The Swiss Border Veterinary Service

Presentation of
Dr. med. vet. Edoardo Giani,
Federal Veterinary Office
Swiss Airport Travel Medicine Network (2004)

Federal Government
FOPH, FOCA, FVO, Customs, Foreign Affairs, Army

Geneva Cointrin

Basel-Mulhouse

St. Gallen Altenrhein

Bern Belp

Sion

Lugano-Agno

Zürich Kloten
Swiss Federal Veterinary Office

Missions
• Healthy animals
• Healthy people
• Safe foods
• Successful trade

Tasks and responsibilities
• prepare laws & regulations
• advice the cantons
• supply information
• support research & continuing education
• regulate import / export conditions
• border control
The Swiss Border Veterinary Service

- Swiss custom with Borders Inspections Posts
- Swiss custom without Borders Inspections Posts
- Central competent authority

Map of Switzerland showing locations:
- Basel/Mulhouse
- ZURICH
- Berne
- GENEVA
- Sion
- Lugano
- Altenrhein
- Samedan
What’s a BIP?

- BIP = Border Inspection Post
- EU Agreement of a BIP is necessary
- Agreement in veterinary affairs between Switzerland and EU (since 1.1.2009)
- Common veterinary space = Joint defensive strategy
- Live animals and products of animal origin present a high level of risks as they can transmit serious human and animal diseases
- Veterinary border control = key factor to ensure safety of
  - live animals
  - products of animal origin

entering to the European Union and Switzerland (=Common veterinary space)
The BIP’s of the EU
Consignments from third countries are controlled at the entry point in the EU / EFTA. After the control there are free to “travel” within the EU / EFTA.
What is controlled at the BIP?

- Live animals
- **Products of animal** origin
  - meat and meat products
  - milk and milk products
  - eggs
  - genetics (sperm, embryo)
  - animal by products (skin, blood products, hunting trophies)

from **third countries** covered by the EU Legislation
(Commission Decision 275/2007)
How we check

• Documentary check

• Identity check

• Physical check
The Border Inspection Post of Zurich Airport

• Team:
  – 6 Border Veterinarians
  – 3 Border Veterinarian Assistants

• Consignments per year
  – ~ 7000 – **products** of animal origin
    (mostly meat, fishery products)
  – ~ 2000 – **animals** (mostly fish, amphibians, reptiles, mice)
The Border Inspection Post of Geneva Airport

- **Team**
  - 5 Border Veterinarians

- **Consignments per year**
  - ~**1000** – *products* of animal origin (mostly fishery products)
  - ~**800** – *animals* (mostly fish, amphibians, reptiles, mice)
The Central Competent Authority

• Federal Veterinary Office (FVO), Berne

• Team: 3 persons

• Tasks: coordination, legislation, internal audit, coaching and guidance of the borders inspections posts, coaching of importers and custom, coordination with the EU authorities
TRACES

= TRAde Control and Expert System
= Trans-European network for veterinary health

→ Notification, certification and monitoring of imports and trade of animals and animal products

→ Enables the authorities to trace all animals and products of animals origin imported into the EU

→ In case of an epidemic, it is possible to trace back all the consignments that came through the BIP’s (origin, destination...)
Legislation

SPS-Agreement (WTO)

OIE

CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Veterinary agreement EU-Switzerland

National legislation for importation

Tierseuchenverordnung (Ordinance for animal diseases)

Lebensmittelverordnung (Ordinance for Food Safety)

Tierschutzverordnung (Ordinance for Animal Welfare)
Flow of Pets, Luggage of travellers and Freight

Pets and luggage ➔ Freight

CH CUSTOM ➔ Pets and luggage

BIP ➔ Freight
Personal luggages of travellers

Schleppen Sie keine Tierseuchen in die Schweiz ein!
Erzeugnisse tierischer Herkunft können Träger von Tierseuchenerregern sein.

Keep animal diseases out of Switzerland!
Products of animal origin may carry agents of animal disease.

Die Einfuhr dieser Erzeugnisse aus Ländern ausserhalb der EU und Norwegen ist grundsätzlich verboten.
It is strictly forbidden to import these products into Switzerland from countries other than EU Member States and Norway.

Reisende sind verpflichtet, alle tierischen Produkte aus Ländern ausserhalb der EU und Norwegen dem Zoll vorzulegen.
Travellers must present all animal products from countries other than EU Member States and Norway to Customs.
Personal luggage of travellers

Some exceptions:

• up to 20 kg:
  – fresh, eviscerated fish or fishery products

• up to 2 kg:
  – frog's legs
  – eggs (excepted from China, South Korea and Malaysia)
  – honey
  – live oysters and mussels, snails
Which epidemics could be limited by the veterinary inspections?

• Some examples with zoonotic potential:
  – Rabies
  – BSE
  – Avian Influenza
Case: Avian Influenza

- **6th June 2013** – Airport Vienna
- Inspection of passenger luggage coming from Indonesia by the custom
- **60 smuggled birds**
  - 37 birds already dead
  - remaining animals quarantined at the BIP
- Necropsy and sample from the dead animals
  - **H5N1** was found
  - All birds were euthanized

→ Need for **close collaboration** between veterinary services, public health professionals, customs and airports
Questions?
Thank you for your attention