

## Preliminary Outbreak Assessment

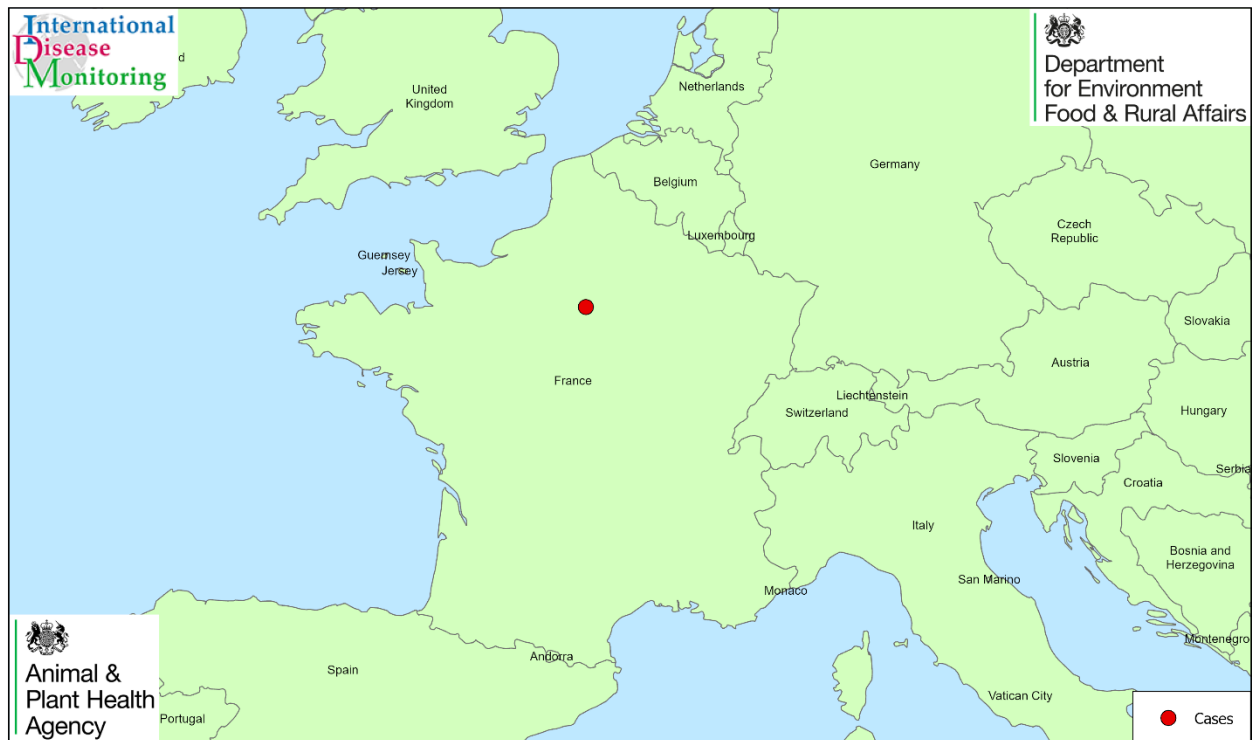
# Rabies in a dog in France

28 October 2022

Reference: Rabies in France

### Disease report

French Authorities reported a case of rabies in a possibly illegally imported dog, approximately 4 years old, in Évry-Courcouronnes in Essonne, in the southern Île-de-France region around 20km south of Paris. The dog was being held in a shelter and health authorities were alerted on 25 October after the dog started showing signs of aggression and biting several people. The dog was euthanased and the diagnosis of rabies was confirmed on 27 October by the National Reference Centre for Rabies at the Institute Pasteur. All people in contact with the dog have been assessed for post exposure prophylaxis. Ongoing investigations indicate that the dog could have been illegally imported from Morocco.



Map Prepared by IDM

Date: 28/10/2022

Absolute Scale: 1:12,000,000

Rabies in France  
October 2022

0 225 450 675 Km

## Situation assessment

The origin of the imported dog in France is currently suspected to be Morocco, where rabies is endemic, although investigations are ongoing to determine the exact location.

France has been free of rabies in resident companion animals and wildlife since 2001. The last reported case of rabies was in an illegally imported puppy from Morocco in February 2020.

There were several people who were bitten by the dog and all have been informed and treated by the Institut Pasteur's Rabies Centre. Investigations are being carried out to identify other humans that may have come into contact with the dog during the infectious period. Information collected so far indicates that contacts with the infected dog were very limited during the infectious period, considered as being since 5 October, as the animal was alone in its cubicle and yard at the shelter. The shelter was placed under surveillance on 25 October and has since been closed to unauthorized persons.

Morocco is an unlisted third country for pet travel purposes for entry into the European Union (EU) and as such, pets should be first identified by a microchip and then vaccinated (in that order) with blood testing at least 30 days following the date of vaccination at an EU approved laboratory. Finally, they must undergo a three month wait in the country of origin before movement into the EU (Commission Regulation 576/2013/EU).

## Conclusion

This outbreak in France concerns the case of a likely illegally imported dog that presumably was not prepared properly for pet travel prior to entry into France.

Vaccination is a protective measure which, when administered correctly, provides immunological protection against an animal being infected by rabies. However, it cannot prevent rabies disease from developing if an animal is already infected and incubating disease hence the additional requirement for a 3 month wait period in the country of origin, if rabies is endemic there.

Although we consider there is a **negligible** risk of introduction of rabies to the UK via legal imports or movement of wildlife as a result of this single animal case in France, this disease report emphasises how important it is to ensure pets are properly prepared for travel.

There is an overall low probability of rabies being introduced into the UK on an annual basis through the movement of significant numbers of ill-prepared or illegally imported dogs and cats, in the absence of additional checks and control measures (Berriman et al. 2018).

## Authors

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## References

Berriman, A. D. C., A. R. Fooks, L. A. Kelly, and E. L. Snary. "Assessing the risk of rabies re-introduction into the United Kingdom from Eastern European countries." *Microbial Risk Analysis* 8 (2018): 50-52.

A case of rabies detected in Île-de-France (2022). Ministry of Agriculture and Food Sovereignty Press release, 27 October 2022. Available from: <https://agriculture.gouv.fr/un-cas-de-rage-canine-detecte-en-ile-de-france>. Accessed on 28 October 2022.

World Organisation for Animal Health (2022) <https://wahis.woah.org/#/in-review/4679> Accessed on 28 October 2022.



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