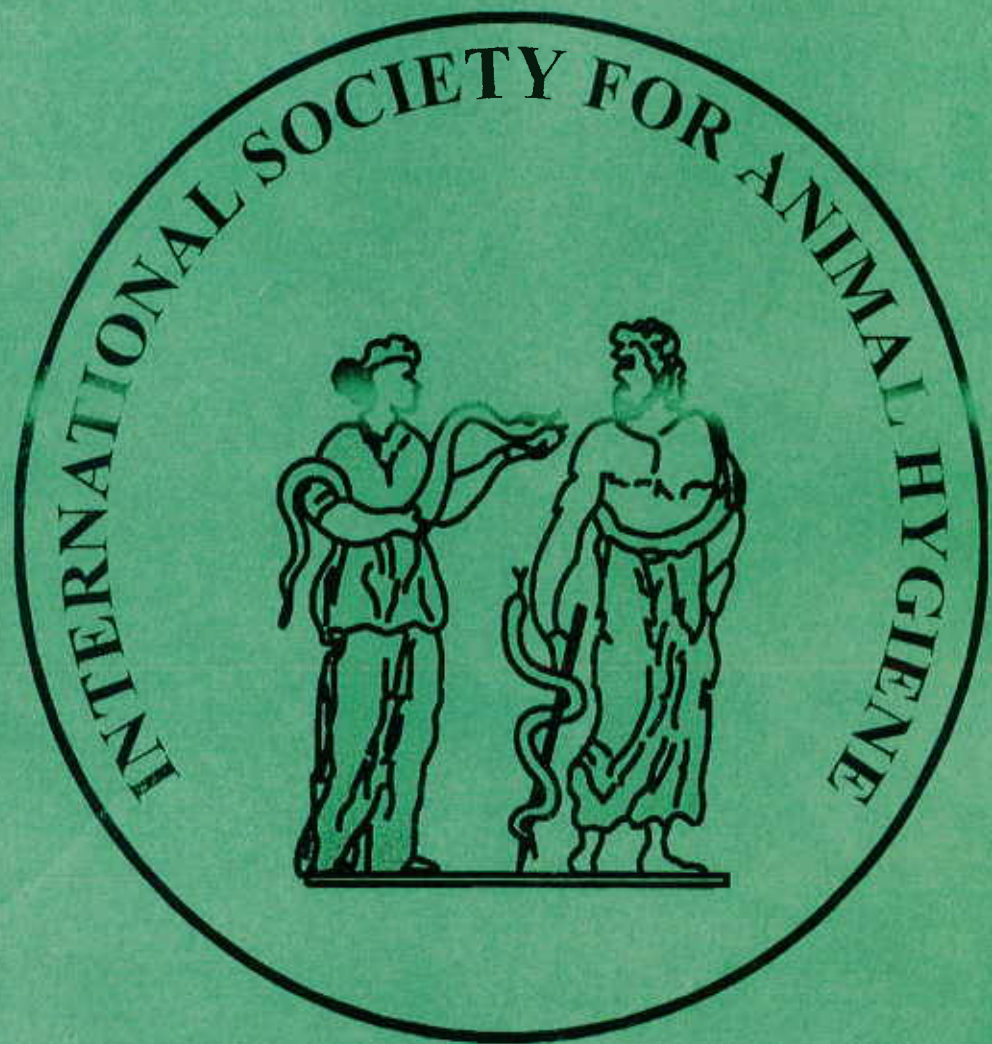


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ISSUE 3

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**International Society
for Animal Hygiene**

Newsletter n° 3

Dear Members of the International Society for Animal Hygiene

Especially due to the effort of our Secretary, Dr. Francois Madec, we have the opportunity to send you the 3rd issue of the newsletter of the ISAH.

The goal of the newsletter of our Society is to inform the members about actual activities in and outside the Society on the field of Animal Hygiene.

But a second important goal of this newsletter is to encourage the discussion about the content and the scope of Animal Hygiene in Veterinary Medicine.

Definition of Animal Hygiene

In the last meeting of the Executive Board (EB) of the ISAH in June 1998 in Ploufragan, France, we had a renewed discussion about the definition of Animal Hygiene in our statutes. It was concluded, that the word "animal hygiene" has different meanings in different parts of the world. In some countries the concept does even not exist.

A clear definition is therefore necessary. In our statutes the following definition is included:

"The field of animal hygiene includes the interactions between abiotic and biotic factors of environment and domestic animals, especially food animals, with the aim to prevent diseases and to promote animal health and to ensure species-specific health and welfare needs of such animals"

The conclusion of the discussion in the EB was that this definition is still valid on the eve of the next millennium. The relation between the environmental conditions and the health and welfare of the animals is still the main topic of Animal Hygiene. But it was recognized, that the relationship between animal production and the environment has become increasing importance. The research and education in Animal Hygiene should therefore realize environmental conditions who not only prevent against outbreaks of animal diseases, but should maintain well-being of animal and men and should avoid environmental pollution and human health risks too. It was stated, that companion animals should clear be regarded as included in this definition. Therefore it was decided, that there will be a special session for animal hygiene of companion animals in the congress in 2000 too.

Education in Animal Hygiene

One of the route's to stimulate the animal hygienic approach in veterinary medicine is the education. Education integrated in the curriculum of the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine, but in the Continuing Education programs after graduation too. There are big differences in the education programs for animal hygiene in the different countries. In some veterinary faculties there is a threat to incorporate animal hygiene in the clinical departments for the different animal species and not to maintain a special discipline for animal hygiene. At the opposite other faculty's are just looking for a special discipline for animal hygiene or animal husbandry. It is important that Animal Hygiene is a part of the education and research in the Veterinary Faculty's with enough critical mass to guarantee a high scientific standard. Therefore it is important to know about the running programs in different countries. In this issue you will find the first contributions from Prof. Harau Saionemi, Finland and Prof. Dr. Pal Ratai from Hungary about the education programs in there countries. We hope, that this contributions will force reactions from other members and that we will have more contributions from all over the world about this very important item in our newsletter in the future.

