




Austrian's experience with FMD preparedness

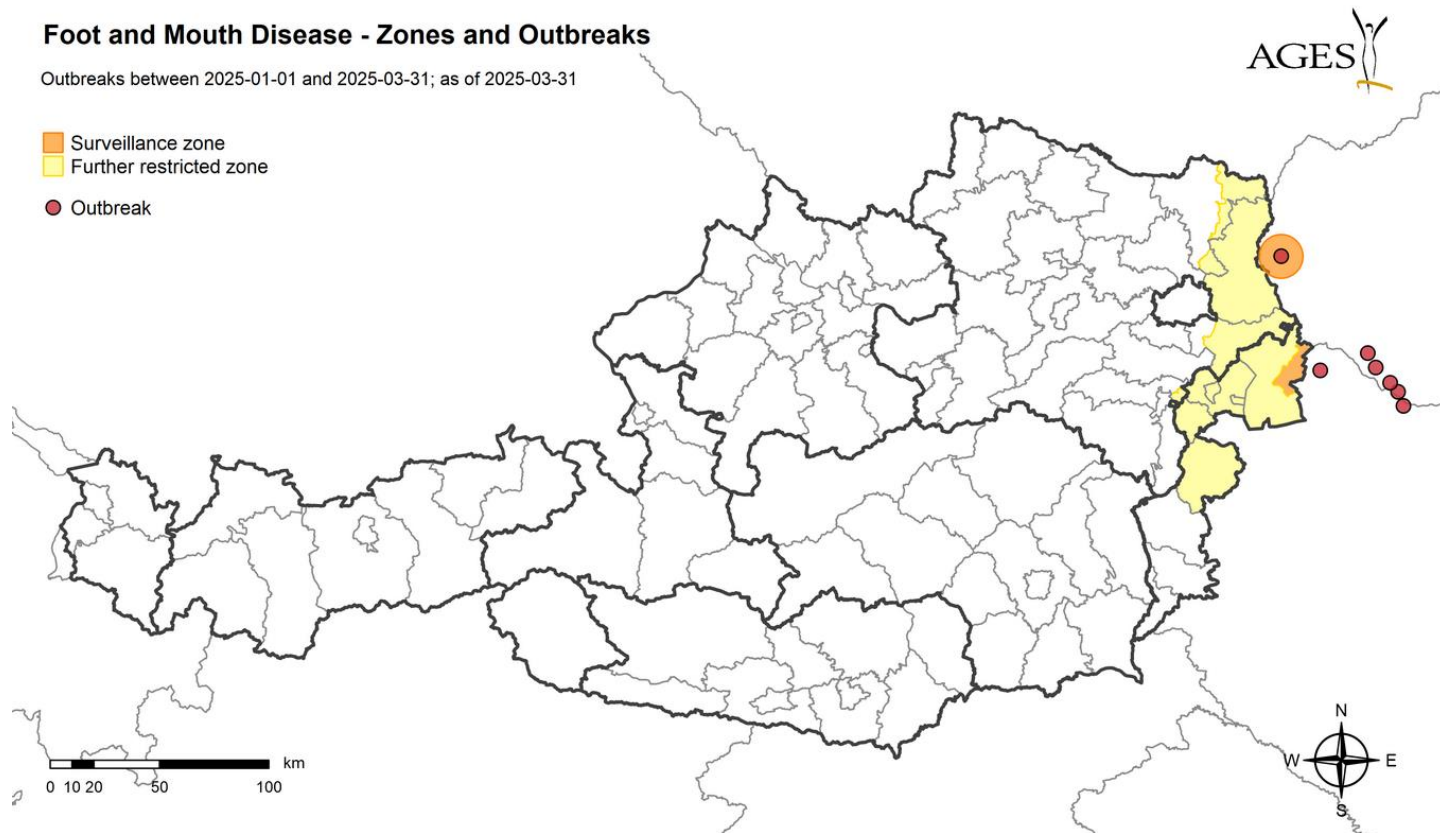
Ulrich Herzog
WOAH EEC BT & FMD workshop
30.06.2025

