REGIONE MARCHE
22/03/2010
Influenza aviaria: le Marche emanano il Piano Regionale 2010
Emanato il Decreto del Dirigente della P.F. Veterinaria e Sicurezza Alimentare nø 42 del 02/03/10 che recepisce e applica,a livello regionale, il Piano Nazionale di lotta nei confronti dell'Influenza Aviare, in particolare nei confronti dei sierotipi a piu' alta patogenicita', l'H5 e l'H7. Nell'anno trascorso e all'inizio del 2010, a seguito dell'attivita' di rintraccio di partite di provenienza extraregionale, presso aziende commerciali e di svezzamento marchigiane, sono state rilevate positivita' e aperti focolai di influenza a bassa patogenicita' (LPA). L'esperienza maturata, gli studi e le considerazioni epidemiologiche scaturite da questi casi, hanno permesso di adeguare le direttive nazionali alle esigenze regionali, ed armonizzarle alla reale situazione locale. Il controllo e la messa in atto delle norme di biosicurezza, di cui alla Delibera di Giunta n. 2175 del 2002, consentono di guardare con una certa tranquillita' agli allevamenti industriali intensivi, la cui frequenza di monitoraggio viene sensibilmente diminuita, passando dalla cadenza mensile nel primo e terzo quadrimestre, all'attuale semestralita'. Il piano impegna le U.U.O.O. Igiene degli Allevamenti e delle Produzioni Zootecniche, nella verifica del rispetto delle norme di biosicurezza previste in tutti gli allevamenti avicoli industriali, per prevenire l'introduzione di possibili agenti virali anche tramite mezzi di trasporto, personale, mangimi, attrezzi, ecc.. In allegato al piano e' stata inoltre predisposta una check list (disponibile in formato word) che permettera' di standardizzare le attivita' di controllo. Tale check list e' gia' stata utilizzata e quindi validata dal personale della Zona Territoriale 11 di Fermo. Tra le strutture da sottoporre ai campionamenti, a cura delle U.U.O.O. di Sanita' Animale, l'attenzione si rivolge, invece e soprattutto, ai commercianti ed agli svezzatori, realta' che sono spesso sfuggite ai controlli e ai prelievi, ove l'elevata movimentazione e la promiscuita' di specie di diversa eta' e categoria li rende gli ambienti, attualmente, a piu' alto rischio di introduzione virale. Le novita' nel monitoraggio si estendono anche alle aziende in cui si trovano richiami vivi, per i possibili contatti con avifauna selvatica, e agli animali da carne a lunga vita produttiva quali capponi e razze di polli pesanti, che possono avere contatti con la filiera avicola rurale, recentemente interessata dalla diffusione di virus influenzale a bassa patogenicita'. Infine viene considerata la sorveglianza presso gli allevamenti avicoli rurali, che puo' riguardare sia strutture commerciali (di consistenza inferiore ai 250 capi) che da autoconsumo, i cui controlli sono stati distribuiti in base a criteri che tengono conto dei collegamenti con i focolai di influenza aviaria a bassa patogenicita' (LPAI) di altre regioni, alla vicinanza di aree geografiche a rischio di contatto con migratori selvatici e per uniformare la numerosita' campionaria tra le varie zone territoriali. In data 19 marzo 2010 il piano e' stato presentato ai Servizi di Sanita' animale delle Zone

territoriali ASUR Marche in occasione di un incontro svoltosi presso la PF Veterinaria e sicurezza alimentare - Servizio Salute della Regione Marche. I materiali presentati nel corso della riunione dalla Dr.ssa Anna Duranti del Centro Epidemiologico Regionale Veterinario (CERV) sono disponibili per gli operatori sanitari che accedono con le proprie credenziali di accreditamento

