

Zoonotic disease across species borders: DVS role to prevent and control zoonotic diseases

R Pravina Vathi Ramachanderen

Department of Veterinary Services Perak, Malaysia

ABSTRACT

Zoonotic disease are diseases which is transmissible from animals to human. It is estimated that zoonotic diseases account for about 60% of new diseases that are reported worldwide. Over 30 new human diseases have been identified in the previous three decades, and 75% of these are animal-origin pathogens. The increasing volume of international trade, close proximity to animals, transboundary livestock movement within neighbouring countries, massive development and disappearance of forest and wild animal habitats are major contributing factors to the rising threat of zoonotic diseases in Malaysia. Zoonotic infections also pose economic consequences due to loss of animal trade through morbidity and mortality of infected animals and also due to the impact on human health and livelihood. Large number of smallholder ruminant and livestock farms pose as an of the important risk factor for zoonoses in Malaysia. Zoonotic diseases of concern in Malaysia includes Rabies, Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Brucellosis, Leptospirosis, Nipah and Q-fever. Department of Veterinary Services, Malaysia conducts active surveillance for the diseases annually to reduce prevalence of the disease and also to maintain freedom from the disease. Further to that, animal health surveillance is also conducted along the livestock and livestock production chains which includes the entry point, farms, slaughterhouse and processing plants for detection of zoonotic pathogens to ensure the safety of human health and sustain food safety. As human health, animal health and environment are closely connected, the One-Health concept or collaboration across all sectors is crucial to address the existing and emerging zoonotic diseases.