Situation in AT between March and May 2025

Foot and Mouth Disease - Zones and Outbreaks

Outbreaks between 2025-01-01 and 2025-03-31; as of 2025-03-31

-  Surveillance zone
-  Further restricted zone
-  Outbreak



Active surveillance within zones

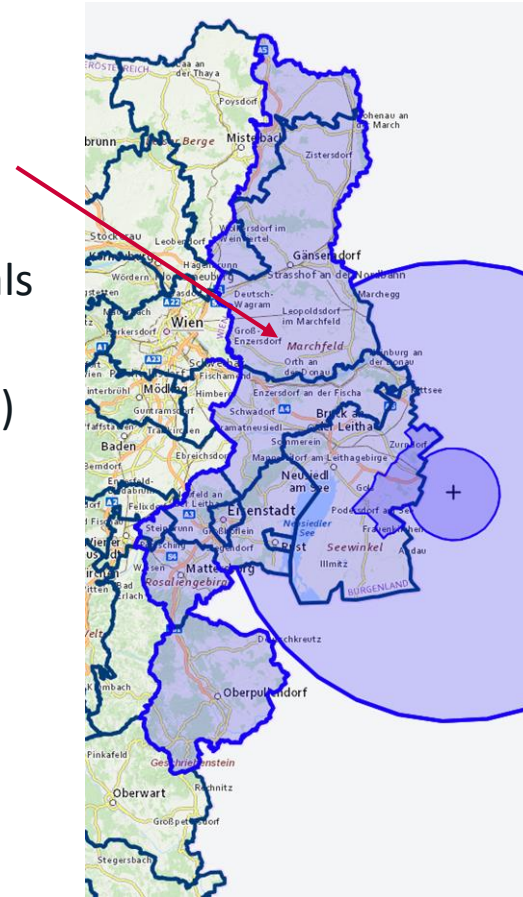
- **Surveillance zone** (4 municipalities)
 - First sampling finished - all negative
 - Re-examination every week (till May 20)

No farms	No animals	investigated	negative
8	43	43	43



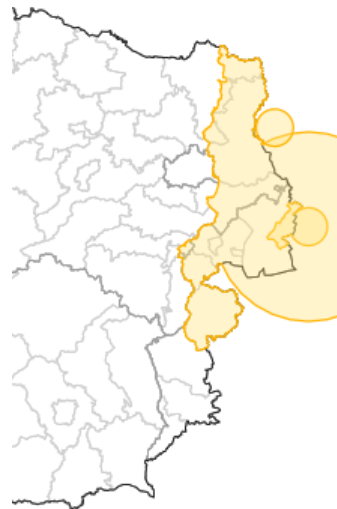
Active surveillance within zones

- **Further restricted zone** (part of 2 Federal states: Lower Austria and Burgenland)
 - 1,103 premises and 82,064 susceptible animals (64,812 pigs, 5,814 sheep, 1,750 goats, 8,813 cattle, 512 other ruminants and 363 camelids)
 - Risk based sampling plan + clinical inspection of all farms with susceptible animals
 - Re-examination every 4 weeks