Dear members, there were several symposia under the heading of the Society in 1998. You can read about them in this newsletter. This is another way to emphasize the importance of Animal Hygiene and to stimulate the international exchange of knowledge in animal hygiene. Therefore the ISAH encourages the organization of animal hygiene related seminars and symposia under the patronage of the Society as much as possible. The rules for this organization are reviewed in the last Executive Board meeting and will be send to the country representatives later this year. We hope, that again in 1999 there will be organized conferences, symposia and seminars in different parts of the world.

From 23 to 25 April 1999 we will have our "in-between" Symposium in Slovaca. Prof. Aron will take care for the organization of this Symposium. The ISAH has given his support to the organization.

Beside of that the preparations of our next International Congress from 2-6 July 2000 in Maastricht in the Netherlands are in good progress. I hope, that all of you will have the opportunity to participate in this XIth Congress on Animal Hygiene.

Martin Tielen
President of the ISAH

Teaching Animal Hygiene

Foreword

"Having regard to the necessity of promotion of teaching animal hygiene in the institutions of veterinary and agricultural higher education, the Executive Board of the International Society for Animal Hygiene adopted a decision to launch series of publications in the Newsletter concerning teaching of animal hygiene. Papers are kindly invited from all those, who are responsible for teaching animal hygiene in institutes of higher education and are prepared to share their experiences. This series may help to develop further the teaching curriculum of animal hygiene, inform about the existent diversities and allow to draw conclusions that may provoke further discussions. Papers should involve the following parts :

- ⇨ Definition of animal hygiene from the point of teaching ;
- ⇨ Aim of the instruction ;
- ⇨ Position (time schedule) of the subject in the training ;
- ⇨ The links of the subject to the preceding and subsequent studies ;
- ⇨ List of the theoretical and practical lectures ;
- ⇨ Other relevant items

ISAH members involved in Teaching Animal Hygiene are kindly invited to contribute to the series by preparing a manuscript.

The papers should be sent to François MADEC, Secretary ISAH, if possible by e mail "f.madec@ploufragan.cneva.fr" (or floppy disk).

Teaching Animal Hygiene at the University of Budapest (Hungary)

Department of Animal Hygiene

by Prof. P. Rafai

The Department was established as independent entity in 1962 after 10 years affiliate work within the Department of Internal Medicine. Research activity in this Department has always attempted to answer the challenges of the changing agriculture and veterinary medicine. At present the three main fields of research relate to fusariotoxins, environmental physiology of pigs, poultry and domestic rabbit and to swine and cattle herd health including extension services.

The definition of the subject of animal hygiene is inseparable from the general goals of undergraduate education of the institution in question. Therefore, teaching animal hygiene in veterinary colleges should be always related to the veterinary profession. This explains our definition which is as follows:

Animal hygiene is the branch of the veterinary science, which relying on knowledge of physiological and ethological demands of animals, describes the preconditions of health preservation and investigates the pathophysiological changes brought about by adverse environmental effects in order to gain information on the aetiology and pathomechanism of multifactorial diseases. On this basis, animal hygiene systematizes the preventive veterinary measures with special reference to their economic consequences. Animal hygiene deals primarily with herds and protection of health of the herds, therefore the subject is more or less equivalent to the subject "herd health" taught in number of veterinary colleges of the western hemisphere.

Animal hygiene is an interdisciplinary science that lays bridge over animal husbandry and veterinary medicine. Its curriculum involves the management and nutrition technologies of farm animals, it deals with the principles of veterinary applied ethology and prepares veterinary undergraduates for implementation of demands and rules of animal welfare. At the same time the discipline also describes the multilateral effects of housing and nutrition on the health, on the inherited behavioural characteristics of farm and companion animals, on economy of their production and on the rural environment. Based on this knowledge veterinary undergraduates will be trained to become able for critical analysis of housing systems and nutritional regimes, for understanding the aetiology of management related diseases prevailing at herd level, for the application of methods of herd health management in order to prevent and control multifactorial diseases of high economic consequences.

Beyond teaching theoretical and practical knowledge of the discipline we endeavour to implement three goals. First of all we try to form an approach by which the veterinary practitioner becomes able to analyse the reasons of production decline, abnormal behaviour and animal diseases in their complex interactions with the environment. We also intend to prepare our undergraduates for the analysis of the

economic consequences of their preventive and curative measures. And last but not least, in harmony with other disciplines we regard important to teach our students to esteem and acknowledge the work of experts of other branches of agricultural science.

Theoretical and practical knowledge of animal hygiene is based on preceding studies in animal physiology, husbandry, nutrition, microbiology and immunology. At the same time it contributes to the better understanding of epidemiology, state veterinary medicine and food inspection.

The curriculum of the subject has changed over the years. Below I describe the latest development, which has been gradually introduced since the academic year of 1997/1998.

Prior to the current teaching reform (known as credit curriculum) veterinary applied ethology had formed integral part of teaching animal hygiene. As the importance of ethology and animal welfare has increased also in this country, the necessity of teaching ethology and welfare as independent subject became inevitable. Since the 1997/1998 academic year onward veterinary applied ethology is thought by the staff of the Department of Animal Hygiene in the 6th semester in 30 theoretical lectures. Among others the teaching curriculum embraces the ethical aspects of animal production, legal control of animal welfare, the Animal Welfare Act of Hungary and legislative measures in the European Union. We also deal with the laws and orders of animal transport, aspects of organisation of humane slaughter, general characteristics of innate behaviour and its modifications. When dealing with ethology of food and companion animals we describe and illustrate (by videos and slides) the natural behavioural patterns. On this basis we outline the behavioural requirements of farm animals that should be met by housing, feeding and management. Special emphasis is paid to demonstrating the consequences of failures in satisfying the behavioural requirements (viz. establishment of malbehaviour /ethostasis/).

