Great opportunity to learn about Qualitative Behaviour Assessment (QBA) and participate in an international project!

"How can we assess welfare of goats?"

Starting date: March 2020, University of Milan, Italy

Registration deadline: January 15th 2020

Tutors:
Monica Battini, PhD, University of Milan, Italy
Katrina Rosenberger, MSc, University of Bern, Switzerland

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Background

Qualitative Behaviour Assessment (QBA) is one of the most prominent methods for the evaluation of emotional states in animals. QBA judges an animal's overall expression of behaviour by having human observers estimating its presumed emotional experience. It has been successfully used as a tool to assess welfare of many livestock species especially in on-farm settings. However, there is an ongoing debate whether and how QBA outcomes relate to behavioural and physiological parameters, hence more validation is needed.

QBA has the potential to be a useful addition to common standardized behavioural stress tests in order to cross-validate behavioural reactions of animals with observer judgements. Using video clips of these stress tests, we want to investigate if qualitative assessments of human observers match with quantitative indicators of stress obtained from the same tests.

Workshop aims
- Provide training for veterinary and animal science students in the application of QBA
- Cross-validation of quantitative data from stress tests with qualitative descriptors from QBA

Program:
2- day theoretical and practical QBA training: 10am-5pm
Day 1: Introduction into quantitative stress assessment and its goals; Introduction into Qualitative Behavior Assessment
Day 2: Application of QBA using example video clips
Home work
Qualitative analysis of 360 5-min video clips of stress tests

Participation in the workshop is free of charge. Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for students coming from outside Milan. Refunds of costs and a **certificate of attendance** will be provided after the successful completion of the workshop requirements!
The workshop will be held in English; therefore a good level of English is expected from participants!

For more information contact: katrina.rosenberger@agroscope.admin.ch or monica.battini@unimi.it