Zoning due to the outbreak 5 of FMD in the Slovak Republic

- **Surveillance zone**
 - No premises within the zone

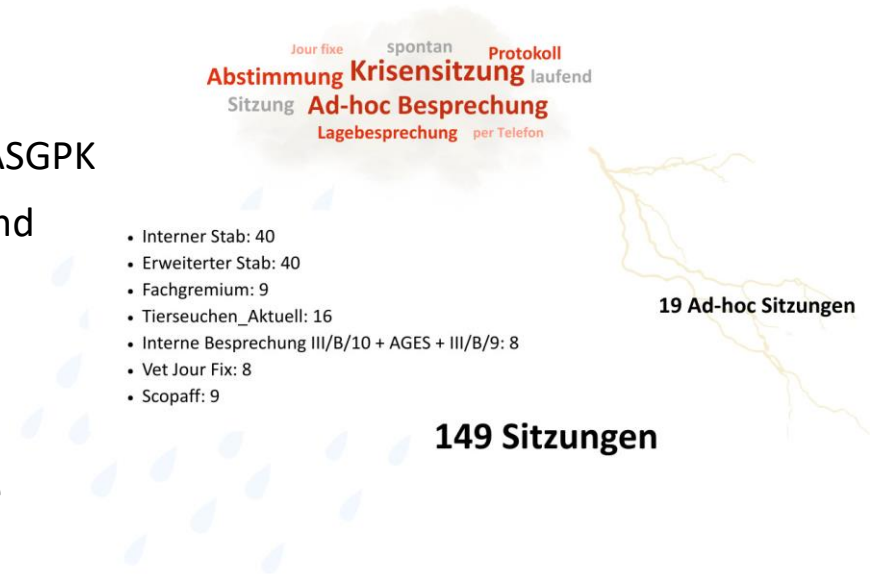


current measures due to outbreaks of FMD in neighboring countries

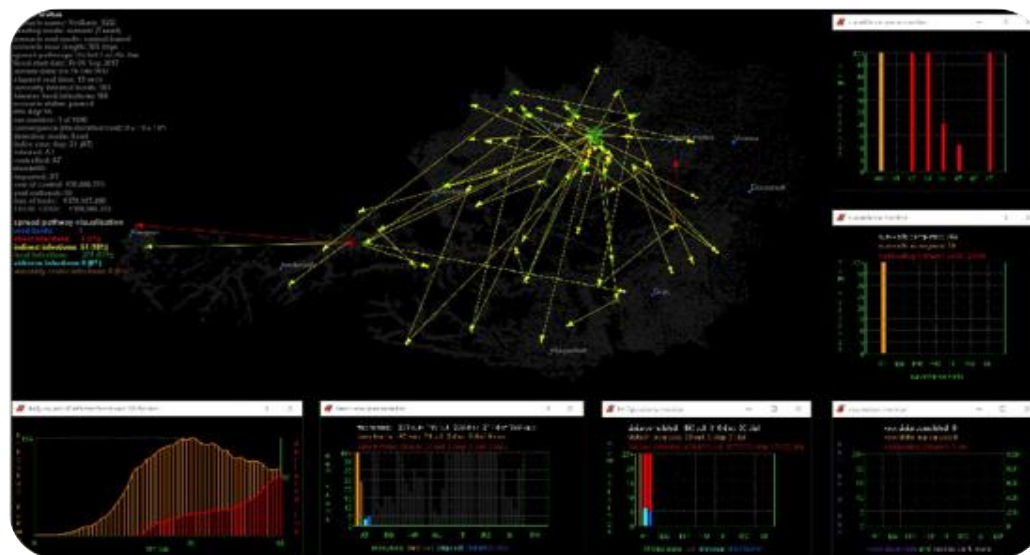
- Mutual Information on CVO- and Commission level
- Maintaining of surveillance zone and further restricted zone in Austria till May 20
- Restrictions within the surveillance zone
 - Revision of the FMD Control Ordinance
 - Hunting ban
- Restrictions within the further restricted zone
 - Active surveillance: risk based sampling and clinical inspection of all premises
 - Increased attention

Crisis team BMASGPK

- According to internal crisis plan escalation level "Emergency"
 - Reorganization within Section III of the BMASGPK
 - Establishment of a "special organizational and operational structure" based on SKKM
 - **Establishment of a crisis team**
 - Daily staff meetings
- For the first time: involvement of the KSB and the "Health Expert Committee"



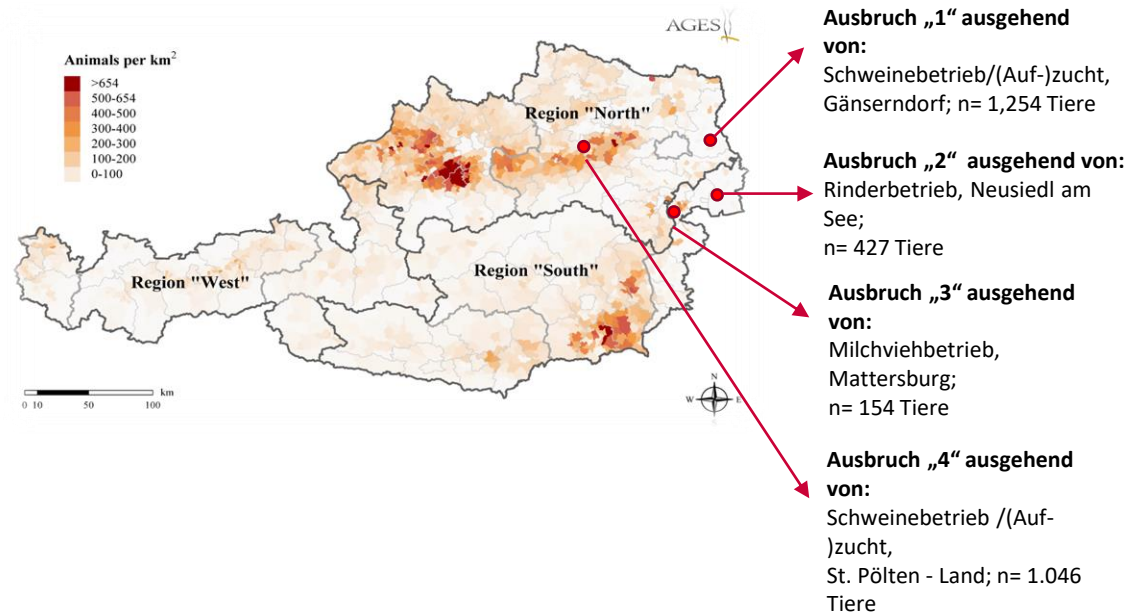
Simulation of a possible FMD outbreak in Austria using the EuFMDiS¹ model