EFSA
23/03/2010
Scientific opinion on African Swine Fever
Summary Following a request from The European Commission, the Panel on Animal Health and Welfare was asked to deliver a scientific opinion on African Swine Fever and to assess: the significance of the occurrence and risk of endemicity of ASF in the countries neighbouring the EU the possibility of ASF becoming endemic in domestic pigs and to maintaining itself in a wild boar population in the EU, keeping in mind the differences in virulence of ASF virus strains, in particular the virus strains which are now endemic in the Caucasus region; the role played by vectors in the spread and the maintenance of ASF and provide geographical information and maps of Member States displaying the geographical distribution of Ornithodoros erraticus as well as other potential invertebrate hosts. Methodology: Due to limited data available, a systematic qualitative risk assessment framework based on the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines was developed to address the identified risk questions to satisfy the above mandate. The model considered factors affecting spread of the disease and assessed the impact of preventive and control measures. Opinions from the working group members were used to outline the various pathways of the disease occurrence and/or its spread and to assess the likelihood of events occurring. This information was collectively used to obtain overall risk estimates. From the start, exchange of knowledge between the ASFRISK experts (Community's research project: KBBE- 2007-1-3-05, Grant Agreement n§ 211691) and the Working Groups existed. Background information: The ASFV circulating in the Trans Caucasian Countries (TCC) and the Russian Federation (RF) is a highly virulent virus that has maintained its virulence since the first outbreak in Georgia in 2007. The potential evolution of this virus, however, should be considered since previous experience in other regions, with other strains, indicated a decrease of virulence after a certain period with the potential for certain percentages of swine to develop a chronic form of disease and to become carriers. Table 1: (...) The little information available from the eastern neighbouring countries of the EU and the Caucasus shows generally a very low density of wild boar, usually less than one head per km2. However, high densities do occur in some areas of the TCC and RF. In the EU the wild boar population also varies in density but is generally increasing. Although movement of wild boar is limited, spread of viral diseases is quite common if the wild boar populations are connected through the continuity of the habitat. According to the EU legislation, all trade and import to the EU of live pigs and products of pig origin from the TCC and the RF is banned. Illegal imports of live pigs and products of pig origin, however, are impossible to quantify due to lack of data. Waste food from international means of transport is not always treated according to the EU legislation. The volume of live pigs and pork traded among the MS is substantial and varies by year and region/country. There is also a considerable movement of people (and with them potentially infected pork products) between the eastern neighbouring countries of the EU and the EU MS that is difficult to control. Risk Assessment: The risk of maintenance and spread of ASFV in the TCC and the RF is moderate, while the risk of its spread in these regions is high and the resulting likelihood of introduction into the EU is moderate. Recently more

cases have been reported in the RF. Factors affecting the risk of spread were similar in both areas; however differences were identified in the outbreak response due to more accurate case confirmation and implementation of rapid actions in the RF. Preventive long term responses are insufficient in both TCC and the RF. Overall, the risk of ASFV remaining endemic in wild boar was considered low in TCC and moderate in RF mainly due to the higher host population densities in the RF. Given the proximity to some EU MS of some currently affected areas in RF, the possibility of the disease spreading into neighbouring countries through connected wild boar populations and there is currently a moderate risk that wild boar could release the disease from RF into the EU. Within the EU, domestic pigs in the free range (FR) and limited biosecurity (LB) sectors are likely to be exposed to ASFV via swill feeding, with an estimated low risk, whereas in the High Biosecurity sector (HB) the risk of exposure following illegal importation of swill feed is considered negligible due to compliance with the swill feed ban and the risk for spill-over to the HB sector before detection was considered low. Once HB, LB or FR sectors are infected, the likelihood of spread prior detection from these sectors is moderate, high and high respectively, mainly due to movement of pigs, people and vehicles. Considering that the LB sector is the most predominant in some EU countries, the high risk of spread before detection in this sector will have considerable consequences for certain infected MS. The risk of endemicity in domestic pigs is considered negligible in HB and low in LB. In the HB and LB sectors the implementation of control measures is effective, however, there is a higher uncertainty in the likelihood estimate to eradicate ASFV in the LB sector, leading to the low likelihood of endemicity (compared to negligible in the HB). Failures in record keeping and non-compliance with animal movement bans are considered the main threats. The risk of endemicity in the FR sector is moderate due to wild boar contact, non-compliance with animal movement bans and lack of access to all pigs. The risk of ASFV becoming endemic in the wild boar population in the EU is moderate. This is mainly due to spread in areas with high population density. Disease control in wildlife is difficult in general. Role of ticks: Of all the invertebrates tested up to the present, only soft ticks of the genus Ornithodoros have been demonstrated to be ASFV competent vector either naturally or experimentally. Ornithodoros ticks feed mainly on animal species living in burrows, such as rodents and reptiles. Pigs are mostly accidental hosts, which can transmit the virus. The epidemiological role played by ticks may become important where pigs are managed under traditional systems, including old shelters/sties with crevices, where O. erraticus are difficult to eradicate. The O. erraticus complex may be important in maintaining the local foci of ASFV due to their long life (up to 15 years), survival for many years between feeds and persistence of infection for up to 5 years. This type of maintenance of the virus may lead to endemicity in a region. These ticks, however, do not play an active role in the geographical spread of the virus because they stay on their hosts for a relatively short period of time. Wild boar have never been found infested with this type of ticks because, unlike warthogs, they do not rest in protected burrows, which may be inhabited by ticks. Data on associated factors with the distribution of soft ticks are limited and therefore their potential distribution is difficult to predict. Recommendations: An integrated strategy involving TCC, the RF and the EU would facilitate the trans-boundary control of ASF, including an information exchange platform. This would be strengthened by identifying gaps in knowledge and needs. Develop a specific ASF eradication strategy for backyard holdings in TCC, RF and EU. Promote knowledge and implementation of biosecurity principles , including mechanisms to reduce or prevent contact between domestic pigs and wild boar in TCC, the RF and the EU. Based on the risk assessment, the reduction of the risk for ASFV endemicity in TCC and RF and spread to other regions could be achieved by support to enhance early warning and preparedness and rapid and long term control responses. Awareness of both pig farmers and veterinarians of the risk of ASF especially in limited and free-range production

