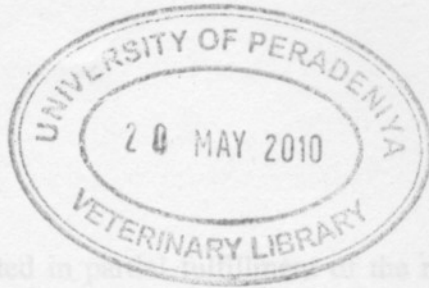


**A CRITICAL ANALYSIS AND A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF  
THE ANIMAL HEALTH POLICIES OF SRI LANKA TO  
PREVENT AND CONTROL INFECTIOUS DISEASES**



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## **Abstract**

Animal health management policies which includes Acts, regulations, strategies, procedures, policies, guidelines are becoming more useful instruments in controlling and prevention of animal diseases within a country or globally. Some of these instruments like Acts and regulations have a legal authority while others play a major role in correct decision making. The OIE is the organization who sets the standards for animal and aquatic diseases. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases have become common due to the changes in sociological, technological, ecological and microbial factors. Sri Lanka being an island is so far free from major emerging animal and zoonotic diseases. The principle objective of this study is to analyze major AHM policies in the country in order to compare it with international expectations. Sri Lankan policies will also identify the existing system for the control and prevention of emerging and re-emerging animal diseases and zoonoses.

A total of 38 AHM policies were identified in this study. Animal disease Act No.59 of 1992 and its regulations have the greatest number of supportive policies. Seven circulars, three guidelines and seventeen import procedures have been issued under the Animal Diseases Act No.59 of 1992 and majority of them covers poultry. Only three policies cover other livestock diseases such as Brucellosis, Foot and Mouth diseases and Bovine spongiform encephalopathy. All above covers on the subject of surveillance, protection, response and public communication to some extent. There is a greater draw back in implementation of the relevant laws by the Department of Animal Production and Health (DAPH) except on imports and exports. Therefore passive surveillance of livestock diseases appears to be

the major surveillance method and is not always backed by laboratory evidence, and disease reporting by veterinarians is also poor. Zoonotic diseases are not included in the Animal Disease Act except for rabies and brucellosis. Fish disease reporting is solely under the control of the Department of fisheries.

Disease surveillance is not upto standard due to the limitations imposed on the implementation of Animal Diseases Act. In addition, disease reporting in wild life and abattoir animals is not done as they belong to different Departments/ Ministries. Therefore it is necessary to establish a national disease control centre to act as the focal point in the country for disease surveillance, control and prevention within the frame-work of the DAPH.

**Key words. Animal health management policies, zoonoses, emerging diseases**

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