



Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2 in animals

PAFF – Section Animal Health and Welfare

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Unit G2 – Animal Health

Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2

- Possible Legal basis: Directive 2003/99 on monitoring of zoonoses which empowers the Commission (TBC)
- Coordinated monitoring programmes established by the Commission when specific needs are identified, to assess risks or to establish baseline values (Art 5).

Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2

- Coordinated monitoring programmes (Annex III) requires the definition of:
 - — its purpose;
 - — its duration;
 - — its geographical area or region;
 - — the zoonoses and/or zoonotic agents concerned;
 - — the type of samples and other data units requested;
 - — minimum sampling schemes;
 - — the type of laboratory testing methods;
 - — the tasks of competent authorities;
 - — the resources to be allocated;
 - — the estimation of its costs and how they will be covered; and
 - — the method and time of reporting the results.

- either passive approach or active approach
- passive monitoring: always in place where animals susceptible to SARS-CoV-2, or people infected or suspected to be infected
- active monitoring: based on virological or serological testing of live or dead animals
- Possible objectives:
 - Early detection of SARS-CoV-2
 - Measuring exposure to SARS-CoV-2
 - confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 infection in suspected animals
 - Monitoring virus evolution

Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2

- **Active monitoring** → early detection
- Target population: farmed minks and raccoons
- Sampling for each epi unit: Favour animals with clinical signs, if not random sample with a designed prevalence of 5% with 95% confidence
- Frequency: on a weekly basis
- Test: RT-PCR
- Pooling of sample: can be an option provided it does not reduce the sensitivity of the PCR

Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2

- **Passive monitoring**
- The whole territory
- Awareness campaigns
- Cannot provide early warning due to likely lack of clinical signs in animals

Monitoring on SARS-CoV-2

- **Monitoring virus evolution**
- One sample per outbreak – the index case?
- Genetic sequencing analysis
- Detect possible virus mutations, including those of public health concerns

Thank you



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