Parallel with the foregoing changes the originally 120 theoretical lectures of animal hygiene reduced to 66 lectures and from the 1998/1999 academic year onward they will be delivered in the 8th and 9th semester. This substantial reduction restricts the teaching curriculum to the core material of animal hygiene. Following main sections are covered:

- ❖ Epidemiological aspects of establishing animal production units. Veterinary evaluation of livestock and poultry production farms.
- ◆ Basic principles of housing (physical properties of building materials; heat supply to and ventilation of stables; measurement of physical, chemical and microbiological pollutants in the air of closed confinements; disinfection of

stables and premises, methods of disinfection, disinfectants).

- ◆ Environmental physiology and ecopathology (interaction between animals and the thermal environment; effect of environmental factors on the energy metabolism of farm animals; thermal balance of animals; heat exchange between organism and environment; microclimatic requirements; measurement methods of the climatic surrounding; characteristics of management related diseases of farm animals; principles of control; effects of environmental factors on the defence mechanisms; short survey of defence mechanisms; environmental influences on maternal immunity of young animals; effects of environmental factors on the cellular and humoral immune responses of farm animals).
- ◆ Feed hygiene (connection between plant production and animal health; the effect of chemical decomposition and microbiological pollution of feed mixtures on the animal organism; feed rationing and nutritional aspects of prevention of digestive disorders; veterinary consequences of mycotoxins; chemical and microbiological examination of feeds and water, evaluation of the results; collection of feed and water samples).
- ◆ Effect of animal production on the environment (animal hygienic and epizootological aspects of rendering; veterinary and public health aspects of liquid manure handling in small- and large-scale animal production units).
- ◆ Cattle production (management technologies of dairy cattle units; hygiene of dairy farms; hygiene of calf raising; significance of supply with colostrum; housing of calves; digestive and hygienic aspects of nursing with milk replacers; animal hygienic aspects of beef cattle production).
- ❖ Sheep production. (management technologies of ewe keeping; sheep's milk production; herd health programmes for breeding sheep; aspects of reproduction biology of broiler lamb production; climatic requirements of broiler lamb production; management related, bacteriological, viral and parasitological diseases of broiler lambs, methods of control).
- ❖ Pig production. (structure of the Hungarian pig production, pig breeding companies; genetic and environmental factors that affect the meat quantity and quality; management technologies of swine production; effect of housing and feeding of sows on reproduction and biological value of new-born piglets; hygiene of farrowing; thermal demands of baby pigs; biological and economic aspects of weaning; keeping in flat-decks, hygiene of fattening; multifactorial digestive and respiratory disorders of pigs).

- ◆ Hygiene of poultry production. (biological and economic aspects of broiler and laying hen production; housing systems; factors affecting hatching; management related diseases of the domestic hen; hygiene of goose, duck, turkey and rabbit production; aspects of prevention of management related diseases).

The core material of animal hygiene is accomplished with three elective subjects in the 10th semester of which at least one is compulsory be picked up. The Department of Animal Hygiene offers lectures in herd health programmes for the dairy-, pig- and poultry industry. In the frame of these lectures students are instructed in theoretical lectures and farm visits about methods of prevention and control of management related diseases and production failures of dairy cattle, pig and domestic hen. In order to reduce the size of the manuscript I disclose only the teaching curriculum of swine herd health. At request I am ready to send the titles of lectures of the other two herd health programmes.

Herd health programmes for the swine industry

- Production oriented, planned veterinary programmes for the swine industry.
- Check lists for identifying environmental, housing and managerial risk factors.
- Slaughterhouse surveillance.
- Data recording and analysis of the data.
- Herd health management of reproduction.
- Reasons and economic consequences of culling.
- Periparturient diseases complex of the sow (urinary tract infections, MMA syndrome and hypo and agalactia). Herd health control of the periparturient diseases.
- Herd health management from farrowing till weaning. Control of *E. coli* scouring of baby pigs.
- Herd health management from weaning till the end of the postweaning period.
- Digestive disorders of pigs at weaning. Oedema disease. Control of Salmonellosis and Streptococcosis.
- Herd health management of fattening. Non-specific digestive disorders of pigs. Prevention and control of swine dysentery and gastric ulcers.
- Chronic respiratory disorders of pigs. Effects of environmental factors on the lung infections and pulmonary defence mechanisms.
- Herd health control programmes for the respiratory disorders .
- Specific Pathogen Free pig units.
- Herd health aspects of nutrition and feed distribution.

Teaching Animal Hygiene at the University of Helsinki (Finland), Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences by Prof. H. Saloniemi, Dean

In the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Helsinki, the Section of Animal Hygiene is part of the Department of Clinical Veterinary Sciences. This organisational scheme underlines the tight connections between clinical work and animal hygiene both during undergraduate studies and in the everyday work of a veterinarian in farm animal production. In Finland, teaching of animal hygiene covers interactions between domestic animals and production environment, including animal health and welfare, but also economical aspects in animal production. Nevertheless, animal hygiene in our Faculty also includes very basic aspects, and the topic will be given over several years in the study curriculum. Also, the Section of Animal Hygiene is responsible for some other topics not belonging in animal hygiene, that is, animal genetics and animal nutrition. The undergraduate courses given by the Section of Animal Hygiene are:

Animal Hygiene, Ethology and Animal Protection	3.5 study weeks*	1st year
Animal Genetics	2.0 study weeks	
Animal Nutrition and Feed Hygiene	2.5 study weeks	2nd year
Herd Health and Production	1.5 study weeks	3rd year
Medicine	4.5 study weeks	4th year
Farm and Stable Practice		1st year

* one study week corresponds to about 40 hours' workload by the students, and it is equivalent to 1,5 ECTS credits.

