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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Animals and Veterinary Questions (Chief Veterinary Officers)

Subject: CVOs 2-3 December 2025 - AOB: G7 Chief Veterinary Officers Statement - Information from France

Delegations will find in annex a note transmitted by the French delegation under the agenda item AOB.



**CHIEF VETERINARY
OFFICERS' FORUM**

OTTAWA

**FORUM DES CHEFS DES
SERVICES VÉTÉRINAIRES**

G7 CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICERS STATEMENT

OTTAWA, ONTARIO – NOVEMBER 7, 2025

We, the G7 Chief Veterinary Officers (CVOs) representing Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and with the European Commission, along with the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), met in Ottawa, Canada, November 6-7, 2025 to discuss issues of global importance to animal health, and international trade.

Mindful of the G7's role as both a global leader and catalyst for action, CVOs came together to share best practices, anticipate future challenges, and strengthen our collective capacity to safeguard global animal and public health.

Drawing on outcomes from recent meetings in Japan and Italy, the two-day event focused on key issues of shared concern with the goal of fostering dialogue and innovation.

BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity has been and remains a prominent topic of discussion amongst G7 CVOs, and the emergence of high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI), and African swine fever (ASF) among other diseases of economic importance, has further highlighted the importance of biosecurity as a means of preventing and controlling disease spread.

During this session, we explored the role of social and behavioural sciences, including approaches that have proven effective, and equally, barriers to the successful implementation of biosecurity protocols. Discussions also touched on motivation and how best to encourage compliance, build trust and sustain behavioural change. The need to quantify and measure the resulting impacts, including those related to disease prevention, was also discussed at length.

Ultimately, we agreed that behavioural science plays a key role in both shaping and strengthening biosecurity programs. During this session, we also identified several practical and effective approaches, including better defining biosecurity and communicating its tangible benefits, peer-to-peer sharing of information, as well as broader engagement with the private sector, that can be employed domestically and highlighted in international fora.

VACCINATION

Like biosecurity, vaccination has proven an essential tool for managing exotic, endemic and (re)emerging diseases alike. A comprehensive vaccination program also protects animal health and welfare and mitigates many of the impacts of an outbreak, including antimicrobial resistance and losses of food supply.

The challenges associated with implementing a vaccination program to control disease, including vaccine availability, costs, and ongoing reluctance, were discussed. This session focused in large part on understanding risks and benefits to trade, including the importance of building confidence amongst partners, the economics of vaccination, and importantly, adherence to Resolution no. 29, adopted in May 2025 by WOA's General Assembly.

Beyond reducing trade concerns, discussions also touched on the development and promotion of a global approach to exotic disease vaccination standards as well as means to support countries – either bilaterally, regionally, or through international bodies – wishing to implement comprehensive vaccination programs by encouraging the use of quality vaccines, establishing vaccine banks for priority diseases and facilitating vaccine registration.

ZONING

We acknowledged that zoning, in accordance with international standards, is an essential tool for maintaining safe trade and managing animal health risks during outbreaks. Despite its effectiveness, we noted that awareness of zoning principles remains uneven, and acceptance inconsistent.

During discussions, we shared recent experiences establishing and maintaining zones, including for example the 'white zone' for ASF employed in the European Union, as a means of identifying challenges associated with acceptance, and highlighting proven solutions. This session also explored the interaction and alignment between domestic legislation and WOA standards.

We agreed that G7 member countries should strive for, and champion, the broader acceptance and adoption of zoning policies and practices, consistent use of terminology, and the timely recognition of zones. We also agreed to pursue the proactive advancement of best practices, including transparency, to both influence global norms and further support the implementation of successful approaches into international standards.

FORESIGHTING

In recent years, animal health threats have become increasingly far-reaching, frequent and complex. The thinking and approaches applied to enhancing animal health, regarded as effective in the past, now need to be reviewed to better anticipate, prevent, and manage animal health challenges of the future.

With this in mind, we exchanged methods, best practices and tools currently employed to identify future risks and strengthen preparedness. Mindful of the fact that there is considerable appetite and enthusiasm for this work, and that our respective activities produce vast amounts of data, much of this discussion focused on how to use this information to identify priorities, drive policy and take timely action.

With a good sense of the activities each member is undertaking, we agreed to continue exploring avenues to share outputs across members, including leveraging existing bodies and/or the establishment of communities of practice, as well as opportunities for global leadership.

ONE HEALTH

The One Health approach recognizes that human health is intrinsically linked to the health of animals and the environment. This connection is most evident through zoonotic diseases, and demands collaboration to monitor, prevent, and control spread, as well as address other critical areas like antimicrobial resistance and food security.

We discussed the importance of connecting veterinary and public health leaders, as well as means to overcome barriers that may hinder effective collaboration.

Owing to these discussions, we agreed to share practical tools and models for effective One Health collaboration, and where possible, seize opportunities to advance One Health approaches globally.

The 2025 Forum marked the continuation of a collaboration that began in 2016, and reaffirmed the G7's commitment to:

- **Promoting animal health and welfare worldwide.**
- **Enhancing information sharing to support risk management and evidence-based decision-making.**
- **Advancing proactive strategies to prepare for, prevent and respond to emerging animal health risks.**

The discussions underscored the importance of continued collaboration among G7 nations to align priorities, develop joint strategies, and support resilient veterinary systems according to WOAHS standards. The outcomes of this Forum will inform future policy development and cooperative initiatives, reinforcing the role of veterinary leadership in safeguarding global health.

Canada thanks all participants for their contributions and looks forward to continued engagement and progress under France's presidency.