

Experience of Lithuania in preparing and submitting a self-declaration of freedom from infection with rabies virus

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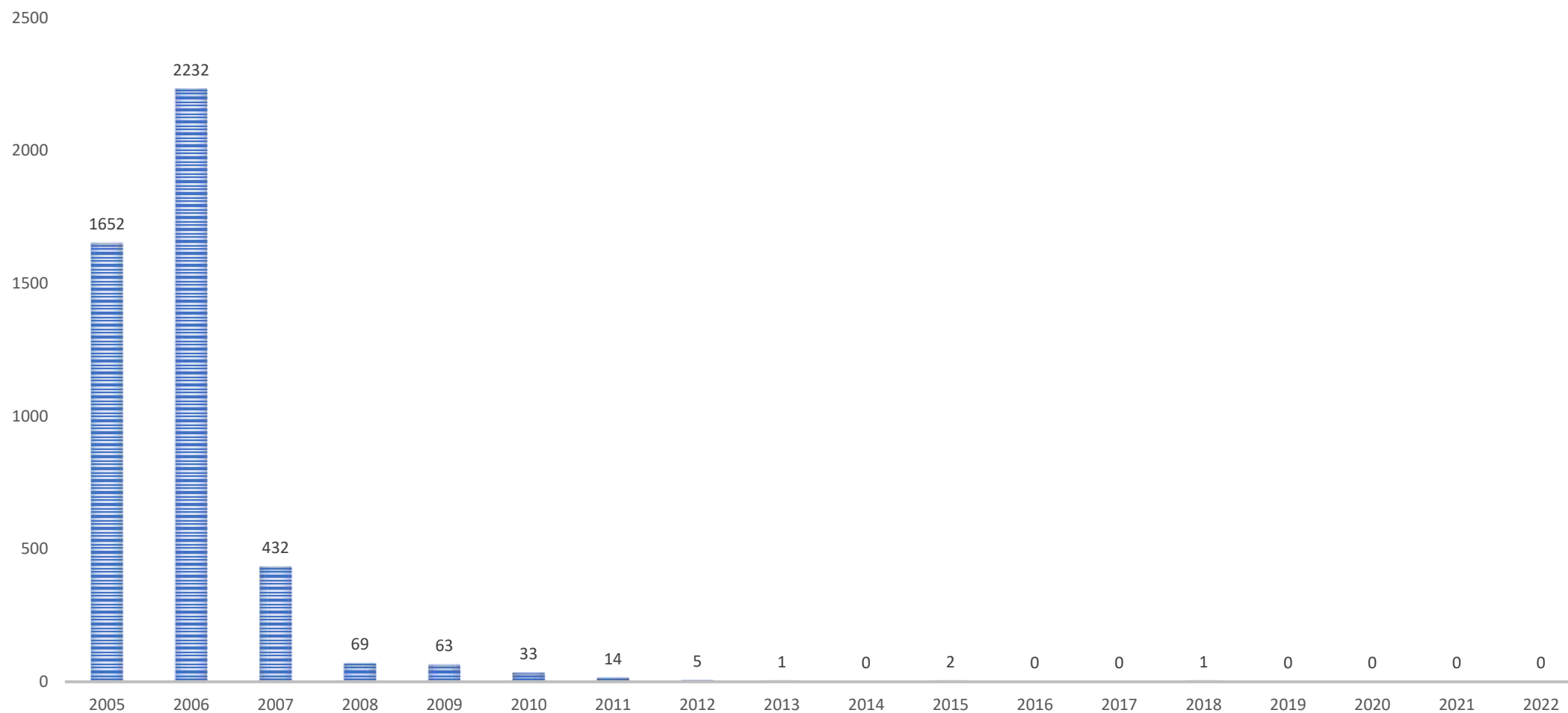
Purpose and main benefits of the publication of a self-declaration by WOA

- Free traveling with pets
- Trade in pets and fur animals
- Trade in products with „stricter“ countries
- Attractive country for travelers
- Good evaluation of activities of State Food and Veterinary Service

Legal base:

- [Regulation \(EU\) 2016/429](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health (Animal Health Law)
- Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/620 of 15 April 2021 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the approval of the disease-free and non-vaccination status of certain Member States or zones or compartments thereof as regards certain listed diseases and the approval of eradication programmes for those listed diseases

Dynamic of rabies during 2005–2022



Location of positive rabies cases

2013 (dog)



2015 (fox and racoon dog)



2018 (fox)



Lithuania has provided self declaration of freedom from rabies on 09/03/2015 and was free until 23/10/2015

Measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country

From 2006, aerial oral rabies vaccination campaign (covering red foxes and raccoon dogs) started using airplanes.

