



Risk Assessment Group – Veterinary – Emerging Zoonoses

PIETER DEPOORTER

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Background



Background

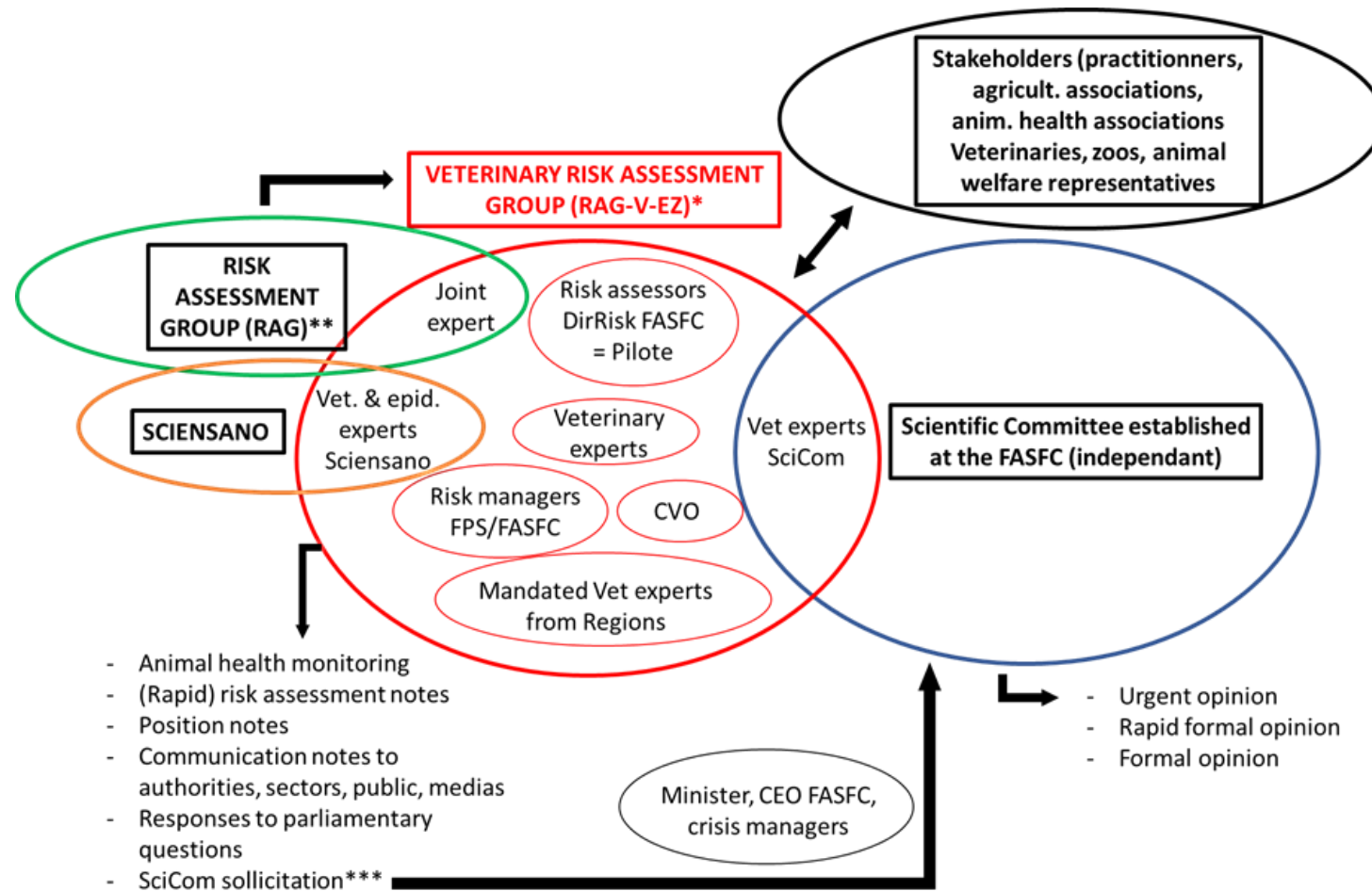
- Covid-19 pandemic: creation of the RAGCA
 - Animal infections (cat, dog, mustelidae, deer,...)
 - Numerous advices and informative documents
- New similar multidisciplinary group for risk assessment of emerging zoonoses involving animal health competences → RAG-V-EZ
 - all relevant emerging zoonoses
 - all partners and authorities regarding animal health
 - both domesticated animals and wildlife



