



July 2019

Report on Animal Disease Surveillance

Data for 2018



Summary

In the 2018 reporting year, Switzerland held disease-free status for 25 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 programme carried out in 2018 demonstrated disease-free status of the animal population for the following diseases: **infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR)**, **enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL)**, **bluetongue (serotype 4) (BTV-4)**, **porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS)**, **Aujeszky's disease (AD)**, **brucellosis of sheep and goats (BM)** and **caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE)**.

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

The national surveillance programme for **bluetongue (serotype 8) (BTV-8)** yielded 81 virus-positive bovine animals. The whole of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein have been a BTV-8 restriction zone since autumn 2017.

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.

In the 2018 reporting year, 415,298 animal disease investigations were carried out as part of official checks and recorded in the Alis laboratory database; these entries related to 67 epizootics and three other diseases not covered by the regulations on epizootics (staphylococci, Schmalenberg, swine influenza). Compared to the previous year, this represents an increase of over 16% in official animal disease investigations (2017 figure: 356,075). Like the 2017 increase, the 2018 increase can be explained by even greater screening activity in BVD surveillance on non-dairy farms as part of cattle sampling at the slaughterhouse ("RiBeS"). Sixty percent of laboratory tests were carried out under the national surveillance programme. Laboratory tests to clarify cases of disease, abortion, sick animal slaughter or mortality accounted for only 16% of all tests carried out. The remaining tests were conducted as part of control measures (7%), in cases of animal movements (6%) or during periodical health checks (6%, e.g. for artificial insemination).

The total number of cases of animal diseases reported in 2018 (1,339 notifications) has risen compared to 2017 (1,408 notifications). In particular, in 2018 there were no cases of avian influenza and fewer cases of BVD. An increase in epizootic events was observed in the cases of BTV-8 and paratuberculosis. The new paratuberculosis control measures were incorporated into the Swiss Epizootic Diseases Ordinance in December 2015, leading to an increase in diagnostic activity and a larger number of cases.

The cattle and pig populations continued to decline in 2018. Despite a fall in the number of holdings, the sheep population has risen slightly. The number of equine holdings and numbers of horses have both increased, as has the poultry population.