Animal Hygiene, Ethology and Animal Protection

Aims of instruction

On completion of the course the students (50 new students yearly) should

- have basic knowledge of farming and animal production and their volume and importance in Finland.
- have basic knowledge of plant cultivation, especially of fodder plant production
- have knowledge of common farm animal management and housing systems
- have knowledge of natural behaviour of farm and companion animals and their demands on the production environment
- have basic knowledge of structure and function of buildings used in animal housing and details that are important to animal welfare
- be able to evaluate production environment, understand its connection with health and diseases and, in addition, understand the economics of animal production

- have basic knowledge of milking technique, milk hygiene, the structure and function of milking machine, and their influence to udder health
- have knowledge of animal welfare

Lectures and practical training

The course includes 60 hours of lectures and 30 hours of practicals, course and visits. The first part of the course is given during six weeks of the first autumn term; after that, the students have their extra-mural practice (see below); then, the course will resume for one week.

In the beginning of the lecture course, some common aspects of farming and plant production and, in more detail, animal production in Finland will be discussed. Milking techniques, milking machines, hygiene during milking, and mastitis and cell counting will be taught both during lectures and practicals. For example, all students learn to milk and to wash milking equipment in our cow house. They also handle cows, calves, pigs and sheep, and examine all kinds of documents, reports and calculations available on ordinary farms.

Heat production of animals, and the effects of different aspects in the environment (extra heat and cold, moisture, harmful gases, light, dust, noise, etc.) on animal health are covered in the lectures. Several lectures in farm animal ethology are given, and the importance of behaviour on animal welfare is stressed. Construction of cow houses, stalls, boxes for pigs, sheep and horses etc. are also the topics of lectures. The environment of dogs is also briefly discussed. Manure handling, and the importance of infectious agents in manure, is also a topic lectured.

Lectures are given mainly by the professor in animal hygiene, but also by the two assistant teachers of the section. Some visiting lecturers from national animal production organizations and animal protection organizations are also invited. Seminars on production and management of some less common animal farming and keeping farms (fish, fur, broilers etc.) are given by the students themselves. Practical are made in the teaching cow and swine houses of the faculty. One or two full-day visits are made on different farms. Videos from different production and management systems are also included in teaching material.

In addition to above mentioned lectures and practicals, the section organizes an extra-mural practice on farms and horse stables. During the winter of the first year, the students work for 2 weeks on a farm in a cow house and for 2 weeks in a swinery. During the first or second year, they work for one week in a horse stable. After the practice, the students have to give a detailed written report on the management and feeding on the farms. Finnish books on farm animal management are used and handouts are distributed to students. At the end of

this and other animal hygiene courses, a written exam is arranged to assess the knowledge of the students.

Animal Hygiene and Feed Hygiene

Aims of instruction for this course also include some animal hygiene aspects. On completion of the course, the students should have basic knowledge, in addition to the nutritional items, on :

- feed hygiene and
- diseases related to feeding

The course includes 4 to 6 hours of lectures and 8 hours of practicals in feed hygiene. Diseases related to feeding are discussed during several lectures and are the topic in several problems introduced to students in their practicals. The practicals include laboratory work, where hygiene quality of grass silage samples is examined.

The students practice computer aided feeding planning. They use Finnish books on farm animal nutrition and an English book on dog and cat nutrition. Handouts on practical problem solving in animal feeding and another on feed quality and poisonous plants are distributed to the students.

Herd Health and Production Medicine

Aims of instruction

This course can also be called Clinical Animal Hygiene and Applied Veterinary Epidemiology. On completion of the course, students should have knowledge of herd planning and management, disease recording systems in Finland, use of computers in animal productions and veterinary practice and basics in veterinary economy

Lectures and practical training

The lectures are given every second year to third and fourth year students simultaneously. The course includes 30 hours of lectures and 8 hours of practicals made during the lecture course.

In the beginning of the lecture course in herd health and production medicine, common principles in herd health are covered. The text book by Radostits, Leslie and Fetrow (Herd Health - Food Animal Production Medicine) is a guide for teachers. The book itself is too expensive for students. Special attention has been paid to data management on farm and in veterinary practice. Our national disease and production recording schemes are studied in detail,

and commercial data management computer programs are demonstrated. Lectures in herd health planning on dairy farms and on pig farms are given by experienced herd health veterinarians. Some aspects of health breeding are also given. The health and disease economy in animal production and veterinary practice are discussed.

In practicals, the students shall make a health plan for cows or pigs in our teaching cow house. Infertility, mastitis or lameness are main problems in dairy cows in these exercises. Piglet diarrhea, piglet mortality or respiratory diseases in finishing pigs are corresponding topics in teaching swine house. All health plans will later be discussed in whole class.

The main part of the herd health planning practice is conducted during the fifth year, which is a lecture-free clinical year. During the clinical year, the students are divided into groups of five students. Each group has an eleven-week period at the production animal clinic outside Helsinki area, and during that time, 3 weeks are dedicated to herd health visits at different types of farms.

Advanced studies

Advanced studies (15 study weeks) are included in the curriculum in our Veterinary Faculty. The students can freely choose the topic of their study project. Each year in the Section of Animal Hygiene, 5-7 students (that is, about 10 percent of the year class) perform their advanced studies. The topics usually fit some of the research projects of our section. During their advanced studies, students get good knowledge of our research activities and, at the same time, help us in practical research work.

Research activities in the selection of Animal Hygiene are directed at calf behaviour and welfare; cattle welfare and health in cold loose housing systems; sow behaviour, fertility and piglet mortality; invasive epidemiology concerning some common respiratory diseases of swine; mycotoxins; and phytoestrogens.

Changes desirable and foreseen

In the near future, some minor changes in teaching of animal hygiene are expected. We stress and underline common farm animal management and the effects of production environment on animal welfare and health. This is important because the majority of the students have no experience in farm life. Short courses for practising veterinarians in animal hygiene are also very important, and the Section of Animal Hygiene organizes these courses together with other bodies of continuing education.

THE "PROFESSOR TIELEN FOUNDATION"

Prof. Dr Martin Tielen, President
Dr Paul Van Gulick, Secretary

In the organizing committee of the Xth congress on Animal Hygiene an initiative was born to erect the "Professor Tielen foundation".

The most important reason for the erection of this foundation was the experience, that very often young scientists from developing countries can not participate in the ISAH- congresses due to a lack of financial support. We believe, that just the participation of this young scientist could increase the contribution of this developing countries to the congresses and that they could get the opportunity to earn knowledge that can be used to stimulate the development of healthy animal production in this countries.