- The oral vaccination area was approx. 65,000 km² (all territory of Lithuania). Two campaigns have been carried out every year (spring and autumn), 1.3 million baits per campaign are used (i.e. 2.6 million vaccine baits per year).
- Baits were distributed by four Cessna-type small airplanes at a density of approximately not less than 20 baits/km².
- The aircraft flying lines were separated by 1,000 m; only near the border with Belarus flying lines were 500 m.
- LYSVULPEN vaccine (producer- Bioveta, Sad Berne MSV Bio 10 min. 1.8×10^6 TCID₅₀ – max. 1.8×10^8 TCID₅₀) is used since 2013.



Measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country

- The oral rabies vaccination campaign in all territory of Lithuania was performed from 2006 until 2017
- Since 2018, an oral vaccination campaign is carried out at the 50 km buffer zone at the border with Belarus (20,400 km²). Not less than 25 baits per square km are distributed, flight lines are separated by 500 meters and 505,000 baits are distributed per campaign (1,010,000 per year).

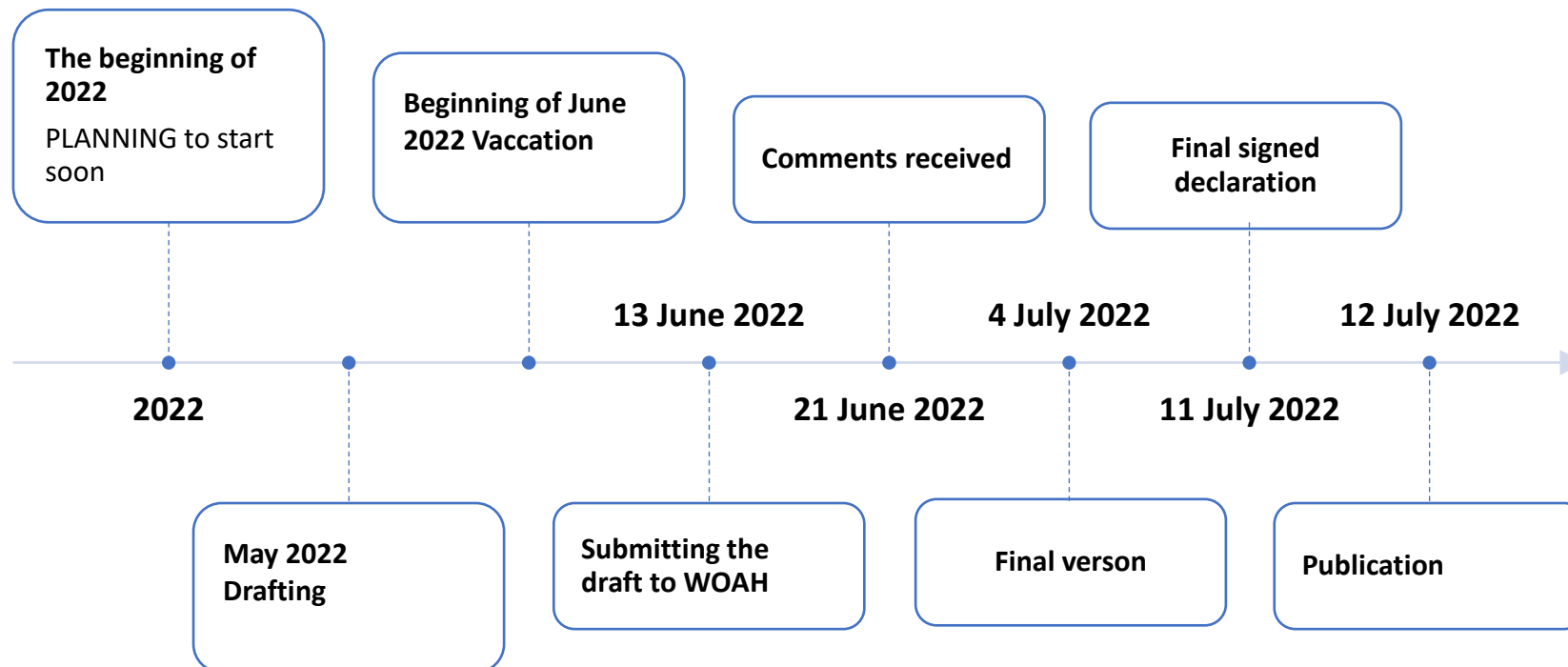


Measures implemented to maintain freedom in the country

Main objectives of the rabies eradication program, which has started in 2004 are as follows:

- early detection of rabies cases (report of suspicion)
- collect evidence of freedom of the disease (passive surveillance)
- evaluation of the efficiency of an oral rabies vaccination program (active surveillance)
- Identification and registration of pets (dogs, cats and ferrets)
- Pet import control

Estimated time taken for preparing self-declaration





Special thanks to:

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