Terms of reference



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Terms of reference

- Belgian multidisciplinary reference group in the field of emerging zoonoses involving animal health competences shared between federal and regional authorities.
- Surveillance for emergence of impactful zoonoses
- Close cooperation with the RAG
- Close cooperation with SciCom FASFC
- "One Health"-dimension: consultation FPS Public Health and any other public health authority
- Focus on risk assessment, but recommendations to risk managers are possible



Members



Members

- Permanent members
 - Belgian Chief Veterinary Officer
 - Belgian delegate to the WOA
 - FPS Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
 - FASFC (DG control policy, crisis management, communication)
 - Regions
 - Sciensano
 - SciCom members
 - Coordinator of the RAG
- Ad hoc members
- Support and coordination by DirRisk FASFC

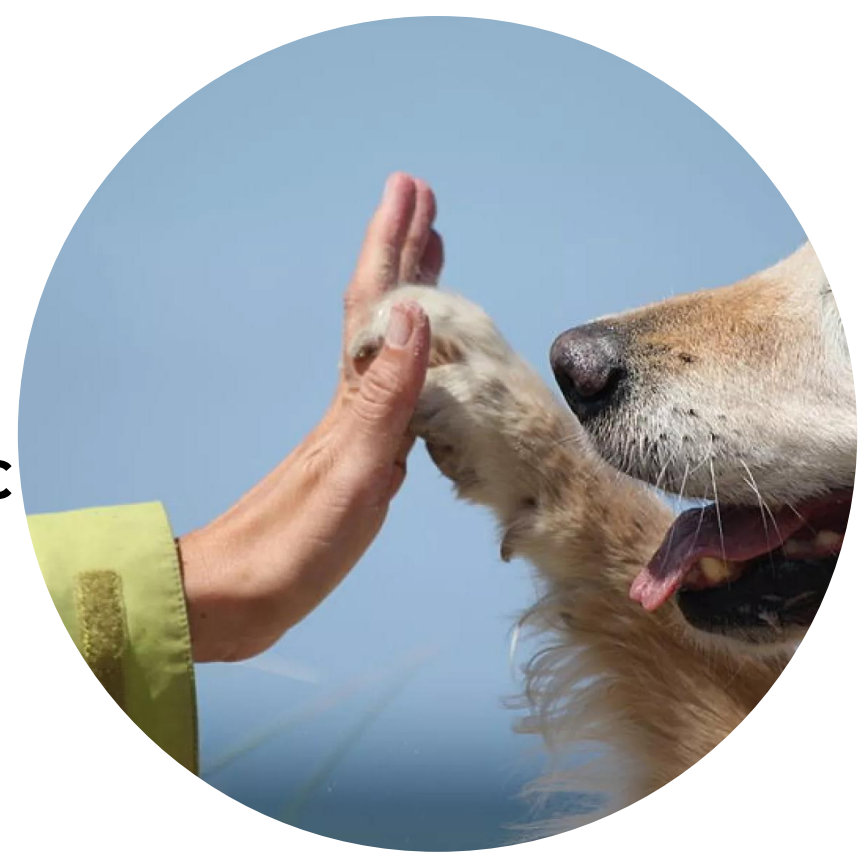


Tasks



Tasks (a)

- Monitoring of scientific knowledge related to the zoonotic pathogens
- Follow-up of epidemiological evolution zoonotic pathogens
- Identify and evaluate critical issues concerning the role of animals
- Informing political and administrative authorities
- Preparation of (rapid) risk assessment note(s)



Tasks (b)

- Propose specific monitoring and/or surveillance plan(s) and control measures
- Identify risk-related questions to submit to the Scientific Committee and/or other relevant expert committee
- Reporting to the RAG as well as to the competent authority
- Elaborate communications intended for veterinarians, professional sectors or the public
- Supporting administrations (e.g., parliamentary questions related to risk assessments)



Output



Output

- Risk assessments
- Informative notes
- Recommendations for risk management
- Communication documents:
 - FAQ avian influenza
 - Parliamentary questions
- <https://www.faw-afsca.be/professionelen/dierlijkeproductie/ragvez/>



CONCLUSIONS

1. Belgian multidisciplinary reference group
 - animal health competences of emerging zoonoses
2. Close cooperation between all relevant partners/authorities
3. Horizon scanning and preparedness
4. Risk assessment and recommendations for risk management
5. Communication and information



“Failing to prepare is preparing to fail”

Questions?



Thank you for your attention

