



July 2023

Report on Animal Disease Surveillance and Early Detection

Data for 2022



Summary

In the reporting year 2022, Switzerland held disease-free status for 28 animal diseases. Switzerland documents disease status in three ways: historic disease-free status, i.e. the disease has never occurred; long-standing eradication; and/or disease-free status demonstrated by a national surveillance programme.

The national surveillance programmes in conjunction with reporting obligations, screening of suspected cases and abortions, screening in connection with meat inspections and other screening activities (e.g. animal movements) form the basis for monitoring and combating these animal diseases.

The national surveillance programme carried out in 2022 demonstrated disease-free status of the animal population for the following diseases: **infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)**, **enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL)**, **porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)**, **Aujeszky's disease (AD)** and **brucellosis of sheep and goats**.

The surveillance targets were met for **bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE)**, **bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD)**, **avian influenza (AI)**, **Newcastle disease (ND)**, **Salmonella infection in poultry** and **bovine tuberculosis (bTB)**.

No bovine animals tested positive for BTV-8 or other serotypes in the national **bluetongue (BTV)** surveillance programme. There were also no positive findings in the passive clinical monitoring. It was possible at national level to provide evidence – with a 99% degree of certainty – that the prevalence of BTV serotypes in Switzerland is below 0.2%.

“Early detection Animal health” covers various activities and programmes that support or supplement official animal disease surveillance. In response to a potential or imminent risk of an infectious pathogen being introduced from another country, a specific early detection programme can be developed and implemented. The aim is to strengthen passive and active surveillance of a particular animal disease pathogen in Switzerland. Any entry of a pathogen into the Swiss animal population is to be identified as an index case if possible, to enable prompt measures to be taken to eradicate the disease or prevent it from spreading.

The following three early detection programmes were carried out in 2022 in cooperation with the cantons:

- National African swine fever (ASF) early detection programme in wild boar
- Regional tuberculosis early detection programme in red deer in eastern Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein
- National early detection programme for small hive beetle (*Apinella*)

All three programmes demonstrated that the animal diseases in question have not yet been introduced into Switzerland.

Diagnosis is an important basis for the surveillance and early detection of animal diseases. The laboratories approved for official diagnosis of animal diseases report all tests and results to the FSVO's aRes information system. In the 2022 reporting year, 405,543 animal disease investigations were carried out as part of officially ordered diagnosis and recorded in aRes; these entries related to 69 epizootics. Compared to the previous year, this represents a minimal increase in the number of reported investigations (+0.9%, 2022: n=401,720).

Most samples were investigated from livestock, in particular from cattle. The high investigation activity was unchanged from the previous year for screening Bovine Virus Diarrhoea (BVD), whereby BVD screening accounted for half of all animal disease investigations. All in all, the most frequent reason for investigation was the monitoring programme for the certification of the absence of a specific animal disease, for the national control programme as well as early detection programmes (64%). Tests to clarify cases of disease, death and abortion accounted for only 15% of all tests carried out.

The cantonal veterinary services use the ASAN application to report all cases of animal diseases to the information system for disease reports ([InfoSM](#)). The total number of cases of animal diseases reported in 2022 (1,167 notifications) has risen slightly compared to 2021 (1,048 notifications). There was an

increase in cases over the previous year for coxiellosis, chlamydial abortion of sheep and goats, bovine viral diarrhoea, bee diseases (*Varroa destructor*), cryptosporidiosis, viral haemorrhagic disease of rabbits trichinellosis (all notifications involving wild animals) and actinobacillosis. Fewer cases than in the previous year were reported for salmonellosis, for campylobacteriosis, bee foulbrood, pseudotuberculosis in sheep and goats and for neosporosis.

Cases of diseases for which Switzerland holds disease-free status occurred in relation to Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI), Caprine Arthritis and Encephalitis virus (CAEV) and rabies (bat rabies). All cases had no influence affect Switzerland's disease-free status. As in 2021, no cases of blue tongue disease were reported in 2022.

In 2022, in Switzerland there were 40,800 registered farms with animals (beef, horse husbandry, pigs, sheep, goats; a decrease of 1.1% over 2021). The number of farms with cattle, pigs and goats decreased, sheep farms remained constant, whereas the number of animals slightly increased. The number of farms with poultry increased significantly (14,513, +3.1%), likewise the number of hens.