¹The European Foot-and-Mouth Disease Spread Model

Draft scenario

- Four real farms were each individually selected as the starting point of the infection
- The **silent phase**, i.e. the period between virus entry and detection, was assumed to be **14 days**
- The control measures were simulated in **two different scenarios**:
 - **Stamping-out**
 - **Stamping-out + culling of endangered herds** (*i.e. flocks with direct contact to infected farms before detection*)



	Outbreak 1 (Gänserndorf)		Outbreak 2 (Neusiedl a. See)		Outbreak 3 (Mattersburg)		Outbreak 4 (St. Pölten-Land)	
	Stamping out only	Stamping out + culling of endangered contact foci	Stamping out only	Stamping out + culling of endangered contact flocks	Stamping out only	Stamping out + culling of endangered contact flocks	Stamping out only	Stamping out + culling of vulnerable contact foci
Epidemiologic overview median (q25;q75)								
Duration of control phase ¹ (in days)	50(43;58)	49(41;46)	42(38;48)	40(38;47)	48(41;55)	46(40;51)	62(53;71)	61(54;71)
Number of infected farms ²	7(4;15)	6(3;18)	3(2;5)	3(2;4)	6(3;9)	4(3;8)	21(15;32)	20(15;31)
Number of animals culled ³	1.920(1.274;3.104)	1.944(1.234;3.277)	519(433;709)	528(439;698)	466(286;686)	408(256;662)	3.708(2.602;5.434)	3.763(2.595;5.507)
Number of companies in protection zones ⁴	150(56;312)	149(32;384)	34(10;122)	59(10;110)	146(72;268)	128(54;244)	393(239;632)	396(247;624)
Number of farms in the surveillance zone ⁵	978(482;2.104)	1.084(289;2.460)	245(17;922)	391(17;901)	1.022(482;1,726)	980(320;1.656)	2.713(1.533;3.874)	2.654(1.648;4.120)
Financial extent (median)								
Monitoring ⁶ (without diagnostics) (€ 1,000)	331	215	52	54	164	127	740	748
Killing ⁷ (€ 1,000)	115	116	31	31	28	24	222	226
Disposal ⁸ (€ 1,000)	90	85	80	80	65	56	223	223
Cleaning & disinfection ⁹ (€ 1,000)	170	170	80	90	170	140	510	530
Compensation ¹⁰ (€ 1,000)	601	532	582	593	511	442	1574	1607
Total combat (incl. operational control centers) (€ million)	1,55	1,36	1,02	1,05	1,18	1,02	3,58	3,63
Trading losses ¹¹ (€ million)	275	270	228	227	264	254	343	339
TOTAL (€ million)	277	271	229	228	265	255	347	342

Summary

- Due to the low density of farms in the region bordering Hungary, the results indicate that a large-scale spread is not to be expected. By comparison, the simulated outbreak "4" in a region with a high livestock density in Lower Austria showed a significantly more intensive spread dynamic
- In scenarios 1 to 3, comparatively large farms were chosen as the starting point for the border region; the results should therefore be seen more as a worst-case scenario
- Additional measures, such as the culling of contact farms at risk, would slightly reduce the extent of the outbreaks. Their use would appear to make particular sense if further outbreaks occur
- The simulation results provide an indication of the possible course of an FMD outbreak in Austria, but they should not be interpreted as exact predictions or numerical values

Surveillance measures in the restricted zones

- **In the surveillance zone**
 - are 8 farms
 - All were visited and samples taken
 - **Clinical** examination every 7 days
- **In the wider restricted zone**
 - there are 1126 farms
 - Risk-based samples are taken on 285 farms (duration approx. 14 days)
 - ALL farms are visited
 - Two rounds - **3rd round risk-based without sampling**

