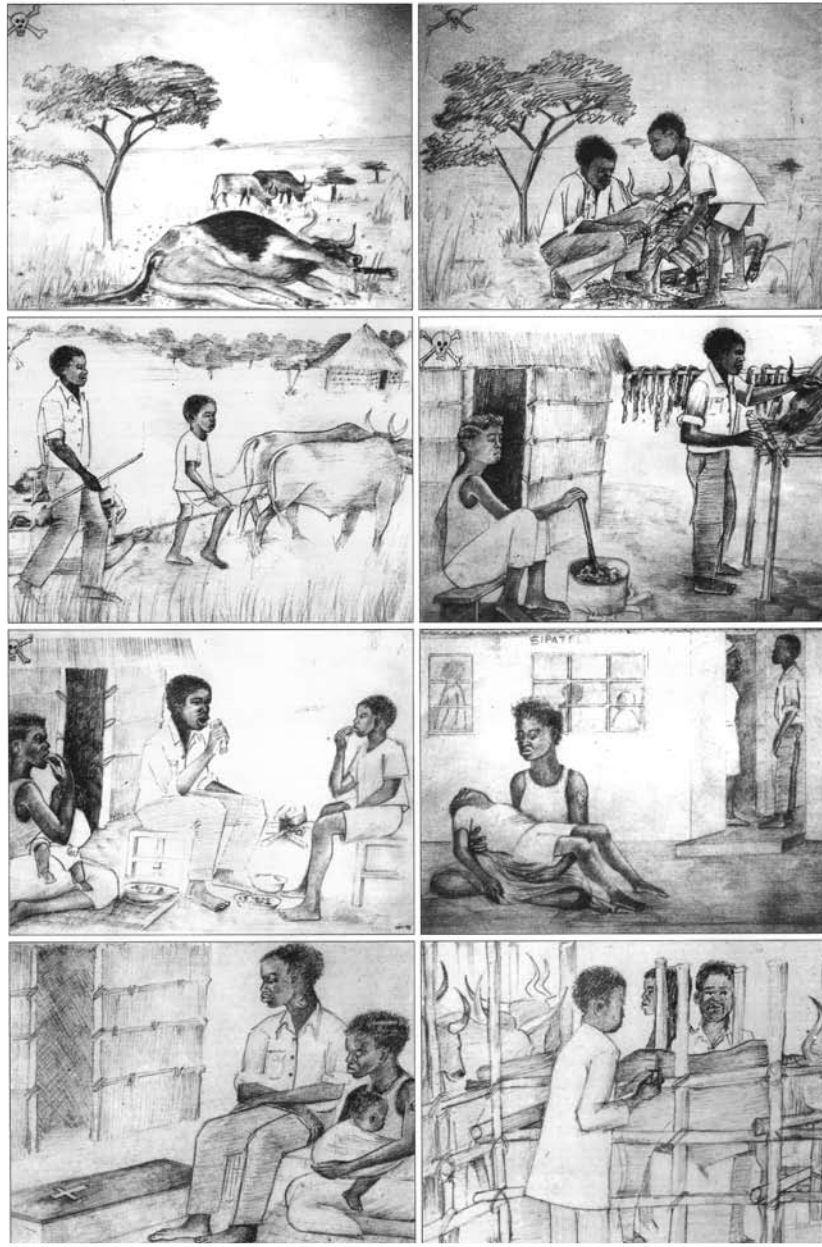


FOURTH EDITION

# Anthrax

## in humans and animals



World Organisation  
for Animal Health



World Health  
Organization



Food and Agriculture  
Organization  
of the United Nations



# Anthrax in humans and animals

FOURTH EDITION

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**Front cover illustration:** The pictures are from a book, and also featured on a poster, conveying the story of the problems the fictional Liseli family suffered following the death of their cows from anthrax. The message to farmers/owners of livestock is that they should not handle and butcher the carcasses of animals that have died unexpectedly or eat meat from such carcasses, but rather that they should call a veterinary official to supervise correct disposal of the carcass. (Source: Dietvorst, 1996b.)

**Back cover photograph:** Scanning electronmicrograph of spores of *B. anthracis* isolated from an elephant (LA[1]25.04.91RD) that had died of anthrax in 1991 in the Etosha National Park, Namibia (Turnbull et al., 1998b). The long axis of the spore is just over 1 µm (0.001 mm).

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Printed in China

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<sup>2</sup> We deeply regret the untimely death of Dr Regula Leuenberger. She contributed to the successful completion of this project and her dedication and commitment to her work will be greatly missed by her colleagues.

# Development of these guidelines

This fourth edition of the anthrax guidelines encompasses a systematic review of the extensive new scientific literature and relevant publications up to end 2007, as well as the conclusions of an expert meeting<sup>1</sup> held in Nice, France, in 2003. Draft versions of this new edition have undergone two rounds of a rigorous peer-review process. For many sections of the document, contributions from scientists with specific areas of expertise were actively sought and the draft versions were sent to these contributors for their corrections and approval.

WHO is planning to develop a training package to support Member States in applying this guidance. Although new scientific information on anthrax is expected to continue to become available, this document should remain a relevant source of information for the management of anthrax in humans and animals for at least the next five years. WHO therefore plans to review these guidelines within the next five to seven years.

Despite a process of wide consultation and extensive peer review, it is recognized that there is always room for improvement when developing guidance of this nature. Feedback from users in the form of comments on the scientific contents, usefulness and accessibility, and suggestions for improvements, are especially welcome.

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