

# Report on Animal Disease Surveillance and early detection

Data for 2019



## Summary

In the 2019 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 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 2019 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 (BM)**. The caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) surveillance programme was discontinued at the end of 2018 after the disease-free status of the goat population had been documented.

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 whole of Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein have been a restriction zone for **bluetongue (BTV) serotype 8 (BTV-8)** since autumn 2017. The national surveillance programme for BTV established the virus prevalence of bluetongue (serotype BTV-8). For the other BTV serotypes, specifically BTV-4, the national surveillance programme demonstrated freedom from BT in accordance with EU requirements at national and regional level. In 2019, BTV-8 was found in virus-positive cattle.

"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 2019 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 laboratory database Alis.

In the 2019 reporting year, 412,080 animal disease investigations were carried out as part of officially ordered diagnosis and recorded in Alis; these entries related to 73 epizootics and three other diseases not covered by the regulations on epizootics (staphylococci, Schmallerberg, swine

influenza). Compared to the previous year, this represents a slight decrease in animal disease investigations of just under 9% (2018 figure: 415,298).

With an increase of 12% compared to 2018 in bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) screening on non-dairy farms as part of cattle sampling at the slaughterhouse (RiBeS), BVD screening accounts for over half of all animal disease investigations. Screening figures for other animal diseases decreased because no surveillance for caprine arthritis-encephalitis (CAE) was conducted and the sample size of the *Brucella melitensis* surveillance programme was halved. Fifty-eight 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 16% 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, the [InfoSM database](#). The total number of cases of animal diseases reported in 2019 (1,374 notifications) has risen slightly compared to 2018 (1,339 notifications). Although cases of bluetongue and bovine viral diarrhoea (BVD) have decreased in number, cases of enzootic pneumonia (EP), infectious laryngotracheitis (ILT) and fowlbrood have increased. There has also been an increase in reported cases of the monitored diseases campylobacteriosis, cryptosporidiosis, pulmonary adenomatosis and pseudotuberculosis in sheep and goats. The increase in pulmonary adenomatosis and pseudotuberculosis is attributed to activities to investigate pathological changes in the slaughterhouse (project on organ changes at the slaughterhouse).

In 2019, there were 50,038 registered farms in Switzerland, 1.6% fewer than in 2018. The cattle and pig populations have declined, while the poultry population has increased.