



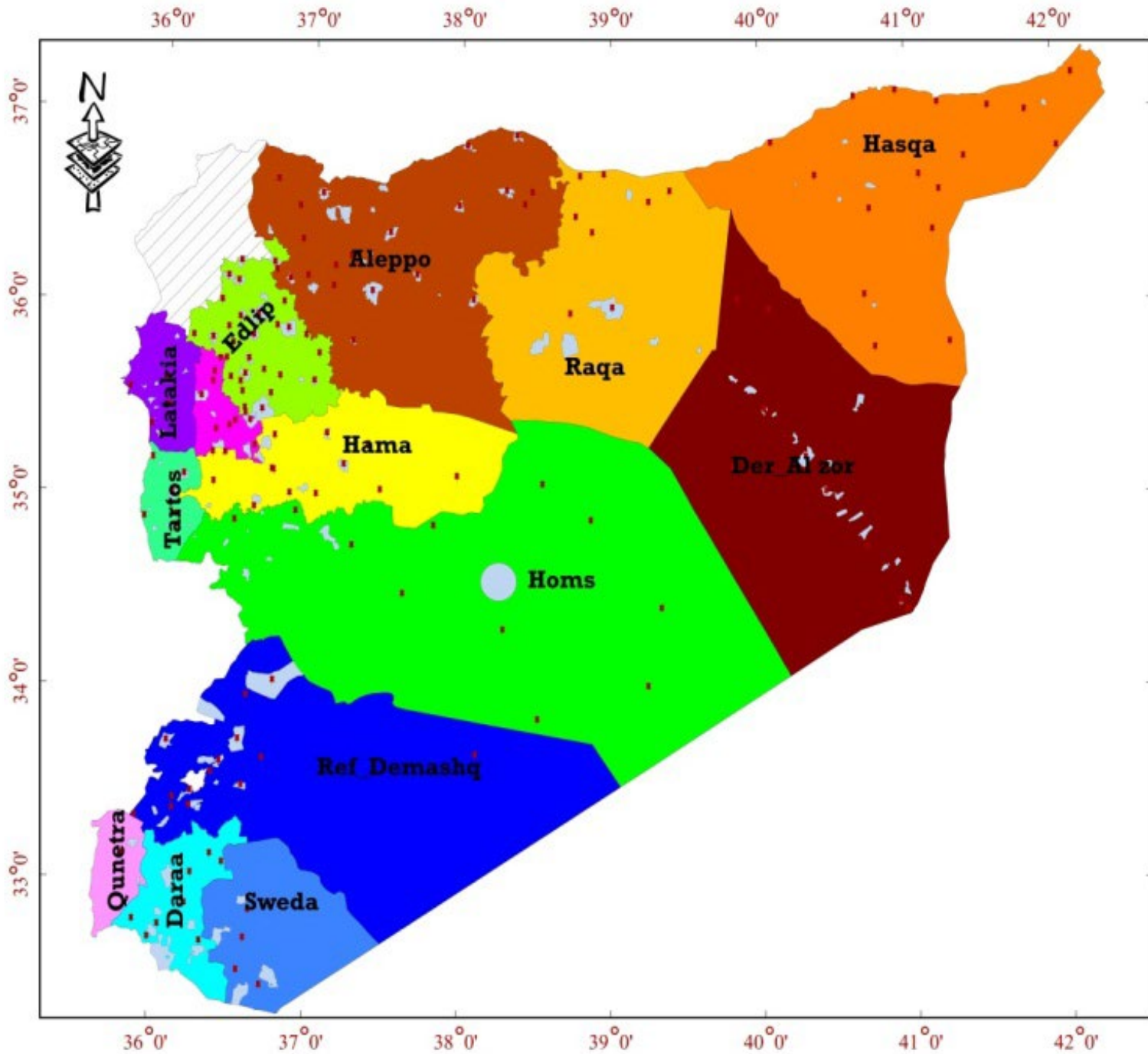
Self-declaration of an Equine Disease-Free Zone in Syria for the purpose of facilitating the Equestrian competitions

