



AVIS: The Fact Sheet



ADVANCED VETERINARY INFORMATION SYSTEM

The World Veterinary Conference, Tunis, September 2002

1. AVIS: The Advanced Veterinary Information System

The AVIS System was initiated in 1992 to pioneer the creation of peer-reviewed, "gold-standard" computer-based multimedia reference and training materials for the use of professionals and decision-makers in animal health and production. AVIS offers:

- authoritative reference information, such as the OIE Diagnostic Manual, FAO Manuals and the expertise of the designated World Reference Laboratory
- decision-support tools
- an extensive photographic resource library
- capacity-building and training
- standardization of approaches to key diseases

delivered in a rapidly accessible, cost-effective and highly useable format.

List A Focused, Selective List B

The primary AVIS targets are List A diseases, such as FMD. But key List B diseases, such as Rabies and Brucellosis are also addressed.

A Modular, Highly Cost-Effective Approach

The AVIS system is disease-focused, and modular. Every disease is reviewed in an **Overview** module. And depending on the significance and complexity of that disease there are up to five further modules, each meeting the needs of a different stakeholder group.

Each module is richly illustrated with colour photographs and diagrams, and even video clips, using the full range of multimedia techniques.

A wide variety of **Tools**, such as checklists and animations of key processes, are accessible from all modules. These make the programs highly suited to real time professional support, as well as training.

Powerful navigation aids and a search engine make the system's huge knowledge base easy to access and use. Each module can be used in stand-alone form. But modules interlink across all diseases to form a comprehensive reference tool and knowledge-base.

A Proven Multimedia Training and Capacity-Building Tool

AVIS has proven highly cost-effective for training key personnel. Screens are designed with overhead projection in mind.

CD-ROM or Internet Access

All AVIS programs are available either on CD-ROM or over the Internet. The entire content may also be printed. **Sample FMD** at www.aviscollegeonline.com, or find **AVIS Overviews** on the FAO website: www.fao.org.

An AVIS subscription service opens on January 1st 2003.

AVIS: The Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome, L'Office International des Epizooties, Paris, Institute of Animal Health, UK, Telos Aleff Ltd., London

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2. AVIS: Addressing Stakeholder Needs

The AVIS approach recognises that different stakeholders in animal health and production have different needs, but common standards link all actions and interventions.

The **Overview** module gives the non-specialist a rapid and authoritative introduction to the key issues concerning a given disease. Further modules address the specific stakeholders. You may sample the AVIS Overviews on the FAO Website:

www.fao.org/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/GEMP.htm

The AVIS Stakeholders

- ❖ Planners and decision makers on national and sub-national level
- ❖ National veterinary authorities and reference sites
- ❖ Regional field staff and extension services, including veterinarians
- ❖ Laboratory workers
- ❖ Epidemiologists and control specialists
- ❖ Livestock producers and farming communities
- ❖ Personnel from enterprises and organizations involved in animal disease control, i.e. meat and dairy industry, vaccine producers, NGOs
- ❖ Veterinary students.

Particular attention is paid to the importance of vigilance and early response to risk.

Languages

After the initial phase of the AVIS project (1992-99), which focused on the production of English-language programs, AVIS is now working, where there is identified need, in English, Spanish and French. Rabies, for example, will be available in all three languages. Other languages, such as Arabic are under active discussion. If you have a specific language requirement, please contact the AVIS office in London.

The Power and Ease of Multimedia

Multimedia technology puts users at the centre of an authoritative information web. Color photographs, hotwords or hyperlinks, animations and maps make the knowledge-base easy to comprehend and navigate for the trainee or non-specialist. For the busy professional, a single mouse click opens the box of "Tools" which support key daily tasks in disease prevention, recognition and management. Each program contains a sophisticated glossary, user-defined search facility and a "Map" button for fast access to key reference materials.

Screen design, functionality, navigation and content structure are simple and standardized throughout the system; so every module works in the same way. Access to information is mostly through mouse clicks, but powerful utilities, such as a search engine and a content map are also available.

Customisation

AVIS is open to proposals for customization of the suite of programs for particular needs, such as local legal requirements, language, culture, regional need. These include Internet enabled versions of the programs for closed user communities. The precondition for such customization is retention of the integrity of the peer-reviewed content, based on international standards.



