

Subject: Sweden's response to notification no. 2023/028

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From: Erik.Dalarud@jordbruksverket.se

To: UNOG-UNEP-CITES Info

CC: Marie Dahlström, Thea Henriette Carroll, ENV-CITES@ec.europa.eu

Dear CITES Secretariat,

In response to notification 2023/028, Sweden, as a member of the EU, adheres to the EU regulations and generally refers to the European Commission's response.

Sweden has a strong tradition of utilizing and trading products derived from our native wildlife. Our population's close connection with nature has led to a well-developed system for managing these resources. Monitoring diseases in wild animals is essential and our National Veterinary Institute together with the Swedish Museum of Natural History and hunting associations have a long tradition in surveilling the health of our wildlife. Local people provide valuable knowledge and often report dead animals. Monitoring the disease situation among wild animals is mainly done through post-mortem examinations and ancillary testing of wildlife found dead and through targeted collections of wildlife samples, the latter often done within various research projects. Sweden employs citizen science by encouraging the public to report observations of wildlife that appear to be sick as well as to send wildlife found dead to the National Veterinary Institute to determine the cause of death. Animals killed through legal hunting are routinely checked for potential diseases. Public awareness of food hygiene and proper handling of game and fish helps prevent zoonotic disease transmission.

More information is available on the National Veterinary Institute's website:

<https://www.sva.se/en/wildlife/>.

Health surveillance is integrated with environmental surveillance, which underscores the importance of a cross-cutting approach. Close cooperation between all authorities involved ensures that trade does not pose a threat.

Sweden's cross-sectoral cooperation with national and international animal and public health authorities is exemplified by partnerships such as the one between Swedish Customs, County administrative boards, and the Swedish Board of Agriculture to prevent rabies from entering the country. Additionally, cross-agency collaboration involving the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, the Swedish Museum of Natural History, the National Veterinary Institute, the Swedish National Food Administration, County administrative boards and the Swedish Board of Agriculture supports surveillance of wildlife.

In addition, Sweden also implements a number of stricter measures that further mitigate risks associated with pathogen spillover and transmission in wildlife trade, such as:

1. Enforcing regulation that prohibits the capture and possession of animals and plants protected under the Swedish Species Protection Ordinance;
2. Banning the possession and sale of wild bird species native to the EU (including captive-bred specimens of such species); and
3. Prohibiting the keeping of wild-caught vertebrate animals of all species (excluding fish species) by private individuals, as well as the sale or possession of raptors, primates, or carnivores (excluding dogs, cats, badgers and domesticated ferrets) as pets.
4. Banning the keeping of birds and mammals of wild species in enclosures without permission under the Swedish Hunting legislation.
5. Banning the release of birds and mammals of wild species in nature without permission under the Swedish Hunting legislation.

These measures, rooted in the principle of prevention being better than cure, contribute to the regulation of trade and animal keeping, ultimately reducing the risk of communicable diseases.

Sweden is committed to both animal welfare and the prevention of zoonotic diseases, recognizing their interdependence. Sweden applies strict animal welfare rules which in themselves are preventative in nature and inhibits the emergence and spread of diseases. This approach highlights the importance of effectively enforcing legal trade compliance and combatting illegal trade to prevent disease spread. Illegal trade directly impacts animal care, leading to poor animal health and an increased risk of zoonotic

disease transmission.

In cases where it is necessary to prevent the spread of disease, Sweden may consider euthanasia, depending on the specific disease agent and the circumstances surrounding each case. This decision is always made on a case-by-case basis, ensuring alignment with broader health and safety considerations. Relevant authorities make decisions regarding euthanasia for animals identified as carriers of harmful pathogens, taking into account specific circumstances and potential risks.

Sincerely,

Erik Dalarud

Swedish CITES Management Authority
Swedish Board of Agriculture