sectors should be increased. Inform farmers about the potential origin of infected products. Passive surveillance of domestic pigs and wild boar requires strengthening in all MS. Active surveillance of wild boar (e.g. routine testing of hunting bag) especially in countries within ecological corridors should be implemented. Systematic differential diagnosis for CSF and ASF is required. Enhance enforcement of the EU legislation on destruction and disposal of waste food from international means of transport, e.g. by increasing the awareness of the official veterinarians at the MS Border Inspection Posts. Further studies are required to improve the predictive value of models for tick distribution. Determine the potential carrier status of animals infected with ASFV currently circulating in the TCC and the RF because they could play a potential role in the development of endemicity.

ANMVIOGGI
23/03/2010
Anagrafe equina, in vigore il nuovo decreto

Le Linee guida e principi per l'organizzazione e la gestione dell'anagrafe equina da parte dell'UNIRE (articolo 8, comma 15 legge 1ø agosto 2003 n. 200) sono entrate in vigore con la pubblicazione sulla Gazzetta Ufficiale del 19 marzo scorso. Le nuove Linee Guida abrogano il decreto ministeriale del 5 maggio 2006, ma, "nelle more della approvazione del nuovo manuale operativo" lasciano in vigore, le norme previste nel manuale operativo approvato con decreto ministeriale 9 ottobre 2007. Perche' un nuovo decreto? Le precedenti linee guida non erano aggiornate al Regolamento (CE) n. 504/2008 e non consideravano la necessita' di evitare la doppia emissione di documenti di identificazione, e di consentire un collegamento tra il documento di identificazione e l'equide identificato e che esso sia identificato mediante l'applicazione di un dispositivo elettronico di identificazione individuale. Numerosi i rimandi a successivi provvedimenti attuativi, fra i quali spicca la definizione degli aspetti sanitari connessi all'anagrafe, quel sistema di identificazione e di registrazione degli equidi (tutti "i mammiferi solipedi selvatici o domestici di tutte le specie del genere Equus della famiglia Equidae e i loro ibridi") la cui organizzazione e gestione viene confermata in capo all'UNIRE. Il decreto e' emanato dal Ministero delle Politiche Agricole di concerto con il Ministero della Salute per le finalita' sanitarie dell'anagrafe degli equidi, che, in primo luogo, sono appunto la tutela della salute pubblica e tutela del patrimonio zootecnico, con la costituzione di una rete di epidemiosorveglianza. I contenuti e le modalita' relative agli aspetti sanitari saranno stabiliti con decreto del Ministro della salute, d'intesa con la Conferenza permanente per i rapporti tra lo Stato, le regioni e le province autonome di Trento e Bolzano, di natura non regolamentare, da adottare entro 180 giorni dall'effettiva attivazione della banca dati degli equidi. L'anagrafe ha anche lo scopo di dare una tutela economica e valorizzazione del patrimonio zootecnico, fornire il basilare supporto per trasmettere informazioni al consumatore di carni di equidi e consentire un'etichettatura adeguata e chiara del prodotto; assicurare la regolarita' nelle corse dei cavalli nonche' garantire efficienza ed efficacia nella gestione dei controlli sulle corse stesse e infine prevenire e controllare il fenomeno dell'abigeato. Le procedure operative di attuazione del decreto saranno definite con un apposito manuale operativo, comprensivo della necessaria modulistica, da emanarsi entro centottanta giorni dalla pubblicazione del decreto, di concerto con il Ministro della salute e d'intesa con la Conferenza Stato Regioni. Ogni Servizio veterinario delle aziende sanitarie e' connesso alla BDE secondo modalita' definite dal manuale operativo, in base al quale mette a disposizione della BDE e