2	Burgenland	Betriebe mit Probenziehung	133		
2	Burgenland	- davon mit negativer klinischer Untersuchung	131 (+1)	98.5	(+0.8) %
2	Burgenland	- davon mit negativer Probenuntersuchung	120 (+3)	90.2	(+2.3) %
2	Niederösterreich	Betriebe mit Probenziehung	92		
2	Niederösterreich	- davon mit negativer klinischer Untersuchung	75	81.5	%
2	Niederösterreich	- davon mit negativer Probenuntersuchung	86	93.5	%
2	Österreich gesamt	Betriebe mit Probenziehung	225		
2	Österreich gesamt	- davon mit negativer klinischer Untersuchung	206 (+1)	91.6	(+0.4) %
2	Österreich gesamt	- davon mit negativer Probenuntersuchung	206 (+3)	91.6	(+1.3) %

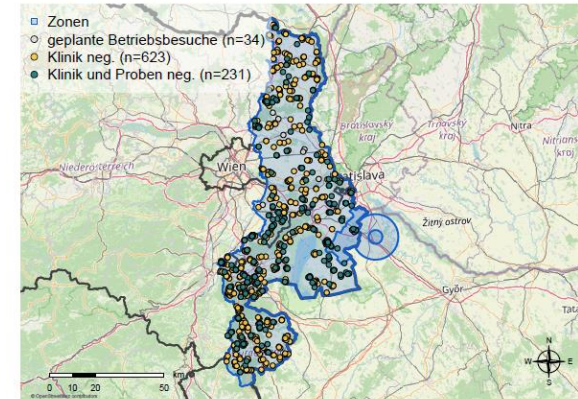


Abbildung 1: Karte: Übersicht über die Betriebsbesuche (TKH-S) in den Zonen; sowohl Betriebe mit als auch ohne verpflichtende Probenziehung sind dargestellt.

Wildlife monitoring

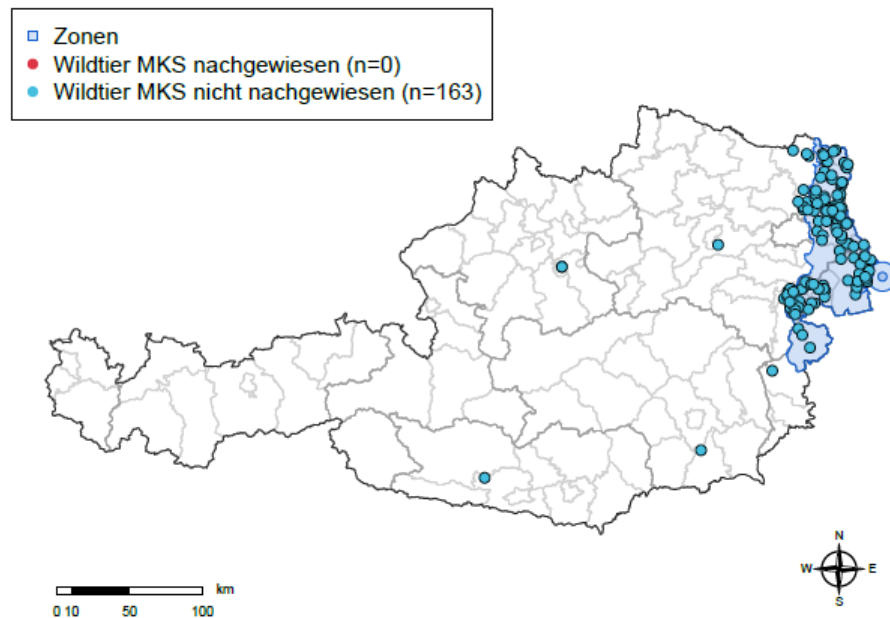
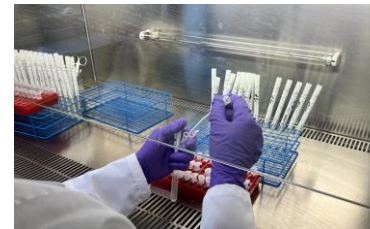
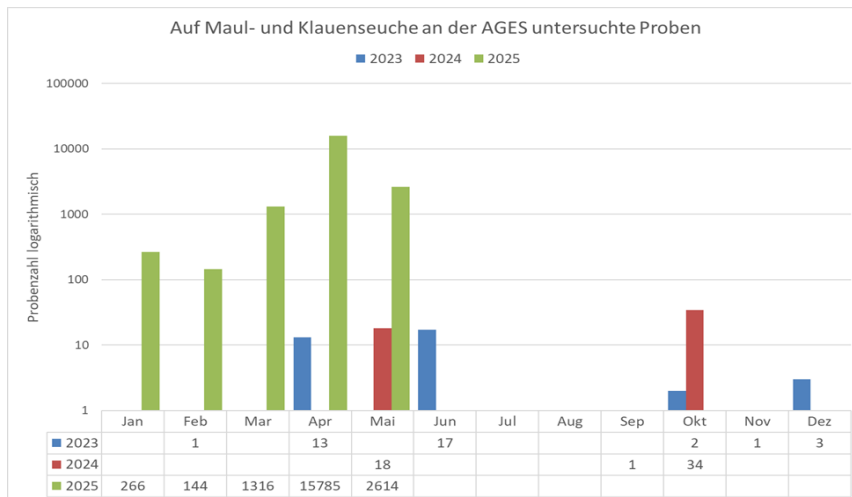


