CHAPTER 8.5.  
  
**INFECTION WITH *ECHINOCOCCUS GRANULOSUS***

Article 8.5.1.

**General provisions**

*Echinococcus granulosus (E. granulosus)* is a widely distributed cestode (tapeworm). The adult worms occur in the small intestine of canids (definitive host). Larval stages (hydatid) occur in tissues of liver, lung and other organs of other mammals (intermediate host), including humans. *Infection* with the larval stage of the parasite in the intermediate host, referred to as 'cystic echinococcosis' or 'hydatidosis', is associated with significant economic losses in livestock production and causes a major disease burden in humans.

For the purposes of the *Terrestrial Code*, *infection* with *E. granulosus* is defined as a zoonotic parasitic *infection* of canids, ungulates and macropod marsupials with *E. granulosus* (ovine, bovine, cervid, camelid and porcine strains).

For the purposes of this chapter, offal is defined as internal organs of ungulates and macropod marsupials.

Transmission of *E. granulosus* to canids occurs through ingestion of hydatid-infected offal.

*Infection* in intermediate hosts, as well as in humans, occurs by ingestion of *E. granulosus* eggs from contaminated environments. In humans, *infection* may also occur following contact with infected canids or by consumption of food or water contaminated with *E. granulosus* eggs from canine faeces.

*Infection* in humans can be prevented by good food hygiene and personal hygiene, community health education and preventing *infection* of canids. Collaboration between the *Competent Authority* and the public health authority is an essential component in preventing and controlling *E. granulosus* transmission.

This chapter provides recommendations for prevention of, control of, and *surveillance* for *infection* with *E. granulosus* in dogs and livestock.

When authorising the import or transit of the *commodities* covered in this chapter, with the exception of those listed in Article 8.5.2., *Veterinary Authorities* should apply the recommendations in this chapter.

Standards for diagnostic tests and vaccines are described in the *Terrestrial Manual*.

[…]

Article 8.5.3.

**Programmes for the prevention and control of infection with *E. granulosus***

In order to prevent and control *infection* with *E. granulosus*, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* should carry out community awareness programmes about the risk factors associated with transmission of *E. granulosus*, the role of dogs (including *~~stray~~ free-roaming dogs*) and the importance of *responsible dog ownership*. The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* should also implement the following prevention and control measures.

1. Prevention of infection in dogs ~~(owned and stray)~~

a) Dogs should not be fed offal unless it has been treated in accordance with Article 8.5.6.

b) Dogs should be prevented from scavenging on dead ungulates and macropod marsupials. Dead animals should be disposed of in accordance with Article 4.13.6.

c) The *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* should ensure that *slaughterhouses/abattoirs* have implemented measures that prevent access of dogs to the premises, and to animal carcasses and waste containing offal.

d) When livestock cannot be slaughtered in a *slaughterhouse/abattoir* and are slaughtered on-farm, dogs should be prevented from having access to raw offal, and not be fed offal unless it has been treated in accordance with Article 8.5.6.

2. Control of infection in dogs ~~(owned and stray)~~

a) For control of *~~stray~~ free-roaming dog* populations, the *Veterinary Authority* or other *Competent Authority* should implement relevant aspects of Chapter 7.7.

b) Dogs known to be infected or suspected of having access to raw offal or in contact with livestock should be dewormed at least every 4-6 weeks with praziquantel (5 mg/kg) or another cestocidal product with comparable efficacy. Where possible, faeces excreted up to 72 hours post treatment should be disposed of by incineration or burial.

c) In areas of persistent transmission, the *Veterinary Authority* and other *Competent Authority* should collaborate to identify the possible origins of the *infection*, and review and amend the control programme, as appropriate.

3. Control of infection in livestock

a) The *Veterinary Authority* should ensure that all slaughtered livestock are subjected to post-mortem *meat* inspection in accordance with Chapter 6.3., including inspection of offal for hydatids.

b) When hydatids are detected during post-mortem *meat* inspection:

~~c)~~ i) offal containing hydatids should be disposed of in accordance with Article 4.13.6., or treated in accordance with Article 8.5.6.;

~~d)~~ ii) an investigation should be carried out by the *Veterinary Authority* and other *Competent Authority* to identify the possible origin of the *infection*, and review and amend, as appropriate, the control programme.~~;~~

c) Where indicated, ~~C~~control programmes should include the *vaccination* of livestock with the objective of decreasing the prevalence of *infection* in livestock.

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