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Introduction

- * The horse industry is a very large and important part of Syrian economy, with big diversity, involving agriculture, business, sport, gaming, entertainment and recreation.
- * Syrian horses reached the best results in various races and competitions at the international and regional levels.
- * Horse trading includes import, export and domestic trade.
- * Horses are stabled usually in farms and clubs under the supervision of official veterinary control.
- * There are no wild or feral horses in Syria
- * Self-declaration submitted to the OIE on 06 April 2020 by Dr, Al Soliman, Delegate of Syria to the OIE, Director of Animal Health , in cooperation with Syrian Equestrian Federation.

| Governorate | Horses | Donkeys | Mules | Total |
|--------------|--------|---------|-------|-------|
| Swida | 729 | 434 | 143 | 1306 |
| Daraa | 268 | 1279 | 80 | 1627 |
| Qunitra | 196 | 30 | 1 | 227 |
| Rif Dmasscus | 783 | 406 | 59 | 1248 |
| Homs | 1283 | 1940 | 105 | 3328 |
| Hama | 680 | 5336 | 145 | 6161 |
| Al- Ghab | 7 | 306 | 46 | 359 |
| Idleb | 1600 | 2200 | 250 | 4050 |
| Tartous | 1476 | 398 | 38 | 1912 |
| Lattakia | 106 | 740 | - | 846 |
| Aleppo | 1097 | 10659 | 696 | 12362 |
| Al- Raqa | 302 | 11352 | 45 | 11699 |
| DeirEzzoe | 890 | 17351 | 427 | 18668 |
| Al- Hasaka | 3326 | 8786 | 54 | 12157 |
| Total | 12743 | 61117 | 2098 | 75950 |



Equidae populations distribution in Syria

- Governorate Border
- Veterinary services
- Eskndron
- Extension Unites

| | | | |
|--|------|--|-------|
| | 236 | | 3328 |
| | 359 | | 4050 |
| | 848 | | 6616 |
| | 1248 | | 11703 |
| | 1306 | | 12166 |
| | 1645 | | 12552 |
| | 2509 | | 18669 |

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Structure of the EDFZ -1

- * In line with OIE Guidelines, the EDFZ consists of the compartment (the venue or CORE zone), which is surrounded by a depopulated buffer zone and the highway corridor to the Lebanese Borders.
- * The core zone is the area for the equestrian competitions (Bassel Al Al Assad Equestrian Club) situated in the Dimas city, and about 47 km far away from Damascus International Airport
- * The Surveillance zone of the EDFZ falls under the VS responsibility and covers the 40 km radial diameter around Bassel Al Assad Club
- * The core zone was established on principles of biosecurity, management and spatial considerations as described in Chapters 4.4. and 4.5 of the Terrestrial Code.



Structure of the EDFZ - 2

- * The most stables are owned by Syrian Equestrian Federation and mainly used for Jumping, and the club is provided with high standards facilities and equipment.
- * The stables are completely isolated and fully fenced.
- * The whole club is very well security wise protected (Security forces, cameras, pre permit request to enter....).
- * There are 10 veterinarians, employed at the club who provide 24 hours coverage and one groom to each three horses.
- * All horses are vaccinated against Equine Influenza and Tetanus, as the FEI rules and all horses receive deworming treatment
- * The club host about 200 jumping horses. All horses are identified by microchips and registered in the Federation registry for equestrian horses and at the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) for pure Arab horses.





Baseline disease situation

- * All OIE listed equine diseases are notifiable diseases in accordance with Syrian regulations (Animal Health Law No. 9 / Date 7.4.2019 especially chapter 7 – Chapter 10)
- * According to the absence of clinical symptoms, active surveillance and laboratory diagnosis results, Syria is free from the main OIE listed disease of relevance to Equidae
- * Veterinary Services is committed to send periodical reports via WAHIS to the OIE
- * MAAR issued regulatory decision No. 245. T I 2015 which contains all notifiable animal diseases in accordance with OIE standards which clarify the roles of owners, breeders, veterinarians and relevant authorities.
- * Testing for exported horses have been always conducted in accredited /reference laboratories, and all results indicated for good health situation for Syrian equines.

