

DRUG RESIDUES EVALUATION : A BABEL TOWER IN VETERINARY MEDICINE

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«Vérité en deça des Pyrénées,
erreur en-delà»

(B. PASCAL)

The European "Group for Residues Study" met for the first time at the National School of Veterinary Medicine of Lyon on January 22th, 1982.

The personalities present at this meeting and belonging to eight different countries came to an agreement about the usefulness of a common reflexion about the evaluation of the safety of the drug residues in animal productions.

Indeed, large differences concerning these problems have been observed from one country to another for practical or philosophical reasons; some differences are quite justifiable, others less. As a consequence, for almost all active principles, very different withdrawal periods are noted for the same galenic form, the same dosage and the same animal species.

At the present time when the EEC countries practise a lot of commercial trade, there should be common points of view concerning the husbandry, the use of drugs and their legislation, the evaluation of their residues, the definition of tolerances and withdrawal periods, the criteria for analytical controls.

Since our first meeting, several among us have met individually, then a workshop was held at Toulouse, on September 16th, 1982, during the 11nd Congress of the EAVPT. The subject of work

which has been chosen in priority was chloramphenicol. This item seemed particularly appropriate for numerous reasons : its large use in some countries in veterinary medicine, its particular toxicity, the considerable differences in the attitude of the different European regulatory offices.

And here is now the subject of our meeting today. I hope our confrontation of opinion will be fruitful. Our method of work will be :

— first, we will listen to a general preliminary lecture about the different problems set by a report according to the informations available in the literature. Prof. G. Milhaud has kindly accepted to take charge of this important synthesis.
— then, there will come different exposes of various national representatives, the aim of which will be to justify the regulation of this antibiotic in light of the possible risks for humans. Our lecturers will be :

A. Anadon, Spain
J. Boisseau, France
J. Frens, The Netherlands
G.B. Guest, USA
St Häsler, Switzerland
A.R.M. Kidd, U.K.
A. Macri, Italy
A. Somogyi, Federal Germany

— at last, a general discussion will face the different opinions according to the various national doctrines.

No doubt, everybody will feel the interest of such discussions about this active principle which has been chosen, first, as a pattern of reasoning. Other meetings of our Group later on will be given to other kinds of problems. Contacts will be made about this in due course.

Today, it is pleasing for me to thank you for your interest and your presence here. We are also

thankful to all personalities who have accepted to take in charge the reports. At last, for my part and for the assembly, I sincerely thank Dr. J. Boisseau, Director of the French National Laboratory for Veterinary Drugs, who has welcomed us and who has had the heavy task of the practical organization of this meeting.

Groupe Européen d'Étude des Résidus. Symposium Chloramphénicol, Fougères France, 11 octobre 1983.