Abbildung 2: Wildtierfunde seit dem 26.03.2025

FMD - VET laboratory

- Goal: freedom from animal diseases and zoonoses
 - Early detection - every day counts - enormous economic damage
- From daily routine - into crisis mode
 - ramp up all reserves 24/7 (personnel and infrastructure)



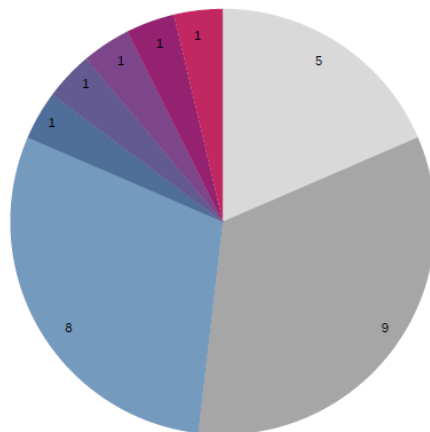
Police support for veterinary authorities

Veterinary Border Surveillance Ordinance (VetGÜV)

- Support provided by the public security service, the customs office and bodies in accordance with Section 12b of the Border Control Act in the case of
 - Stopping vehicles
 - Checking the requirements for lawful movement
 - document checks
 - NOT: clinical examinations and sampling!
- Due to the amended SEARCH DIRECTIVE of 02.04.2025:
 - Therefore, in coordination with the BMI, closure of the small border crossings and setting up disinfection on the AT side at the higher-ranking border crossings
 - Ordinance of the BMI adopted on 07.04.2025 in the main committee of parliament

Legal processing

● Kundmachungen ● Erlässe ● Verordnungen
● Informationsschreiben ● Anwaltsschreiben
● Info an EK ● Notfallplan
● Empfehlungsschreiben

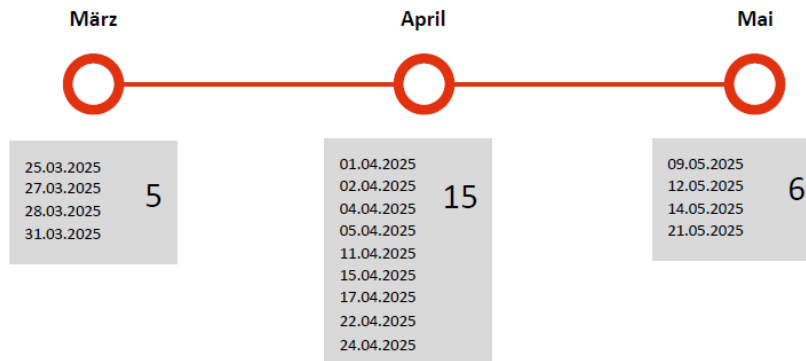


27 Rechtsakte in knapp 3 Monaten

Entspricht im Schnitt alle 3 Tage ein neuer Akt.



Erledigte Akten



Biosecurity on farms and in animal husbandry

Biosecurity on your own farm or animal husbandry

offers the best protection.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ENTREPRENEUR & LIVESTOCK OWNER!