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Equine health status in the EDFZ surveillance zone

- * A series of sero-surveys for the diseases were selected on the basis of the most important OIE notifiable diseases of relevance to Equidae and according to the Equidae health situation in the region
- * Samples of all Equidae population in the EDFZ (horses, donkeys and mules) were sent to CVL
- * All samples were tested in accordance with OIE Terrestrial Manual.

Maintenance of the EDFZ - 1

- * Biosecurity measures have been introduced and strict control of incoming vehicles and persons, in addition to control program for vectors and rodents
- * The Biosecurity Operational Manual is implemented which includes all measures for horse stabling, exercising, and during competitions, as well as biosecurity measures.
- * There are control posts and customs points based at strategic entry points
- * These control posts have a border post and VS inspector's
- * Animal Health Certificates are requested to move horses through these posts.

Maintenance of the EDFZ - 2

- * A technical competent committee is assigned to inspect the horses to be introduced, check their health status and absence of any clinical symptoms. Then, blood samples are collected to perform the required tests in the approved laboratories by the MAAR
- * An international Animal Health Certificate specific for the venue entrance has been developed by VS
- * All certificates are compliant with the standards stipulated in Chapter 5.12 of the OIE Terrestrial Code.

Roles and responsibilities in establishing and maintaining an EDFZ.

- * Syrian regulations clarified the functions, roles and tasks of all relevant authorities, organizations and stakeholders that included in establishing and maintaining the EDFZ according to OIE standards
- * VS developed new manual to realize the tasks of all the partners.
- * VS consider the manager of coordination and harmonizing the relations between the bodies and detected the roles and actions responsibility at each level

Equine Movement Control

- * MAAR has database for all Equidae populations in the EDFZ, in addition to immediate information and registration for any changing in animal census and movement.
- * Horses are stabled usually in the farm or in the clubs, with the absence of grazing in big pasture because of small ownership of horses.
- * Legislation for the control of equine movement requires:
 - ❖ Approval of veterinary authority, horse breeder union, and Syrian breed pure Arab Horses Directorate in addition to consultant council in Syrian (SEF)
 - ❖ Laboratory analysis certificate
 - ❖ Donkeys and mules movement requires Approval of veterinary authority and Laboratory analysis certificate.

All horses movement inside the country require animal health movement certificate

Equine Diseases Prevention

- Strict quarantine procedures at the border points
- Veterinary quarantine staff covers all border points
- Strict control the animal movement and related legislation
- Robust legal framework to prevent illegal animal movement or smuggling
- Strict national program for vector borne diseases and control of arthropods, insects and Culicoides covering the whole country.

AHS Situation in Syria -1

- * African Horse Sickness is a notifiable disease and reports have been notified regularly to the OIE through WAHIS reports.
- * No cases of African Horse Sickness have been reported or confirmed in Syria or in the neighbouring countries since 1961.
- * Regulatory measures for the early detection prevention and control of African Horse Sickness have been in place for decades.
- * Equine and equine products importation are conducted according to OIE Terrestrial Code
- * Vaccination for AHS is prohibited
- * Strict national program for vector born disease.
- * All the results of tested samples and sero surveys were negative for (AHS): More than 5000 samples were tested in the last five years.

AHS Situation in Syria -2

- * All tests for exported horses have been always conducted in reference laboratories were negative for AHS.
- * Strict legislations and quarantine procedures are applied to control equine movement, and to prevent illegal animal movement or smuggling.
- * Importation of vaccinated horses for AHS is prohibited too.
- * importation of semen, oocytes or embryos from infected countries or zones is prohibited.
- * VS are working now to prepare AHS freedom dossier in accordance with OIE Code (Chapter 12.1, andChapter 1.7)
- * There is an adopted contingency plan for (AHS)

Central Veterinary Laboratory

- * The general tests department in DOAH is only the authorized lab for equine disease
- * Laboratory Capacity: More than 10000 samples annually
- * All diagnostic services are free of charge, except tests for exportation and importation.
- * Equine diseases diagnosis according to the Terrestrial Manual
- * **Applied Tests:** Several techniques are available for equine diseases diagnosis according the *Terrestrial Manual*: ELISA – VNT – PCR – Cell Culture – CFT – Isolation and classification

Thank you for Attention

