

South Asia Weekly Animal Disease E-Information

Regional Support Unit for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (RSU-SAARC)

INDIA

28 Apr 2017: Mizoram to ban animal import amid health issues

Mizoram has banned the import of pigs and cattle from Myanmar, Bangladesh and north-eastern Indian states amid fears of a viral disease, an official said on Friday. "We have asked District Magistrates to take suitable steps to stop import of cattle and pigs from Myanmar, Bangladesh and adjoining north-eastern states," an Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department official said. He said the order was issued following reports from certain parts of the state that pigs and piglets were getting infected with the dreaded Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and swine fever. Mizoram shares an unfenced border of 404 km with Myanmar and 318 km with Bangladesh, providing smugglers an opportunity to illegally bring in animals, drugs, arms and ammunition. PRRS hit Mizoram in 2013, resulting in the death of over 3,000 pigs and piglets, and more than 4,000 last year. [Read More](#)

30 Apr 2017: Lab test confirms dog was rabid

Repeated stray dog attacks have left Chandigarh residents in panic. A stray dog went on a biting spree at Mauli Jagran locality and left six people, including a pregnant woman and a child, with severe injuries. With the dog dying the same day, residents are also worried that the dog may be rabid. Within a week, 2nd positive report of dog carrying rabies virus in city was received. 7 more cases were also reported in P'kula 9 bitten by stray dogs in Mohali. The brain sample of the dog that bit 12 residents in Mauli Jagran on Friday was found positive for rabies in a lab test conducted at the Kasauli-based Central Research Institute (CRI) today. On April 22, a stray dog had attacked 11 persons in Sector 15 and died later. It also tested positive for rabies. [Read More](#)

OTHERS

01 May 2017: Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) report: USDA's FMD evaluations could be improved

Evaluations of foreign animal health system could benefit from better guidance and great transparency, new GAO report finds. A new Governmental Accountability Office (GAO) report looks at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's process for evaluating the animal health systems of countries with a confirmed case of foot and mouth disease (FMD) that are seeking to export beef products to the U.S. and how this process could be improved. [Read More](#)

02 May 2017: A(H7N9) Updates: New bird flu strain raises pandemic fears in China

A new strain of avian influenza, which has high pathogenicity in poultry and can be deadly for humans has surfaced in China, raising fears of a potential pandemic, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported. The FAO said the new strain represented a worrisome mutation of the H7N9 virus, because until now, it has shown low pathogenicity, meaning that it causes only mild or no illness in poultry. Data from China's Guangdong province suggests, however, that the new strain has shifted to high pathogenicity in poultry while retaining its capacity to cause severe illness in humans. Reports indicated that the new strain of H7N9 could lead to high mortality for birds within 48 hours of infection, which could subsequently cause serious economic losses for the poultry industry. [Read More](#)

02 May 2017: Turkey to produce world's first vaccine against the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) vaccine

Turkish scientists have developed the world's first vaccine against the Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever, or CCHF, the country's health minister said Monday. Recep Akdag, speaking in the eastern Erzurum province, said the ministry had supported the scientists who he said "worked hard" for around eight years to develop the vaccine. The virus causes severe viral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), CCHF outbreaks have a fatality rate of up to 40 percent. The virus is primarily transmitted to people from ticks and livestock animals. Human-to-human transmission can occur resulting from close contact with the blood, secretions, organs, or other bodily fluids of infected persons. CCHF is endemic in Africa, the Balkans, the Middle East and Asia, in countries south of the 50th parallel north, the WHO says. Currently, there is no vaccine available for either people or animals. [Read More](#)