- Information is available at

<https://www.verbrauchergesundheit.gv.at/tiere/krankheiten/mks.html>

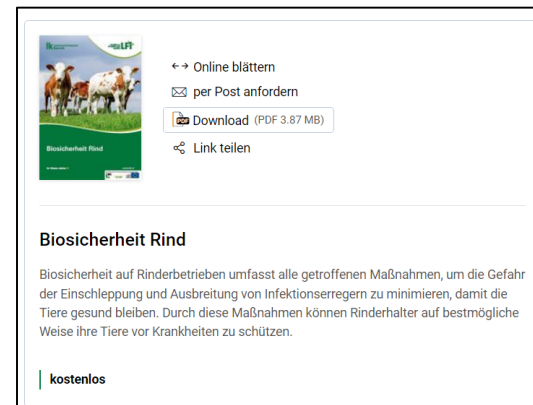


The screenshot shows the 'Maul- und Klauenseuche (MKS)' page. On the left is a navigation menu with categories like 'Aquakultur', 'Hund und Katze', 'Pferd', 'Biene', 'Fische', 'Kernsektion/Registrierung', 'Krisenpläne', 'Publikationen', 'Rechtsvorschriften', 'Tierarzneimittelgesetz', 'Tiergesundheitsdienst (TGD)', 'Tierkrankheiten' (highlighted), 'Tierschutz', 'VIS', and 'Zoonosen'. The main content area is titled 'Maul- und Klauenseuche (MKS)' and 'Foot and mouth disease (FMD), betrifft vor allem Paarhufer.' It includes an 'Inhaltsverzeichnis' (Table of Contents) with links to 'Aktuelles', 'Bekommende Maßnahmen in Österreich', 'Welche Zonen gibt es und was bedeuten sie?', 'Schutz- und Überwachungszone', 'Überwachungszone', 'Weitere Überwachungszone', 'Behördliche Maßnahmen bei Ausbruch in einem Betrieb', 'Was ist MKS', 'Übertragung', 'Symptome', 'Generelle Symptome bei allen betroffenen Tieren', 'Weitere Symptome beim Pferd', 'Weitere Symptome beim Schwein', 'Weitere Symptome beim Schaf', 'Rechtsinformation', 'Informationen für Jäger:innen', 'Informationen für Tierärzt:innen', 'Informationen für Landwirte, Viehhändler, Schlachthofpersonal, Bürgermeister etc.', and 'Weitere Informationen'.

Measures to combat animal diseases



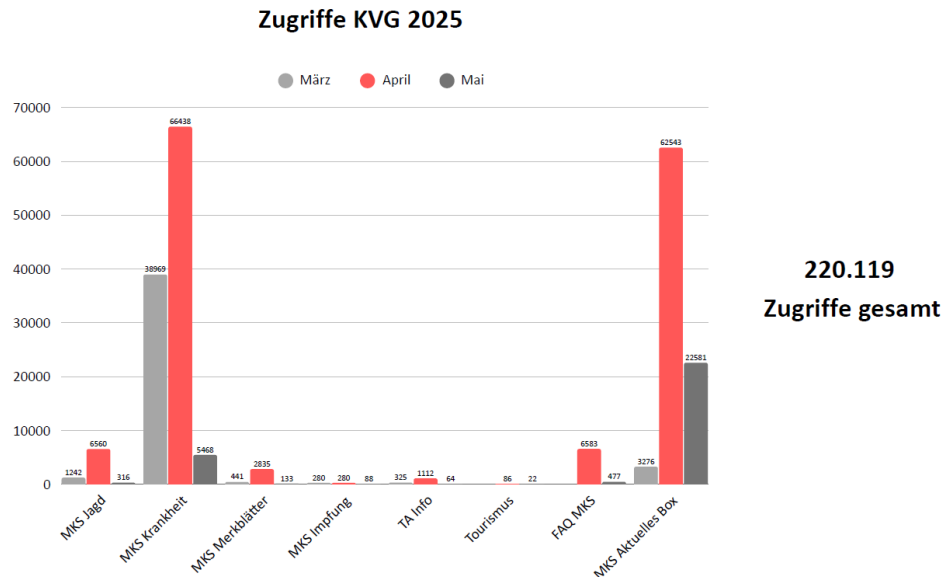
The screenshot shows the 'Biosicherheit und Schulungsinformation' section. It includes links to 'Poster MKS Überblick', 'Powerpoint Präsentation MKS', 'Biosicherheit Rind (L.Konline)', 'Biosicherheit Schaf und Ziege (L.Konline)', and 'Biosicherheit Schwein (L.Konline)'. At the bottom, there is a link to 'Merkblatt für Landwirte, Viehhändler, Schlachthofpersonal, Bürgermeister etc.'.