registra ed aggiorna nella stessa banca dati, per il tramite della BDN, le informazioni relative alle aziende. Il Servizio veterinario utilizza i dati contenuti nella BDE per ogni attivita' finalizzata ai controlli sanitari; verifica e controlla i registri di carico e scarico e il sistema di identificazione e registrazione degli equidi applicato nell'azienda. Rimandano al manuale operativo anche le modalita' con cui ogni APA e' connessa alla BDE. L'APA rilascia e vidima il documento d'identificazione individuale dell'equide; e' responsabile, per le operazioni da essa svolte, dell'identificazione e registrazione degli animali nella BDE secondo le modalita' riportate nel manuale operativo; registra nella BDE le informazioni relative alle nascite e alle morti, alla dichiarazione di destinazione finale, alle movimentazioni, alle introduzioni da Paesi membri e alle importazioni da Paesi terzi; registra nella BDE il furto e lo smarrimento di animali, dei passaporti e dei microchip; stampa da sistema e rilascia il passaporto nonche' stampa e rilascia il duplicato del passaporto smarrito e/o oggetto di furto entro quattordici giorni dalla data di notifica dell'evento. Fra i provvedimenti di futura adozione figura anche l'istituzione con decreto del Ministero delle politiche agricole alimentari e forestale di un comitato tecnico di coordinamento con il compito di apportare modifiche alle linee guida, "anche in funzione dell'evoluzione della normativa comunitaria concernente la politica agricola comune in materia zootecnica, e predispone il manuale operativo e le eventuali modifiche. Del tutto assenti nel Comitato le rappresentanze della sanita', circostanza per la quale la Fnovi ha gia' esposto le proprie rimostranze.

FAO
23/03/2010
On the trail of avian influenza 23-03-2010
International task force concerned over declining support for H5N1 monitoring, despite disease persistence and spread Bar-headed Geese (Anser indicus) in Bharatpur, Rajasthan, India. 23 March 2010, Rome - An international team of experts has warned that while more is known today about the role of wild birds in the spread of the highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza virus than ever before, significant information gaps remain unfilled as government and public attention is shifting elsewhere. "Waning attention to H5N1 HPAI is reducing surveillance and research opportunities, negatively affecting capacity building and coordination between environmental and agricultural authorities, and impacting efforts to further refine understanding of the epidemiology and the ecology of the virus," the Scientific Task Force on Avian Influenza and Wild Birds said in a statement following a review meeting held at FAO's Rome headquarters. Established in 2005 and jointly led by FAO and the UNEP-Convention on Migratory Species, the task force is a collaborative partnership involving 15 international organizations, including several UN agencies, other intergovernmental groups, and specialist non-governmental organizations (see box at right). "Unfortunately, H5N1 may have slipped off the radar screen for some people, but it continues to be a major problem, especially in Egypt and parts of Asia, where it is having a huge impact on food security and the livelihoods of farmers and local communities," said Juan Lubroth, FAO's Chief Veterinary Officer. H5N1 HPAI is has not been restricted to Asia alone, he added, having also occurred in Europe, Central Asia and parts of Africa. In the past six months, there have been outbreaks of the virus in domestic poultry in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Romania, Israel, Myanmar, Nepal, Egypt, Indonesia, India, and Viet Nam and in wild birds in China, Mongolia, and the Russian Federation. Just this week, Bhutan reported outbreaks for the first time and the virus was detected after a three year absence in Romania in domestic poultry. Poor farm biosecurity and

