

THE ROLE OF ANIMAL HYGIENE IN HEALTHY ANIMAL PRODUCTION AND EQUIBLE RELATION ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENT

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It is already the XIIth International Congress on Animal Hygiene. The first one took place in Budapest, Hungary 32 years ago.

Since that time, the International Society for Animal Hygiene has grown significantly and has transformed from being a closed association to a world organization, which gathers scientists and practicing veterinaries from around the globe. Almost 200 participants from over 50 countries will participate in the proceedings in Warsaw.

The Congress's main subject has gone through a complete evolution over the last years. The classical issue of hygiene in animals' buildings is still up-to-date, however hygiene, as a scientific discipline, has currently created numerous links to other branches of animal science.

In 1997, in Helsinki, the Congress deliberations concentrated around the leading theme: Healthy Animals, Sound Production, Environment, Satisfied Consumer.

The leading thought of the Congress deliberations in Maastricht, the Netherlands was: „Animal Hygiene - the key to healthy animal production in an optimal environment” and in Mexico Congress the watchword was: Animal Hygiene, Veterinary Preventive Medicine, Food Safety and Environment Protection Basics of the Animal and Human Health of the XXI century.

All of the leading thoughts mentioned, are still of current importance for the XIIth Congress, however I wish to emphasize that the leading topic of the Congress is: Animals and Environment.

I am convinced that the congress proceedings will bring many new elements which will enrich the knowledge in the field of animal hygiene. The attempt to sum up or to demonstrate the current trends in the hygienic activity on the ground of common policies and practices in the United Europe is our aim. It is a vital subject for the participants from Poland and other European countries, which have joined recently or those, who are soon to join. In many lectures of the plenary sessions we note the theme connected to adapting our activities to the European standards.

Sanitary and hygienic regulations in Poland have already been adapted to the current needs of the United Europe. For example the Polish act on the animal health protection and fighting infectious diseases from March 11th 2004 is in compliance with content and significance of 32 main directives and law regulations of the EU.

Animal hygiene as a science and practical activity may contribute to the improvement of the state of animal health under the following conditions:

It seems that in many countries changes in the educational system, in such a way that the graduates get to know the prevention systems, biosecurity and the welfare of animals, are needed.

To make the animal production possible interdisciplinary actions which would join the control of the welfare and the technology of animal production with prophylactic activity, the control of the feeding systems and the evaluation of the quality of animal products is crucial.

The unification of law in the field of regulations concerning the minimal conditions of animal maintenance and production animal health protection is a necessity. In the European Union the regulations are being successfully unified and made complete.

The inseparable element, supporting the widely understood prevention, is the wellbeing: physical health and fulfillment of psychological needs of production animals. The construction of animal welfare is relatively simple in the extensive breed. The situation becomes more complicated under the conditions of intensive or industrial breeding – in large structures. Therefore, in hygienic activities, which lead to constructing welfare, tools to accomplish that should be as follows:

- law regulations
- ecological awareness of breeders
- expert, scientists and animal protection organizations opinions'
- opinions and requirements of consumers
- full realization of veterinary prevention and biosecurity

In such complex activity hygienists will be able to influence the welfare of production animals.

Mutual relations between production animals and the natural environment are obvious. On the one hand, the contamination of air, water, soil, fodder influence the state of health of animals and through contaminated products of animal origin also the health of

people. On the other hand, intensive animal production creates danger of biological and chemical contaminating the natural environment.

Contamination of products of animal origin and the individual elements of the environment in Poland and European countries is being systematically investigated. The monitoring is being conducted by appropriate institutions. Unfortunately, loopholes in this field still exist in European and Polish regulations. We lack regulations forbidding the farm usage of unrecycled liquid slurry, and at the same time it is allowed to be used as a fertilizer. In the face of an increase in the existing structures practicing no-bedding animal breeding, the danger of chemical and biological contamination of soil, cultivation and fodder for animals increases. Contamination with this substance poses a significant danger for agroecosystems, but also for natural ecosystems. I think these issues will be thoroughly considered during the Congress.

Probable topics of discussion will also be such key issues as: food safety and veterinary public health, by-product management, disinfection and behaviour of animals. I hope that the Congress lectures and discussions will permit the specification of main directions of ISAH's activity in its new structure.

Coming to an end, I would like to thank sincerely all those, who supported morally and financially the preparation of the XIIth International Congress on Animal Hygiene. I forward special thanks to the members of the EB, Organizing Committee of ISAH, whose everyday involvement made it possible to organize the Congress.

Krynski

President of ISAH 2003-2005