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3. AVIS Associations and Collaborations

AVIS welcomes collaboration and association with complementary projects. Examples to date include:

- **EMPRES: Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP)**

The objectives of AVIS are also coordinated with the FAO EMPRES action.

Planning: In order to prepare well for a possible animal disease outbreak, good planning is essential, to a high level of precision and detail.

GEMP: Following on its decision to promote a standard policy for the management of emergency situations, EMPRES has now formulated a code of practice, **Good Emergency Management Practice (GEMP)**. This is recently released in multimedia form, both as CD-ROM and as Website.

For details see the FAO website:

www.fao.org/AGA/AGAH/EMPRES/GEMP.htm

- **Molecular Diagnostic Techniques**

A companion series of programs is also being developed on diagnostic techniques derived from molecular biology. The first program, the **Overview**, was released in October 1999. A web-enabled version is also now available.

- **GLP**

An introductory program into Good Laboratory Practice is also now available. Details on request

The AVIS Consortium

The AVIS Consortium consists of Founders and Associates, working together both to reflect and to meet the needs of all stakeholders..

The **Founders** are:

- ❖ BBSRC Institute for Animal Health, Compton and Pirbright, UK
- ❖ The Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome, Italy
- ❖ L'Office International des Epizooties, Paris, France
- ❖ Telos ALEFF Ltd., London, UK.

Each consortium member reviews and signs off each program before release, and is committed to regular review and update.

Associates now include:

- AFSSA, Nancy
- The Veterinary Laboratory Agency, Weybridge, UK
- The United States Department of Agriculture, Washington DC
- TAIEX Office, European Commission, Brussels
- PANVAC, Ethiopia
- The University of Florida, Gainesville.



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4. PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AND SPECIAL EDITIONS

- ❖ **Foot and Mouth Disease**
 - Overview
 - Clinical Disease and Diagnosis
 - Laboratory Diagnosis
 - Epidemiology
 - Control

- ❖ **Poultry Diseases**
 - Overview of Key Diseases
 - Poultry Hygiene
 - Newcastle Disease
 - Avian Influenza

- ❖ **Rinderpest**
 - Overview
 - Recognizing Rinderpest
 - Diagnosing Rinderpest
 - Practical Guide for Field Personnel
 - Disease and Serological Surveillance
 - Picture, Print and Promote – Village Education

- ❖ **Rabies**
 - Overview
 - Prevention and Control

- ❖ **Bluetongue**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

- ❖ **Brucellosis**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory

- ❖ **CBPP**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

- ❖ **PPR**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

- ❖ **African Swine Fever**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

- ❖ **African Horse Sickness**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

- ❖ **Swine Vesicular Disease**
 - Overview
 - Laboratory Diagnosis

SPECIAL EDITIONS

Special editions have been developed successfully to date for the European Union, TAIEX Office, servicing 14 countries, and for the Sudan. AVIS welcomes applications from countries or regions for special editions suited to their needs.

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5. AVIS Pricing Policy and Discounts

AVIS is self-financing and revenues from published programs are used to fund the development of new ones.

Pricing policy is determined by the consortium members in consultation with users. There are significant discounts for developing countries and educational uses. The purchase of AVIS programs has also been supported by a wide number of governmental, non-governmental and commercial organizations. Details can be provided on request.

Licences

A wide variety of licenses is available, including for Internet or intranet server delivery, as follows:

- ❖ Individual use
- ❖ Sites, laboratories and institutes
- ❖ Educational sites and institutions
- ❖ Training programs
- ❖ Special projects
- ❖ Regional programs
- ❖ Commercial enterprises.

To determine which one suits your needs and to review pricing and discounts please contact Telos ALEFF Ltd. or an AVIS consortium member.

Technical Support

For technical support, please contact Dr. Mark Rweyemamu, AVIS Technical Director, at the AVIS Office, or by email MarkRweyemamu@hotmail.com.

Scientific Direction

Please contact Dr. Bill Geering, AVIS Scientific Editor, for advice on submitting scientific proposals to AVIS, at the AVIS Office or email wgeering@austarmetro.com.au.

Enquiries and Sales

For inquiries and sales please contact Dr. Malika Moussaid, Project Manager:

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Subscription Service

AVIS will offer a full web-based subscription service from January 1st 2003.