



2. Medical screening and behaviour monitoring of the farm animals

Medical screening

- External veterinarian:
 - Preferably, a medical examination is carried out twice per year by a veterinarian who can evaluate both the physical and mental health of the farm animals.
 - Depending on the species, the animals must be identified according to the legal provisions (eartags) and be registered (Ophorst, 2014). For Belgium further information can be found on www.dgz.be.
 - The standard vaccinations must be given as advised by the veterinarian.
 - An annual faecal screening for all types of parasites and bacteria is recommended. More frequent medical examinations and faecal screening are recommended when working with a sensitive target group (e.g. elderly).

- Handler:
 - The handler must deworm the animals four times per year. Deworming one extra time is recommended when working with a sensitive target group.
 - The handler must ensure the animals are treated with the standard anti-flea, anti-tick and anti-parasite products recommended by the veterinarian. When using products on the animals' skin ("spot-on"), waiting 24 hours before interacting with patients is recommended.
 - The handler monitors the health of the animals on a daily basis. If in doubt whether an animal is suitable to participate in AAI at that moment, it is recommended not to let that animal participate and if necessary to contact the veterinarian (Ophorst et al., 2014).
 - The handler keeps a record of the health of each animal (previous zoonoses, health problems, etc.) (Khan & Farrag, 2000).
 - If an animal shows symptoms of illness such as diarrhoea, vomiting, coughing or sneezing, then he or she cannot participate in AAI.
 - Not until one week after the last symptoms of illness or after complete healing of a wound can the handler allow the animal to participate in AAI (Lefebvre et al., 2008).

Behaviour monitoring

- External animal behaviour specialist:
 - Preferably, the animal's behaviour should be assessed every 6 months or sooner if problems arise (Lefebvre et al., 2008).

- The handler:
 - The handler monitors the animal's behaviour on a daily basis.
 - The animal's reaction must be predictable, friendly, reliable and without any signs of aggression whatsoever.
 - Ideally, the handler records the impact the AAI sessions have on the animals (Fine et al., 2013).