

PROGETTI DI “RICERCA CORRENTE 2016”
RELAZIONE FINALE

N. identificativo progetto: IZS LT 05/16 RC

Progetto presentato da:

ISTITUTO ZOOPROFILATTICO SPERIMENTALE

LAZIO E TOSCANA “M. ALEANDRI”

Area tematica: Benessere animale

Titolo del progetto:

Analisi, validazione e organizzazione dei dati metabolici e immunitari utili all’individuazione di indicatori di benessere animale nei cani ospitati in strutture sanitarie

Ricerca finanziata dal Ministero della Salute

Responsabile Scientifico: Dott.ssa Lavinia Alfieri

SUMMARY

Analysis, validation and organization of useful metabolic and immune data the identification of animal welfare indicators in dogs housed in healthcare facilities

Key words: Animal welfare, Kennel, Behaviour, physiological values, database

The theme of Animal Welfare and the issue of animal protection rules is has been widely treated, not only referring strictly to farm animals, but also to pets.

In particular, Law no. 281/9, marked a radical change in protection of pets and fight against stray dogs. Nonetheless, the big one innovation of the norm, that is the ban on the suppression of stray dogs and cats, has led to the proliferation of "long-term" shelters for stray animals, whose management does not always ensure adequate health conditions and the protection of well-being. In addition, health irregularities and deficiencies.

Structures constitute a real health risk also for humans due to the presence of numerous disease / zoonotic positive subjects. In this context it is essential not only to ascertain in objective form of health and well-being conditions, but it is also necessary to identify stress indicators parameters that are reliable and stable, useful for measuring the degree of welfare and with value predictive of the possible evolution of conditions of poor well-being towards clinically pathologies overt.

In fact, the first studies based on the evaluation of stress using the "traditional" physiological parameters have proven to be not very indicative because they are linked to high individual variability. Subsequently it was necessary to identify more "robust" indicator parameters than represented a more targeted tool for the objective assessment of the degree of welfare.

In this area, however, the measurement of animal welfare and the application of scientific progress it is still difficult as there is no general agreement between the researchers about the choice and the consequent use of the so-called animal welfare indicators. The difficulty in agreeing on the choice of well-being indicators stems from a pragmatic problem: empirical studies show that different indicators (physiological, immunological, behavioural) often do not correlate with each other.

In this regard, technology computer science may represent a solution since the collection and correlation of these indicators in a relational database including environmental, structural data and observations behavioral could provide a basis to analyze in order to then build algorithms for the production of useful and easily usable information for the management and evaluation of animal well-being.

The purpose of this project is, in fact, the development and definition of a specific database for the collection and validation of physiological and behavioral data aimed at identifying indicators for the evaluation of animal welfare of dogs housed in a shelter. In addition, such an investigation can help establish criteria that influence the index of adoptability of a dog favouring its foster care.

Finally, our interest in this area also directly involves the activities carried out by operators in the sector to whom we intended to provide support through indicators more reliable indicators in the management of animal health and welfare.