In the statute of the "Professor Tielen foundation" it is stated, that the purpose of the foundation is : *to promote the scientific, professional and moral education of graduated veterinarians and other scientists in the field of veterinary medicine from developing countries*"

The foundations try to realize this purpose by acquiring finances and to appropriate it for financial support of persons, who can not acquire money on any other way, to give them the opportunity to visit congresses and scientific meetings in the Netherlands.

First at all the foundation will concentrate on the Xth International Congress on Animal Hygiene in Maastricht. We expect that we can give 15-20 persons the opportunity to become financial support to visit the congress.

Selection

There will be set up a procedure to select the young scientists for financial support. The country representatives will play an important role in this selection. They know the prospective young scientists in the field of animal hygiene in there country. The board of the "Professor Tielen foundation" will give clear instruction to the country representatives which criteria have to be performed by the young scientists to be considered for financial support. They can then inform the young scientist about this opportunity. This connected scientists will be asked to send in an extended abstract or a full paper for a scientific presentation in the congress and to complete an inquiry about the personal and the financial situation. A scientific committee will judge this paper and make a proposal to the foundation for the selection. The board of the foundation will take the final decision based on the proposal of the scientific committee together with the data in the inquiry.

**66TH GENERAL SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF OIE**

(Office International des Epizooties)

**Paris,
26 – 29 May 1998**

More than 300 delegates representing 100 countries attended the meeting. Besides the country representatives, international organisations were present like FAO, WHO... OIE is a central organisation for animal disease issues in the world. The Veterinary services of the member States are due to establish and declare animal health situation of their country to OIE. At the general session held in Paris, the main priorities of OIE for the coming years were given by the general director :
Dr BLANCOU :

- ⊗ Provide a broader information about animal diseases and the related preventive measures to the member countries. Documents have been and are being prepared for that purpose and informations can be found at the Web site.
- ⊗ Develop and promote international standards. An important work is devoted to the implementation of a code.
- ⊗ Stimulate cooperation with the national veterinary services.

A plenary session dealt with Animal health status and disease control methods in the member countries in 1997. Several tables and documents showed the situation regarding list A diseases (major, notifiable diseases : foot and mouth disease, swine fever, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia, Newcastle disease...) and list B diseases (other main diseases and zoonoses : Brucellosis, Tuberculosis, Aujeszky's disease, Rabies, IBR, BSE, Anthrax, Contagious equine metritis, equine viral arteritis, pullorum disease, Trypanosomiasis,...). In Europe, year 1997 showed outbreaks of list A diseases among which : swine vesicular disease (in Italy), contagious peripneumonia (Portugal), African swine fever (Italy), classical swine fever (Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy) and Newcastle disease (Germany, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Czech republic, Sweden, Great-Britain and Ireland). Concerning list B diseases, a focus was made on BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy). In Belgium and in Luxembourg one case of BSE was reported. Two cases were reported in Germany and in the Netherlands, six cases in France (12 in 1996), 30 cases in Portugal (29 in 1996), 38 cases in Switzerland (45 in 1996), 77 cases in Ireland (73 in 1996). and 3762 cases in UK (8150 in 1996).

Another session was devoted to disease occurrence prediction systems based on Epidemiology including laboratory results and aiming at disease prevention. The interest of an international warning system for major epizootics

was outlined. These epidemics, beyond their impact on animal production may also have severe consequences on trade. A questionnaire was sent by OIE to the member countries in order to assess their ability to predict such outbreaks. The results were rather contrasting. In many cases, a strong effort should be directed to develop quantitative Epidemiology including risk analysis, modelling and geographic information systems. A warning disposal in case of epidemics is being studied by FAO through a programme named EMPRES and OIE is involved in the process. But obviously a prerequisite is the ability of the veterinary services in the countries to rapidly and properly obtain reliable informations about the outbreaks. This still remains a real challenge in too many cases.

A session had as key topic more precisely the role of the national veterinary services and the connections with the veterinary private sector and the industry. The lecture was given by Dr Astudillo from Brazil. He gave the experience of countries like Argentina in their eradication programmes of foot and mouth disease. These programmes strongly involved the participation of the private sector. Another point was the constitution of local working groups integrating efficiently the different actors of the programme (farmers, veterinarians, local veterinary services...). The success of such huge programmes is based on the willingness of the people to actively cooperate. They must be motivated through a clear definition of the objectives of the projects and the evaluation of the expected benefit. During the debates following the lecture, the maintenance of a steering role of the State veterinary services was clearly outlined by the participants.

An important part of the meeting was devoted to the International Animal Health Code. A special OIE commission is specifically and actively working on this question. The commission is backed to expert groups since intensive work is needed. The objective is to write down rules concerning animal diseases in relation to international trade. The subject is of major importance since the status of a country or of a territory can strongly interfere with the commercial exchanges. An official agreement has been signed between OIE and the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Part of the International Animal Health Code is already written but it needs to be regularly updated and completed. The text is written in English, French and Spanish. Other translations are underway. The documents are available at the Web site of OIE. At the meeting discussions occurred about Aujeszky's disease,

about BSE and about other items like zoonoses transmission from non-human primates and about risk analysis applied to biologicals for veterinary use.

The president of OIE commission dealing with « the laboratory International reference standards » reported on the subjects currently underway. The reference laboratories for OIE was one of the items discussed, but most of the discussion turned around an international standardization of diagnostic tests for animal diseases. A handbook recapitulates these methods (standard reagents, reference sera...) and the commission is actively working on an updated version.

Different other technical subjects were debated during the meeting like the particular problem of foot-and-mouth disease, the epidemio-surveillance systems regarding rinderpest and the diseases affecting the fish. A paper reported on the usefulness of molecular biology techniques to build up tools for infection detection in animals. Finally, other study commissions or working groups reported on their current task : veterinary drugs, wild fauna, computering and epidemiology.