The screenshot shows the 'Biosicherheit Rind' section. It includes a link to 'Online blättern', a link to 'per Post anfordern', a link to 'Download (PDF 3.87 MB)', and a link to 'Link teilen'. Below this is a section titled 'Biosicherheit Rind' with a description: 'Biosicherheit auf Rinderbetrieben umfasst alle getroffenen Maßnahmen, um die Gefahr der Einschleppung und Ausbreitung von Infektionserregern zu minimieren, damit die Tiere gesund bleiben. Durch diese Maßnahmen können Rinderhalter auf bestmögliche Weise ihre Tiere vor Krankheiten zu schützen.' At the bottom, it says 'kostenlos'.

Consumer health communication platform (KVG)

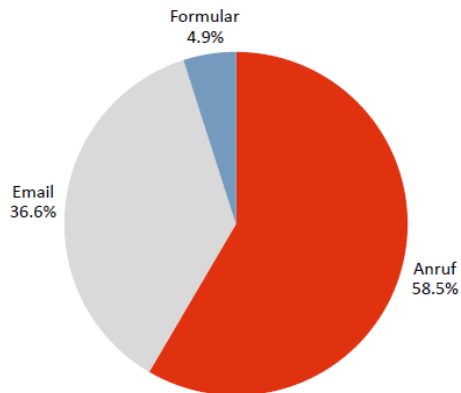
- Source for **current, verified official** information
- Updated daily
- Current legal bases
- FAQs
- Information material



Anfragen beim Bürger:innenservice

Anzahl Anfragen nach Anfragetyp

01.04.25 - 15.05.25

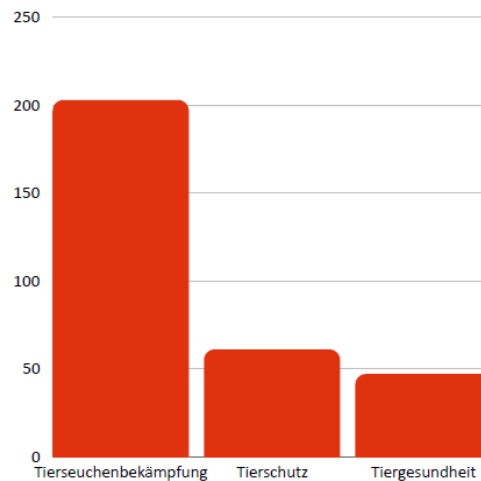


Anzahl Anfragen im Zeitverlauf



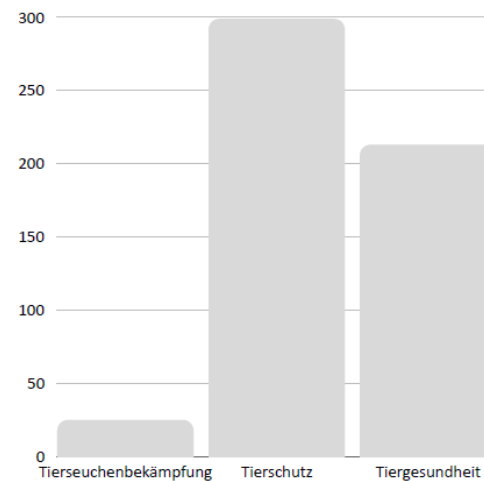
Anzahl Anfragen nach Subkategorie

01.04.25 - 15.05.25



Anzahl Anfragen nach Subkategorie

im gesamten Jahr 2024



Foot and mouth disease (FMD)

AGES communication

Social media:

Website:

- Reach: 50,792
- FAQ page: 29 FAQs in four categories according to target groups
- 3 news articles

Videos:

- 3 long videos
- 9 short videos on biosecurity
- 1 video on vaccination

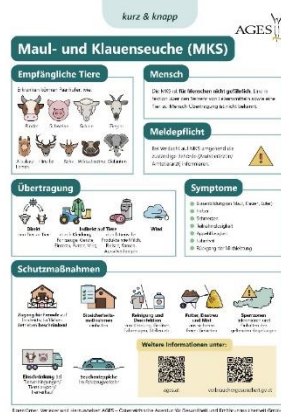
Reach: 89,758

19 postings

Podcast:

Podcast episode with Friedrich Schmall

370 listeners



Information material:

- Accessible information sheet for consumers

Inquiries:

- 21 inquiries from citizens
- 27 media enquiries



Lake Neusiedl - World Heritage Site



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