

National Reference Centre for Wild Animal Diseases concerning Alpine Ibex in the Italian Alps (Ce.R.M.A.S.)

Peracino V., Peracino A., Lo Valvo T, Ferrari N., Robetto S. & Orusa R.

The Centre has been founded by the Ministry of Health Decree 04.10.1999 (published on G.U. of 23.12.1999) nearby the Aosta Division of Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale of Piemonte, Liguria e Valle d'Aosta (IZS-PLV) and it is involved in diagnostic and research activities, in spreading of scientific publications during national and international congress, in meeting organisation to increase the collaboration development among professionals. At the moment researches about the zoonosis are approved and totally financed by the Health Ministry, because the wild animal must be considered as indicator of environment health and it could be a potential spreader of diseases. We are often interested in explanation of disease epidemiology to find animal reservoirs and territorial spreading and to know if disease cycle includes men and domestic species. The epidemiological supervision and surveillance activity is organised by considering the wildlife moving inside and outside the regional or provincial territory, the sanitary control plans activated for domestic animals and the potential sanitary risks linked to the slaughter and the eating of game. Some diagnostic tests to check wildlife:

- Necropsy
- Parasitological tests
- Dermatophyte research
- Bacteriological analysis also concerning TB and BRC in wildlife
- *Salmonella* sp. and *Campylobacter* sp. research
- Gastrical and fecal analysis
- *Trichinella Spp.* research
- Virological screening exams

Is also important to remember many studies and evaluation on epidemiological sciences and still advanced studies on validations and new diagnostic procedures in wildlife diseases. The Centre is also involved in the diagnosis of ibex pathologies. This animal is an important and distinctive specimen of our Alpine wildlife and it must be monitoring with more attention.