

INTRODUCTION

(How to use this *Terrestrial Manual*)

- **Arrangement of the *Terrestrial Manual***

Part 1, the beginning of this *Terrestrial Manual*, contains ten introductory chapters that set general standards for the management of veterinary diagnostic laboratories and vaccine facilities.

Part 2 elaborates specific recommendations on topics, many of which are introduced in Part 1 such as validation of diagnostic tests and for the manufacture of vaccines. The Section also includes chapters that have been developed on topics such as biotechnology and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

The main part of the *Terrestrial Manual* (Part 3) covers standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines for specific diseases listed in the WOAH *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and other important diseases. The diseases are in alphabetical order, subdivided by animal host group. WOAH listed diseases are diseases that have the potential for very serious and rapid spread, irrespective of national borders. They have particularly serious socio-economic or public health consequences and are of major importance in the international trade of animals and animal products.

Three of the diseases in Section 3.10 are included in some individual species sections, but these chapters cover several host species and thus give a broader description. Some additional diseases that may also be of importance but that do not have a chapter in the *Terrestrial Code* are also included in Section 3.10. This section also includes some important zoonotic infections.

Although there is a list of contributors at the beginning of the *Terrestrial Manual*, the final responsibility for the content of the *Terrestrial Manual* lies with the World Assembly of WOAH.

- **Part 3: Format of the disease-specific chapters**

Each disease chapter includes a summary intended to provide information for veterinary officials and other readers who need a general overview of the tests and vaccines available for the disease. This is followed by a text giving greater detail for laboratory workers. In each disease chapter, Part A gives a general introduction to the disease, Part B deals with laboratory diagnosis of the disease, and Part C (where appropriate) with the requirements for vaccines or *in vivo* diagnostic biologicals. The information concerning production and control of vaccines or diagnostics is given as an example; it is not always necessary to follow these when there are scientifically justifiable reasons for using alternative approaches. Bibliographic references that provide further information are listed at the end of each chapter.

- **Table of tests available for each disease and their purpose**

It has been agreed to include in each disease-specific chapter a table of the diagnostic tests available and in use for the disease graded against six purposes. The purposes relate to Chapter 1.1.6 *Principles and methods of validation of diagnostic assays for infectious diseases*, which identifies six main purposes for which diagnostic tests may be carried out. The aim of the table is to give a concise guide (elaborated in the text of the chapter) as to which tests are appropriate for which purpose.

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