

KODAVET – development of a System for the standardized recording of epidemiological data within Swiss Veterinary Services

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Swiss Veterinary Services have a federal structure including the Federal Veterinary Office and 25 Cantonal Veterinary Offices (www.bvet.admin.ch). As Cantonal offices are in charge of most animal disease control and monitoring activities, most data are recorded by the Cantons. Historically, Cantons have developed individual solutions for their data recording, managing and analysis needs. However, the majority of data also need to be transmitted to the Federal office. At present, a mixture of paper and electronic solutions are used for data communication. The central collation and use of the data is hindered by the non-standardized data structure. As a consequence of this, at present, not all data can be used in routine decision making. Also, in the case of an emergency situation (e.g. outbreak of FMD), data will not be available in a timely fashion.

In order to improve this situation, the Cantons and the Federal office have started a project to develop a system for the **coordinated data** recording in the **Veterinary Services (KODAVET)**. The system will be applicable to several tasks including: Emergency disease response, monitoring of endemic diseases, statutory case reporting, surveys to demonstrate disease freedom, slaughter examination data, data collection on farm inspections (good farming practice, good veterinary practice), and the creation of lists and statistics. KODAVET will access existing databases such as the national farm database and the animal movement database. All data recorded within KODAVET will be centrally stored and managed. The analytical tools of KODAVET will include a geographic information system.

The system is being developed in close collaboration with the future users. The needs of the users were assessed and documented in a series of workshops. The development will be realized in four development cycles, each including a concept, programming and testing phase. The system is expected to be implemented in Switzerland by 2005. Total development costs are estimated to be 2 Mio. Swiss Francs (approx. 1.5 Mio. US\$).