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**Retrieval and scientific interpretation of ecotoxicological information**

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## Technical Note 006 Rev 1.0

# Assessment of the Health Impacts of Environmental Pollutants on Domestic Animals and Commercial Wildlife

The potential impacts on animals of contaminants released from industrial installations are of increasing importance in environmental impact assessments. Animal health and welfare are of concern, specifically with regard to potential financial implications for commercial farming of livestock and game. Emphasis on risks to the reproductive performance of herds is often required, but immunological effects and other health outcomes might also have detrimental consequences. Similar concerns are often raised about domestic animals, for example dogs, cats and horses.

Health risk assessment relies on data from published scientific studies linking quantified environmental exposures to quantitative or qualitative indices of health effects in animals. Most publications deal with toxicological studies in laboratory animals, e.g., rats and guinea-pigs, used as models to study potential effects in humans. Fewer studies involve domestic animals and almost nothing is currently available on wildlife. This dearth of directly comparable data requires sophisticated skills of interpretation and extrapolation to derive useful indices for assessment of environmental impacts on livestock or game. INFOTOX offers specialist risk assessment in this field and can make important contributions to environmental impact assessments for developments in areas where commercial farming is of critical concern.



Artist: Jo Roos