trading of infected poultry are the main causes of disease spread. Wild birds play a much smaller role in the H5N1 HPAI ecology - but understanding their role in this disease, and managing the associated risks, poses particular challenges. The disease has had great and varied conservation implications, including causing thousands of wild birds to die from viral exposure, inappropriate responses including culling of healthy wild birds and destruction of their habitats. No smoking gun Over the past five years some 750,000 healthy wild birds have been tested for the H5N1 HPAI virus worldwide, either by national authorities, NGO's, and international organizations like FAO. Some expected that "wild reservoir" species - birds that can carry and spread the virus without getting sick - would turn up during this process. So far that hasn't been the case. Only an extremely small number of apparently healthy infected wild birds have been found. FAO has also led efforts to track over 500 migratory wildfowl in various regions with satellite transmitters in order to gather information on their movements and identify possible correlations with avian flu occurrences. No smoking gun emerged from that effort. This suggests that infection of domestic poultry from wild birds is rare and the risk to humans from wild birds is negligible. More testing is needed, however, to firm up this understanding. "Seven-hundred and fifty thousand is a lot of birds, but when you consider the size of the global bird population, we may need to test even more birds if we are going to find the virus," explained Scott Newman, EMPRES Wildlife Unit Coordinator for FAO. "Is it that there's no wild bird reservoir, or that we have not sampled enough?" "Certainly, wild birds have been involved in transmission in some cases, for example in Mongolia last year - and researchers in China recently reported finding the virus in apparently healthy wildfowl," said Newman. These questions as well as other issues were discussed by the Task Force. Areas highlighted by the group as needing further improvement include: Standardisation of reporting and sampling methodologies to current best science-based practices; Continued and broader surveillance of wild bird populations, along with improving understanding of migration routes, habitat use, and movements; Strengthening of capacity do that those conducting outbreak investigations can evaluate the source of virus introduction; Education efforts to reduce indiscriminate blame of wild birds for outbreaks in poultry. Fringe benefits for wildlife conservation One of the side benefits of the unprecedented monitoring effort undertaken by FAO and its partners has been a wealth of new information regarding habitat use and migration patterns and routes of some species of wild birds. "The data were generated so that we could better evaluate possible linkages between wild bird migrations and the occurrence of H5N1, but should prove a tremendous value in terms of identifying and prioritising wetlands of critical importance for conservation and management", said Newman.

VET.JOURNAL
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L'omeopatia per le patologie croniche del cavallo
Uno studio valuta le condizioni trattate e il follow-up

Al fine di valutare il ricorso all'omeopatia per le patologie croniche equine nel Regno Unito, 12 Facolta' di Omeopatia veterinaria hanno registrato sistematicamente i dati di 777 visite omeopatiche consecutive effettuate nel cavallo in un periodo di 12 mesi. I dati riguardanti 289 cavalli comprendevano in totale 305 condizioni patologiche individuali di natura cronica, per 234 delle quali era disponibile un follow-up. Alla visita finale dei casi cronici durante il periodo di studio, il 4,3 % dei cavalli stava assumendo anche farmaci convenzionali e il 17,1 % riceveva un altro trattamento medico complementare/alternativo, oltre all'omeopatia. Le 8 condizioni

croniche piu' frequentemente trattate con l'omeopatia nel cavallo erano: artrite, headshaking, laminite, malattia polmonare ostruttiva cronica, dermatite, sweet itch (dermatite estiva), sarcoidi e sindrome di Cushing. "Homeopathic prescribing for chronic conditions in equine veterinary practice in the UK" R. T. Mathie, E. S. Baitson, L. Hansen, M. F. Elliott, and J. Hoare. Vet Rec. 2010 166: 234-238 Maria Grazia Monzeglio Med Vet PhD mg.monzeglio@evsrl.it Fonte: The Veterinary Record