Reviewer's report

Title: Classification of veterinary surveillance to inform economic analysis

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Reviewer: Mo Salman

Reviewer's report:

The aim of this manuscript is to report a study conducted to propose specific classification of the surveillance systems in veterinary medicine for the purpose of economic assessment of disease intervention strategies. My comments and concerns about this manuscript are general and not specific for paragraphs or sections of this manuscript. The manuscript is mainly a philosophical discussion of surveillance and its link to economic issues. Most of the discussions are the opinions of the authors without sufficient literature or demonstration for background. The authors did not have sufficient justification for this classification. For instance, why would economic assessment require these classes? Are these classes well defined in real surveillance systems? I believe that most surveillance systems is combination of one or more of these classes. Surveillance by nature is in continuum steps with a dynamic process so it is hard to imagine that if the hazard is below the threshold then the investigation is triggered. Investigation is part of the surveillance whether the hazard is above or below the threshold. Although the examples that used were appropriate, they have not supported the justification of the proposed classification of a surveillance system. A surveillance system also consists of comprehensive components that include but are not limited to these three proposed classes. The cost or the benefit from the system has to incorporate all the essential components of the surveillance system; otherwise the economic analysis would be a partial and not completed process.

In conclusion, this manuscript lacks some critical points and issues prior to considering it for publication. The authors should attempt to answer practical questions related to this classification specifically its economic soundness. There is a need for a major revision of the manuscript and further review before a decision can be given about its publication.

Level of interest: An article of insufficient interest to warrant publication in a scientific/medical journal

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
I have no conflict with these authors.