



Association of Veterinary Consultants

***Points to Consider from Ukraine-Russia conflict***

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# **AVC – role and activities**



Association of Veterinary Consultants

- All qualified veterinarians, almost 50 in number, international in geography and scope
- All working in small independent consultancies or SMEs
- Providing advice, practical assistance and support to enterprises such as feed additive, pharmaceutical, vaccines, food production companies & governments
- Organising laboratory, pre-clinical and clinical studies for new animal health and nutrition products
- Experienced with all types of animals including pets, farm, aquaculture and bees, epidemiology, disease management
- Some also involved in other aspects of applied biosciences eg human biotechnology, biomaterials, investment, market strategy, communication and education
- AVC is an Interested Party at EFSA, EMA and HMA and provides responses to consultations

# ***AVC and Emerging Risks - Topics***



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***Points to consider from Ukraine-Russia conflict***

***Displacement of animals***

***Disruption of supply of animal health products***

***Disruption of feed supplies***

- ❖ The situation has worsened since M Ferri presentation (see <https://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/events/27th-meeting-efsa-stakeholder-discussion-group-emerging-risks-stadg-er> for this)
- ❖ *Displacement of animals [& people]*
  - Refugees' pets situation – lack of vets and closure of laboratories in Ukraine – risk esp. of rabies
  - Risks of influx of wildlife diseases eg. rabies, ASF
  - Risks of influx of human diseases eg TB, polio
- ❖ *Disruption of supply of animal health products*
  - A risk to animal populations in Russia of death or disease as a result of embargos on supply of vaccines from rest of Europe & RoW eg Australia
  - Currently no capability for production of effective safe immunologicals in Russia itself
  - A “rebound risk” to nearby EU countries of increased disease incidence spilling across borders

# *EU countries bordering Ukraine*



*Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Romania - >2,200 Km in total*

# ***Disruption of feed supplies & components***

- A risk to Europe of interruption of diet components obtained from Ukraine &/or Russia
- Though 6<sup>th</sup> package of sanctions exempts food and agricultural materials, these will be disrupted due to collection & transport issues from RU/UA & destruction of crops in Ukraine
- Imports of usable processing wastes like beet pulp, bagasse and brewers' residual materials are banned
- Russia and Ukraine are important producers of raw material and recovered nutrients (wheat, feed maize, oilseed, sugar and brewery co-products)
- 93% of Russia's exports of 1.3 Mt of beet pulp in 2021 came into Europe; the est. 2022 output of oilseed meals is 13.3 Mt
- Agricultural imports from RU in 2020 were worth €1.8B, >50% oilcakes, oilseeds and feed ingredients
- Ukraine is normally a major supplier of sunflower seed meals and cake
- A further difficulty - use of animal-origin materials banned for pigs in Russia from March 2023

# Potential risks of alternatives to imports

- Circular Feed means reclaiming nutrients from as much material as possible, directly or via intermediates
- Direct reclamation may introduce diseases to animals or to consumers (eg ASF, Salmonella, TSEs), toxic materials (eg fungal or bacterial toxins), anti-nutritive factors (eg tannins or anti-trypsins in crops, wood wastes) & other as-yet unknown hazards
- Use of intermediates is possible eg Black Soldier Fly larvae for solid wastes, microalgae for nutrient-containing liquids, fungal mycelia for high-cellulose/lignin material
- Do we have the luxury of adhering to all trials and test requirements or could these be streamlined as emergency response? eg Novel Feeds Reg is a significant brake on use of new sources of nutrients; definitions of 'wastes' & fixed decisions on management are another hurdle
- Accelerated efforts are needed to harness as much wasted nutrients as possible.

# Thoughts and suggestions

- Unwanted diseases in companion animals – increase use of Point-of-decision Dx deployment: multiplex testing suitable for detection of active antigens/pathogens – RM is more difficult as quarantine seems unrealistic and destruction inhumane
- Infectious displaced wildlife or domestic animals or rebound diseases - similar to wild boar ASF monitoring, if systems are in place in neighbouring countries PL, SK, RO, HU (MD)
- EC to maintain public support for existing humanitarian supply of animal vaccines to Ukraine & assist smaller EU manufacturers
- RM for feed components is already in hand - acceleration of import substitution, supporting alternative sources of proteins, oils, carbohydrates - subsidies for protein crops, biomass extraction (wood-pulp, cereal straws, seaweed/microalgae, insects)
- Multiplex testing for in-feed/in-food pathogens & toxins
- Identification of most appropriate cell/organoid-based tests to replace live animal studies for circular nutrients
- Also needed, a streamlining of regulatory pathways notably Novel Foods Reg



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*Welcome to new AVC representatives/observers Dr  
Birgit Roser & Dr Rimma Ishimbaeva*