POCRB-ANIM, A NETWORK OF BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE CENTERS FOR GENOMIC AND REPRODUCTIVE MATERIALS OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS

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Ex situ collections of biological materials are one component of the French strategy for biodiversity preservation, in the line of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio 1992), and several Biological Resources Centers (BRCs) dedicated to domestic animal resources were developed these last years. They include cryobanks for reproductive materials, and BRCs dedicated to tissues and genomic samples. All BRCs have their own goals and rules, in relation with the kind of material they are managing. Today however, two major societal and scientific challenges have to be met: the erosion of genetic diversity in domestic populations and the new era opened by genomics for the understanding of relationships between genotype and phenotype in domestic animals. To answer these challenges, research and conservation programs need documented biological samples and cryopreservation tools. In this context, the French government supported an ambitious program, CRB-Anim, whose objective is to integrate and upgrade French BRCs storing reproductive and genomic material for domestic animals. One priority of the program is to build a functional network connecting these BRCs, so that know-how and data can be shared and optimized, the materials can be better characterized and documented, and the collections are increased (22 species) and better distributed. Another priority is to improve biosafety and quality of the biological samples on the long term. This implies the development of research on preservation technologies. Strengthened by this integration and synergy at the national level, the objective of the CRB-Anim network is to trigger similar integration at the European level.

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