The slaughterhouse as data source for monitoring programmes

Martin Reist[1], Jakob Zinsstag[2], Roger Stephan[3], Gertraud Schüppach[1], Sara Schärrer[1], Patrick Korff[1], Anna Fahrion[1]

[1]*Veterinary Public Health Institute, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Berne, Berne*
[2]*Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Universis of Basel, Basel*
[3]*Institute for food safety and hygiene, University of Zurich, Zurich*

Key words
Monitoring, Surveillance, slaughterhouse, data source, IBR, EBL, STEC, ESBL, MRSA

Aim of the study
To investigate methods and developing concepts for an efficient and effective (efficacious) use of slaughterhouses as data source for monitoring and control programmes on animal diseases, zoonoses, food safety and animal-oriented animal welfare parameters.

Material and methods
To assess the feasibility of routine sampling and collect animal welfare parameters, the biggest Swiss slaughter houses were visited and blood and fecal samples were taken during pilot studies. Furthermore stakeholder workshops and questionnaires gave the study practical relevance. The coverage and cost efficiency of slaughterhouse samples was investigating by analyzing the data in the animal movement database.

Results and significance
To render surveillance programmes for proofing absence of disease with given international standards at the slaughterhouse efficient, a centralized data management system is necessary. Currently such a system is developed and tested based on the results of this study.
For prevalence studies the slaughterhouse gives a cost-efficient alternative to on-farm sampling. The prevalence of ESBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae for Swiss cattle was found to be 8.4 %.

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