

Veterinary training course in farm animal welfare in accordance with EEC 98/58

R. MATASSA¹, L.J. VINCO², G. DIEGOLI³ and L. MONTELLA⁴

1Ministero della Salute

2Istituto Zooprofilattico di Brescia

3Regione Emilia Romagna

4ASL Bologna.

E-mail: l.montella@ausl.bologna.it

Veterinary training courses in farm animal welfare in accordance with EEC 98/58 Animal welfare legislation are undergoing continuous changes also due to political decisions often supported by public opinion. The application of new welfare laws however often require adjustments as they are applied in the field especially when dealing with farm animals. In this case legislation application often may influence decisions taken by operators that are very expert in one particular area. This fact may have a deep impact with severe economic consequences on very advanced production systems such as the poultry industry. Poultry production, as a matter of fact, is carried out by highly specialised and huge integrated companies. The Italian government veterinary services are, on the other hand, organised in local health units subdivided in functional areas (A= Live animals. B= Slaughtered animals and C= Other, including animal welfare). This type of organization ensures an accurate veterinary control of the territory, but cannot ensure that all the vets are highly specialised in each production sector. For this reason very often the official veterinarian is not capable to deal with the poultry operators by giving them the right answers and making the right decisions. For this specific reason the general management of animal welfare and veterinary products of the Labour Ministry, of the Health Ministry and Social Policies have financed a training programme on the subject of animal welfare, with the aim of informing and training animal farmers. Each event lasted 3 days. The first morning session was dedicated to general legislation involving all animal farm species. The following sessions were dedicated to specific species. Field private vets have been recruited as speakers in order to ensure the provision of updated data thus providing adequate instruments to adapt legislation to specific field situations. Regarding poultry the following species were treated: broilers, turkeys, layers and minor species.

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