
Third session
Geneva, 27 November-8 December 1995

FRIEND OF THE CHAIR ON DEFINITION AND OBJECTIVE CRITERIA

This paper is without prejudice to the positions of delegations on the issues under consideration in the Ad Hoc Group and does not imply agreement on the scope or content of the paper.

Criteria for Animal Pathogens

The following criteria were discussed by the Group and may be used in combination for selection of animal pathogens to be included in a list of bacteriological (Biological) agents and toxins. These criteria should somehow determine pathogens which could directly or indirectly have significant socio-economic or health impacts.

1. Agents known to have been developed, produced, or used as weapons.
2. High morbidity rates.
3. High mortality rates.
4. Short incubation period.
5. Broad host range.
6. Transmission through respiratory route.
7. No prophylaxis available.
8. Low infection dose.
9. Stability in the environment.
10. Ease of production.
11. High level of contagiousness.

Definition of some terms:

Morbidity: Ratio of sick to healthy animals
Contagiousness: Capability to be communicable
Mortality: Ratio of dead to sick animals