

Research program IZS VE 01/13

Developing harmonized protocols for sanitary surveillance in the game control centres

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Game control centres could represent an important infrastructure for both consumers' health and surveillance on wildlife diseases and, due to the increasing interest in game meat, the distribution of these facilities should become more and more widespread in our territory (North-Eastern Italy). At the moment, however, their distribution is still very patchy, being present in some areas, while absent in others. Therefore, consolidated traditions in data collection and surveys from these centres are still not present. In such a situation, and considering the anticipated increase of these facilities, it appears worthwhile to start the developing of harmonized protocols, so that data from the aforementioned centres could be more easily compared and analyzed among different administrative units.

This need is all the more reason evident, when considering the effort in progress to develop and harmonize the surveillance on wildlife diseases in Europe, regarding diagnostics, population dynamics and distribution and epidemiological data.

The objectives of this project are:

- to develop species-specific standard protocols for sanitary surveillance at the game control centres, aimed at the passive surveillance and early detection of priority pathogens and at possible active surveillance programmes;
- to develop standard methods for data collection and archive for surveillance on wildlife diseases at the game control centres, implementing the surveillance network which is under construction in North-Eastern Italy.