The matter of the meeting combined scientific and political aspects of animal health and trade. In total, despite a full agenda, the offered an important space for discussion. Most of the participants could use their own mother language since there was an excellent simultaneous translation. This was probably one of the reasons for lively discussions. I was impressed by the quality of the interventions and by the technical organisation of the congress.

Dr F. MADEC
President of EAAP Management
and Health Commission
29.05.1998

Coordinates of OIE :
OIE, World organization
for animal health
12 rue Prony
75017 PARIS - FRANCE
☎ : 33 1 44 15 18 88
Fax : 33 1 42 67 09 87
✉ : OIE@OIE.int



49th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production (EAAP) - August 24-27, 1998

The 49th annual meeting of EAAP was held in Warsaw (Poland).

About 650 people attended the meeting at the Palace of Culture and Science.

The Polish organizing committee was chaired by Dr Barbara Reklewska from the Agricultural University of Warsaw. The Polish society for Animal Production was strongly involved in the organization. The Congress started on Monday 24th and ended on Thursday 27th. But as soon as Saturday, satellite symposia took place on different topics related to animal production. The first dealt with "modern techniques in biology of reproduction" and it was chaired by Prof. Dr J. Modlinski from Mrokow near Warsaw. The second one was focused on "how to prepare and present scientific papers". The venue was the Warsaw agricultural university. It was chaired by J. Van Arendonk from the Netherlands and by T. Przysucha from Warsaw University.

On Sunday a third symposium was organised by both prof. J. Falkowski from the pig breeding department at the Agriculture University of Olsztyn and Dr Wittman from the research Institute for Animal Breeding and Nutrition in Gödollo (Hungary). The title of the symposium was "principles and resolutions meeting new requirements of large scale pig farming in Europe". Two parts were scheduled, one on international trends and development in large scale pig farming (chairman : P Glodek) and the other on housing and management (chairman : P Rafai). ISAH was well represented in the symposium. Besides Prof. Rafai, Prof. Tielen and myself presented papers.

A fourth symposium took place in the conference center of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Jablona, close to Warsaw. It was entitled "feed additives in nutrition of the new born and young animal". The local organizer was prof. Dr Teresa Zebrowska from the Kielanowski institute of animal physiology and nutrition in Jablona.

At the congress more than thirty sessions were scheduled, 4 to 7 sessions presented simultaneously. The geneticists talked about optimization of pig crossbreeding programmes. New developments in cattle breeding were also considered and a discussion occurred about "sustainable breeding". The scientists involved with nutrition issues had a session on wet feeding systems for pigs. The influences of nutrition on the hormonal control of reproduction was

the title of another session. The physiologists have focused their sessions on reproduction. Hence the physiology of puberty was one of their selected items. The scientists dealing with cattle production worked on restructure of livestock systems in Central and Eastern Europe. The question of extended lactations in dairy cattle was another topic and they had several other items.

Small ruminants specialists organised two sessions on breeding. They also paid attention to the evaluation of sheep and goat production systems. Besides subjects of interest for ruminants, numerous ones were devoted to the other species (pig and horse). The horse production in Poland was an interesting item.

The management and health aspects of livestock production were covered in five scientific sessions. These were respectively devoted to :

- the behaviour of horses, chairman : J Ladewig (DK)
- animal transportation, chairman : D. Ekkel (NL)
- developments in pig husbandry systems and criteria for their assessment : chairman : E. Von Borell (D)
- the physiological aspects of reproductive disorders with special emphasis on embryo survival in the pig, chairman : L. Solti (H)
- air emissions from farm houses, chairman : J. Hartung (D)

I especially attended those sessions organized by the management and health commission. I was pleased to notice the high scientific level of the papers presented and enthusiastic debates we have had during the sessions. The main papers presented about the pig husbandry systems are just published very soon in "Pig News and Information". For an important part, these papers are the production of a working group which was set-up in close connection with the EAAP Management and Health study commission. The group was made of eight scientists from 5 countries and it was chaired by prof. E. Von Borell from University of Halle in Germany. This was the first step for the group and it is intended to continue. The following general item was proposed for a second step : "development of assessment

systems for the certification of management procedures and housing conditions in pig production". New active members should join the working group.

A mid conference tour was organized on wednesday afternoon. The participants visited the national animal show where the best breeding stock of all farm animal species were presented including fur animals. During the conference a social programme was prepared for accompanying persons.

For more informations about the contents of the meeting and the related documents that came out, contact can be taken with the organizing committee and/or with wageningen pers, the publisher of the book of abstracts (wageningen pers., po box 42 Mansholtlaan 10-12 6700 AR Wageningen, The Netherlands).

The next EAAP meeting is planned for august 1999, 22-26 in Zurich (Switzerland). The 50th anniversary of EAAP will be celebrated there. The headlines of the scientific programme for management and health commission are already prepared. Welfare, reproduction technologies and risk of disease transmission, electronic identification of farm animals and physiology of suboptimal growth in case of disease, are items which will be dealt with.

D' F. MADEC
President of Management
and Health Study Commission

Book of abstracts :

Contact Wageningen Pers.

Fax : +31 (0) 317 426044

✉ : Info@WageningenPers.nl

Internet : www.WageningenPers.nl

IV International Conference on Ecology and Veterinary Medicine 13-16 May, Kosice, Slovak Republic By: Prof. Dr. Martin Tielen

The IV international conference on Ecology and Veterinary Medicine was organized by the Veterinary University of Kosice in cooperation with the Research Institute of Veterinary Medicine in the Conference room of the Institute.

The organizing committee was chaired by Dr. M. Ondrasovic and the proceedings with papers in English or Slovakian language were edited by Dr. J. Venglovsky, the Slovakian country representative of the ISAH. All Slovakian papers have an abstract in English.

The main title of the conference was : "*Hygienic and ecological problems in relation to Veterinary Medicine*".

The conference took place in the honor of memory of Prof. Dr. J. Rosocha, one of the former Presidents and honorary member of the ISAH.

