



Good veterinary practice in apiary - Guidelines for future

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Beekeeping today ?



Global trade of honey bee products

Global trade of bees

Global (mutual) exchange of pests and pathogens

Global problems of colony losses

Stakeholders ?



- Traders
- Custom officers
- Beekeepers
- Scientists, Experts, Advisers...

Stakeholders ?



Scientists, Experts, Advisers :

- Agronomists
- Biologists / Naturalists
- Entomologists
- Veterinarians

Relationship: vets & beekeepers



- 1. Recent EU policy and Apimondia history**
- 2. History and present situation (Croatia)**

Relationship: vets & beekeepers



1. Recent EU policy and Apimondia history

- European Parliament resolution on the situation in the beekeeping sector (B7-0622/2010)
- Round table “Veterinarians and beekeeping” on 41st Apimondia congress, Montpellier, France, 2009.

European Parliament resolution (B7-0622/2010)



7. ...introduce common guidelines regarding veterinary treatment in the sector.....

8. ...to ensure more effective bee-disease control and availability of effective and standardised veterinary medicine throughout the Union

Relationship: vets & beekeepers



2. History and present situation (Croatia)

- Department for Biology and Pathology of Bees on the Veterinary faculty of Zagreb since 1939.
- The course "Biology and Pathology of Bees" is taught in 5th year undergraduate studies
- **Hours of teaching:** 15 (lectures) and 21 (practice)

After finishing the course, students should be able to:



1. Understand and explain basics of honey bee biology
2. Recognize most common management systems and explain their benefits and drawbacks
3. Assess general health of honey bee colonies
4. Recognize common health problems and be able to list most likely differentials
5. Recognize possibility of having a reportable disease and understand the steps involved in disease reporting
6. Determine the most suitable diagnostic material for follow-up testing
7. Offer a list of preventive/therapeutic measures for the most likely diagnosis
8. Understand the veterinary legislation related to honey bee health

What do we have?



- Course "Biology and Pathology of Bees "on the Veterinary faculty
- Skilled vets for honey bee health
- Laws and regulations in apiary
- Beekeepers with compliance to regulations

No problem at all? Everything is OK?

True or myth ?



Trigger: AFB case

Questionnaire: Causes of colony losses 08/09

No beekeepers = 715 (15 % of beekeepers in Croatia)

Question:

What will you do if you have AFB in your hives?

- contact the nearest vet 38 % of beekeepers
- burning hives
- shakeing method
- do not know to recognize AFB

Problems in relations vets & beekeepers



- Mutual exchange of accusation for lack of knowledge
- Small number of vets who have practical beekeeping experience
- Small number of vets who are really devoted to honey bee health issues
- Beekeepers who know everything (self-thought for bees)
- Regulations exist!
Appropriately designed? Consistently applied?

Problems in relations vets & beekeepers



Possible solutions

Beekeepers:

Guidelines for Good beekeeping practice

Veterinarians:

Guidelines for Good veterinary practice in apiary (GVPA)

Guidelines - GVPA?

- Protocols
- Requirements
- Recommendations

Management practices in apiary





Management practices in apiary:

- Entering in the apiary / Opening the hives
- Examination of colonies / Evaluations of colony strenght
/period of season, geografical position, productivity/
- Epizootiology in apiary / Taking anamnesis from beekeepers
- Sampling / Diagnosis
- Control & prophylaxis of honey bee diseases
- Good & bad beekeeping practice
- Documentation requirements



Guidelines represent:

New strategic approach to veterinary activities in apiary

Better implementation of honey bee health protection

Purpose of Guidelines:

Improving veterinary knowledge about beekeeping

Supplying vets with right protocols and recommendations about management practices in apiary



- **Expectations of Guidelines:**

More vets involved in honey bee health by using their competence in aetiology, epizootiology, clinical investigation, diagnosis, treatment, control and prophylaxis of honey bee diseases



Thank you !