium | 24 | 96 |
| Jaszberény Zoo and Botanical Garden | 21 | 62 |
| Kecskemét Zoo | 19 | 77 |
| Miskolc Wild Animal Park | 5 | 12 |
| Xantus Zoo, Győr | 25 | 205 |
| Szeged Wild Animal Park | 35 | 104 |
| Budakeszi Wild Animal Park | 20 | 99 |
| Tropicarium-Oceanarium, Budapest | 9 | 43 |
| Institute for Small Animal Research, Gödöllő | 5 | 2899 |
| Total number of birds to be vaccinated: | | 5571 |

In the case of any change of the number of the birds to be vaccinated, an update will be sent to the Commission.

Information meetings for the persons in charge of each zoos will be organised before each step of the vaccination campaign.

The vaccination

The veterinarians in charge will use the Nobilis Influenza H5 vaccine (containing subtype H5N2) by Intervet, which is an inactivated vaccine. It has been used extensively and successfully for a number of years in Hong Kong as a part of an official government AI control program.

A detailed programme, showing the exact timetable of all vaccination to be carried out in the given zoo must be submitted before starting the vaccination. Each vaccination programme in a zoo shall be completed within 96 hours.

All expenses relating to vaccination (except for the vaccine itself) will be paid by the zoo that made the application to vaccinate. The suitable vaccine is provided to all Hungarian zoos by Intervet Hungaria Ltd., free of charge.

The AI vaccination campaign set up in zoos is a pilot project, therefore all the unforeseen relevances (eg. non-proven effectiveness of the vaccine on wild and exotic bird species) must be understood and accepted.

The primary vaccination consists of two injections given at an interval of 4 to 6 weeks.

All vaccinated birds must be individually identifiable (microchip and/or ring and/or wingtag).

Vaccinated birds shall only be traded or moved to other Member States following specific authorisation.

Other biosafety measures

Accession to all places where birds are kept, is forbidden to all vehicles, persons and equipment that have had contact in the last four days with birds, poultry or eggs in an infected region or country.

The zoo staff must be informed of the extended biosafety measures in force in the zoo.

If the layout of the aviary or enclosure does not allow to avoid all contact with wild birds, nets or wire nets will be used in addition.

All contact between the birds and the public of the zoo must be avoided or kept to a minimum.

Recording datas

The vaccine will be stored at the national reference laboratory (Central Veterinary Institute). The veterinarian in charge of the zoo will receive the necessary quantity of vaccine at the time set in accordance with the vaccination timetable.

The AI vaccination will be carried out by the veterinarian employed or contracted by the zoo. The vaccination and all relevant records will be supervised and verified by an official veterinarian.

Each injection must be recorded on the vaccination scheme.

Blood samples must be taken randomly from at least 5% of the birds before the start of the vaccination and after 30 days of completing the second vaccination. Blood samples will be tested by the national reference laboratory for avian influenza (Central Veterinary Institute).

Reporting to the Commission

A detailed report on the carrying out of the programme, including the results of the blood tests, a register mentioning the identity, the species, the sex (if known) of the vaccinated birds as well as the dates of the vaccinations and a feedback with all remarks or observations (side effects etc.) included will be sent to the Commission and to the Member States shortly after completion of the programme.
