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Subject: REPORT TO THE CITES SECRETARIAT(Japan, Notification to the Parties No. 2023/028 Risk of future zoonotic disease emergence associated with international wildlife trade)
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To: info@cites.org
Cc: thea.carroll@un.org, MARUYAMA FUMIE fumie.maruyama@mofa.go.jp, 田邊 依里子 (ERIKO TANABE) ERIKO_TANABE@env.go.jp, 尾由布子 (YUFUKO OZAKI) YUFUKO_OZAKI@env.go.jp, MARIKO WATANABE(JAPAN) mariko.watanabe-2@mofa.go.jp



Dear the Secretariat of CITES,

Pursuant to Decision 19.15 on “The role of CITES in reducing the risk of future emergence of zoonotic diseases associated with international wildlife trade” adopted at the 19th Conference of the Parties (Panama City, 2022), Notice 2023/08 (March 16, 2023) is issued by the CITES Secretariat. Japan reports on "any they have in place to prevent and mitigate the risk of pathogen spillover and transmission from wild trade and associated wildlife supply chains including markets" as follows.

In Japan, three main ministries work together to deal with zoonoses: the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW), which deal with human infection and zoonosis control; the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), which deals with livestock animals; and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE), which deals with biodiversity conservation.

1 Normal occasion

1.1 Identification of occurrence and retention status

MHLW requires physicians and veterinarians to notify when they have diagnosed patients or animals to be infected with certain infectious disease based on the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases. MAFF is responsible for monitoring outbreaks of livestock and poultry diseases in accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock. It also conducts research on livestock diseases (including zoonoses). MOE conducts research on avian influenza (wild birds and domesticated birds in zoos, etc.).

1.2 Countermeasures against sources of infection

MHLW allows prefectural governor to exterminate and disinfects infectious agents (e.g., ticks, mosquitoes, rats, etc.) in accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases. In accordance with the Rabies Prevention Law, rabies vaccination and registration of dogs with municipalities are mandatory. Based on the Slaughterhouse Act, etc., slaughterhouse inspections and food sanitation measures are implemented. MAFF promotes the implementation of biosecurity and other measures for the management of livestock and poultry in accordance with the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock. MOE implements global warming countermeasures, and wildlife protection and management based on the Act on Wildlife Protection, Control, and Hunting Management. It also promotes proper care and management of animals by animal handling business operators and citizens, microchip implant into cats and dogs and registration of the data, based on the Act on Welfare and Management of Animals.

1.3 Informing animal owners and other stakeholders

MHLW conducts public awareness programs for the public and related parties through its website, posters, and symposiums. It also disseminates professional guidelines to sellers and other related parties. MAFF disseminates and provides information to livestock farmers, local governments, and other related parties. MOE disseminates information to animal handling business operators and animal owners, etc.

1.4 Import and Quarantine

MHLW prohibits the importation of monkeys, bats, raccoons, civets, etc. for pet use, checks the health certificates of imported animals under the Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases. MAFF conducts import and export quarantine of animals in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. (e.g., for dogs and cats, Rabies Prevention Act, for monkeys for research or exhibition, Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Medical Care for Patients with Infectious Diseases, and for livestock and poultry, and their products, Act on the Prevention of Infectious Diseases in Livestock)

2 Interagency Coordination in Emergencies

In case of emergency, interagency liaison meetings (e.g., highly pathogenic avian influenza, monkeypox etc.) are held to implement interagency collaboration.

Bests,

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