The international conference was put under the patronage of the ISAH and the ISAH emblem was presented as well on the program as on the Book of Proceedings.

Prof. Dr. Martin Tielen represented the Society in the conference. He presented a main paper titled: "Developments in Animal Hygiene towards the year 2000." The introduction of this lecture is cited :

" The international Society for Animal Hygiene was established in November 1970. A group of scientists in veterinary medicine from east- and west European countries decided at that moment to found an international platform especial for the field of animal hygiene. One of the participants in the founding meeting was the late Prof. Jan Rosocha. He was also member of the first extended executive board.

The field of animal hygiene deals with the interaction between the animal, especially the farm animals, and his biotic and abiotic environment. Today veterinary scientists are convinced about the very important role of the environment of the animals to prevent against diseases and to promote the animal health and welfare. The group of the founders of the ISAH had this view already 25 years ago. Prof. Jan Rosocha was one of them. He was president of the society from 1980 until 1983. For his active contribution to the development and extension he became honorary member of the Society. It was an excellent idea of the Organizing Committee to organize the IV Symposium on Ecology and Veterinary Medicine in the honor of Prof. Rosocha."

The conference was well organized. There were contributions from scientists from different research centers all over Slovakia and from some universities in other countries. Several presentations were connected to the improvements and reconstruction of farm buildings, the role of the microclimate and the composition and handling of slurry. On the second day special attention was given to environmental genotoxicity, environmental contamination , the occurrence and reduction of mastitis and disinfection and desinsection subjects. ¹

¹ Further information: Dr. Jan Venglovsky, Research Institute of Veterinary Medicine
Hlinkova 1/A, 040 01 Kosice, Slovakia
Tel: 421 95633 1852, Fax: 421 95633 1853, e-mail: venglov@ccsun.tuke.sk

32th Congress of the ISAE Clermont-Ferrand, France

The 32d Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE) was held from 21th to 25th of July 1998 at Clermont-Ferrand (France). The meeting was locally organised by INRA (National Institute of Agronomic Research). A total of 300 scientists from 33 different countries participated. The topics were on the ethology and welfare of mainly farm animals, but also on pet, laboratory and zoo animals. Six plenary papers, 66 oral presentations during parallel sessions and 120 posters were presented. The meeting was characterised by two particular themes. The first theme on bioethics was introduced within the Wood-Gush memorial lecture presented by B. Rollin and handled questions on the responsibility of humans towards animals. The second theme was on the use and interest of ethology in developing countries. One plenary presentation and 4 oral presentations were on that topic. A wide range of research projects within these countries including the maintenance of biodiversity and questions about extensive and intensive farming systems were presented and discussed. During the congress, technical visits were organised on INRA research farms but also on private farms. Demonstrations on the use of dogs for handling cattle as well as for geese were performed. Different types of milking procedures were shown, ranging from the more traditional one's to automatic systems with milking robots. The organisers (namely Pierre Le Neindre, Isabelle Veissier and Alain Boissy) did a very good job initiating an extensive reviewing procedure of abstracts (involving 43 referees), providing perfect technical assistance during the sessions and excursions and plenty opportunities for social grooming in a very warm and hospitable atmosphere.

Eberhard Von Borell
Halle University Germany

**Report on the International
Symposium
"Disinfection and Hygiene,
Future prospects"
held in Wageningen
on 16th and 17th of October 1997**

This symposium was one of the highlights in the last year concerning the presentation of actual knowledge in the field of disinfection. It was organised by Akzo Nobel Chemicals, Diversey - Lever and Henkel KGaA together with the Wageningen Agricultural University. Chairman and main initiators had been Dr. Eugène Bessems and Prof. Paul Terpstra with his institute was responsible for the excellent organization of this conference.

The programme was divided into four different sections. The first section dealt with several approaches to hygiene including the application of a HACCP-concept in order to identify hygienic risk in the homes, the importance of disinfection in dairy and beverage production as well as disinfection and hygiene in the production and handling of food of Animal origin, especially meat and meat-products. This section closed with a paper "Disinfection and hygiene in the veterinary field - disinfection of animal houses and transport vehicles", in which basic requirements for the procedure and for the validation of disinfectants with respect to practical conditions had been summarized.

The second section dealt with some physiological phenomena connected with disinfection. It started with basic reflections concerning the phenomenon of biocide resistance in micro-organisms, followed by a report on bacterial resistance to disinfectants containing quaternary ammonium compounds and a paper about characterization of isolates resistant to disinfectants and preservatives in which the practical importance of occurring cross-resistance was pointed out. A consideration of some implications of the resistance of biofilms to biocides followed and this section was closed by a contribution summarizing the state of knowledge concerning the mechanisms of action of disinfectants.

Efficacy assessment of disinfectants was the theme of the third section which was of central importance due to the European standardization work (CEN, TC 216) which is in progress now. This session started with an overview on disinfectant testing in Europe given by Prof. Reybrouck, covering all fields in which such methods may be applied. This was followed by a presentation dealing with future techniques for disinfectant efficacy testing including experimental approaches described in the literature. The special situation of testing disinfectants with dormant bacterial spores and the important question of assessment of the efficacy of disinfectants on surfaces were subject of the following contributions, demonstrating the wide range of methods which could be used in this field and discussing the problems of reliability and representativity of results elaborated by such methods.

The final fourth section of the symposium stressed the important point of "Disinfectants and Legislation". It was opened by a survey on regulatory procedures for disinfectants in Europe given by Dr. Maris. The environmental aspect which is the base for the "EU Biocidal Products Directive" and the resulting consequences for disinfectants were the subject of the second contribution of this section, which was closed by a presentation about residue aspects of disinfectants used in food industry, covering the toxicological aspects of practical importance.

For all those who could not attend this symposium the given papers in full length had been published in "International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation. Special Issue - Hygiene and Desinfection", Vol. 41, No. 3-4 (1998).

**Wolfram MARTENS
Reinhard BÖHM
Univ. of Hohenheim, Germany**

Title of the Conference: "The systems of keeping, transport and health care of pigs regarding aspects of welfare of animals and the European Union law regulations for protection of animals."

The scientific conference was held under the patronage of the ISAH. The ISAH was represented by the President, Prof. Dr. Martin Tielen. He was member of the honour committee. The country representative from Poland in the Executive Board of the ISAH, Prof. Rockici, was present too.

The conference was organized to anticipate on the membership of Poland to the European Union in the future. Poland is realizing that big changes in the pig production structure has to take place to become competitive with the production levels and to meet the requirements and regulations in the EU.

**International
Scientific Conference,
27- 30 Sept, 1998,
Wroclaw, Poland**

Organizer:

Prof. Dr. Roman Kolacz
Agricultural University of Wroclaw
Department of Animal Hygiene
and Livestock Environment
ul. Dicksteina 3, 51-617 Wroclaw, Poland
Tel/fax: 71 3484142, e-mail: khz@ozi.ar.wroc.pl

After some introductory speeches, the conference started with a paper presenting some information of the production in Poland in the last years (Rozicki, Poland). This paper was followed by a presentation of Prof. Okularczyk (Poland) about Polish integration in the EU, with the main question or this should be regarded as a change or a threat.

After this more general papers from Poland there were a group of international contributions to the conference. First at all Prof. Ekesbo from Sweden presented two papers. The first was dealing with health and behavior as indicator for animal welfare. In the second paper he presented the structure and activities of the council of Europe's Standing Committee for Farm Animal Welfare. Prof. Martin Tielen from the Netherlands presented a paper about housing and management as tools for pig disease prevention, giving special attention to the integrated Quality Control. There were two contribution from the United Kingdom (Mike Loman and Tim Harris) about requirements of transportation of pigs.

On the second day of the conference nutritional requirements for welfare of pigs were discussed in a paper from Dr. Marie Christine Meunier-Salaün (France). Prof. Dieter Strauch (Germany) presented a paper about animal waste as a risk for animal and human health. The last international contribution was from Dr. Doellen (Canada) who presented a paper about the modern systems of ventilation in swine.

Six Polish papers completed the scientific program of the conference.

All presentation were included in the proceedings, where all foreign papers were full translated in Polish with a English summary and all Polish papers had a English summary.

So Prof. Dr. R. Kolacz organized a valuable scientific conference under the patronage of the ISAH.

Prof. Martin Tielen



ANNOUNCEMENTS

❶ ISAH "in-between" symposium in POSTOJNA CAVE, SLOVENIA (60 km south to Ljubljana)

23 – 24 April 1999-02-03

The symposium is organized by Prof. Dr M. AMON, representative of ISAH in Slovenia, in the memory of Prof Dr. S. VALENTINCI

- The symposium will mainly deal with Animal welfare and Environmental protection Items concerned :
 - ⇒ animal wastes and Hygiene of Composting of biodegradable components as risk for environment and animal health
 - ⇒ the prevention of food contaminations
 - ⇒ composting hygiene
 - ⇒ problems of air pollution, measurements
 - ⇒ testing of means for disinfection
 - ⇒ environmental protection in big farms (cattle, pig, poultry)
 - ⇒ animal health
 - ⇒ indicators of Animal Welfare
 - ⇒ management of farm animals and stress prevention
 - ⇒ transport of animals and Animal Welfare

◆ Contact persons:

Prof.Dr. M. Amon, dr.vet.med; Doc.Dr. M. Dobeic, dr.vet.med.

and Mrs. Majda Kušej

Tel./fax.: 00 386 61 347 478

Tel 00 386 61 1779 195

00 386 61 1779 147

Fax 00 386 61 1779 199

Language on the In-between symposium will be English exclusively, with simultaneous translation to Slovene language (for our participants). Printed Proceedings of Abstracts of the Symposium in English and Slovene language will be available.

◆ The organizers of the Symposium will be:

Slovenian Veterinary Association
Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food
Veterinary Faculty of Ljubljana
Veterinary Faculty of Zagreb

◆ The patrons of the Symposium will be:

Ministry for Environmental Protection of the Republic of Slovenia
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia

Ministry of Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia

A Committee for preparations and organisation of In between Symposium has been formed.

Prof. Dr. R. Böhm, Hohenheim, Germany, has been delegated as the representative of the Executive Board of ISAH to our committee.

◆ Call for papers: deadline

- * title and abstract on 1 page until the 1 March 1999
- * authors should submit their PC processed contribution at the reception on the day of the event (use Word Perfect 5,2 or Word for Windows 6,0 - 8,0 on 3,25" or 5,25" microdiscs)

The paper should not exceed 6 pages, references and abstract inclusive. The tables and figures with an English legend should be printed on A4 sheets and should be enclosed when sending your papers.

Registration for the symposium should be sent to:
Slovenska Veterinarska zveza, Sekcija za higieno okolja
Gerbičeva 60
SI-1000 Ljubljana.

② International Congress on "Regulation of Animal Production in Europe"

9 – 12 May 1999, Kurhaus Wiesbaden, Germany.

Organizer : KTBL Dr Martin KUNISCH
Bartningstrasse 49
D – 64 289 DARMSTADT
Fax. +49 61517001123
E-mail : m.kunisch@ktbl.de
Internet home page <http://www.ktbl.de>

③ 50th Annual Meeting of the European Association for Animal Production

Zurich CH, 22-26 August 1999.

At the Congress the programme of Management and Health study Commission will focus on :

- impact of Welfare research and legislation on production, economy and consumer acceptance
- Reproduction technologies and risks of disease transmission
- Physiology of suboptimal growth
- Electronic identification

④ International Symposium on PRRS and Aujeszky's disease

Ploufragan, France, 21 – 24th June 1999

Secretariat : Mrs Geneviève CLEMENT
ISPAIA, Zoopole, BP 7, 22440 PLOUFRAGAN 6 France
☎ : + 33 2 96 78 61 30
Fax: + 33 2 96 78 61 31
E-mail : ISPAIA@zoopole.asso.fr

