

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



Equine Health

Equine health and welfare is pure human welfare

The welfare of the estimated more than 6 million horses in Europe has lately been shown to affect more people than just horse owners. The horse as an obligatory instrument for transport and labor in farming, in industry or for private purposes is no longer a necessity for most persons. Keeping of horses is today now widely connected with human leisure and wellbeing, although the role of the horse in maintaining and keeping forest and landscape must be recognized as vital in many cultures. However horses in many countries are also bred and slaughtered for human consumption.

The welfare of the horse is therefore closely connected with human welfare mainly as part of the leisure industry, but in many households also as a companion animal, that is a part of the family. The health and welfare of the horse does not only affect the more than 400,000 people in Europe that professionally works with them, it does also have an enormous impact on the many families that keep, feed and use them in their everyday life.



EHN Leaflet on Horses & Health was published at the end of 2013
EHN has now 6 thematic leaflets available

EHN plans to publish at least 2 more in 2014

- Education
- Social Benefits



February 2014

- EHN Board meeting
- Focus on Member
- MEP Horse Group on Education & Training
19 March
- European issues

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

EHN held its first Board meeting of the year last week and prepared EHN events for 2014. We are happy to continue and improve our relationship with members of the European Parliament by organising the seventh MEP Horse Group lunch in March on Education around horses and its benefits. The members of the EU Parliament will then enter an election period and we hope to see back on the benches in July a majority of "horse supporters".

July will be the occasion for EHN to congratulate new and re-elected members and explain its activities and future ambition and be innovative in topics and the way to present them.

Board members also planned the collection of figures to update its key figures document (2010). On this issue, we need the help of all EHN members regarding the 10 key indicators on which we need recent figures.

The Horses in Europe updated document as well the various thematic leaflets will contribute strengthening EHN image and position towards EU Institutions.

Thank you for all the help you can provide.

Stefan Johanson Chairman,

Focus on Members

Hippolia - <http://pole-hippolia.org/>

Hippolia is a non-profit organisation grouping horse industry companies, equine research and educational organisms with the objective to develop innovation and economic competitiveness in the horse sector in France. Created in 2005 like the other clusters in France, it has since labelled more than 100 projects corresponding to a total amount of more than € 60 millions and created 10 companies linked to innovation and research in the horse sector.

Recently, Hippolia has signed an agreement with Equidia (French TV and social media) to promote horse projects and become a supporter of the Normandy Club 2014 gathering all local economic actors supporting the World Equestrian Games next August 2014: <https://www.clubnormandie2014.fr/>



EHN leaflets are available

Horses in Europe, Horses and CAP, Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health

www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu

Or in hard copy from
secretariat@europeanhorsenetwork.eu



@euhorsenetwork



EHN Board meeting – 28 January 2014

Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel from the European Commission - DG SANCO - Unit G2 Animal Health was invited to EHN Board meeting:

Dr Füssel presented an update of the Equine Passport Regulation. The document is now at the end of the process with a consultation of the legal services of the EU Commission and the text will then circulate outside the Institution after being adopted by the College of Commissioners. The Greek Presidency is willing to start the discussion between Member States (the Italian Presidency will take over in July 2014). The European Parliament will discuss it after the election period although the debate has to be linked to the one on Animal Health Law (report from Marit Paulsen is on the table of the Parliament since November 2013).

Content and format of passport:

- Plastic cover with serial number and 3 sections, particularities of the horse, vet record, guarantees.
- Ownership and ref to Stud book are not compulsory but can be added in a plastic pocket linked to the passport document. Although the recording of ownership as it exists in France is an ideal system, it cannot be implemented European wide.
- The document will follow the horse which needs to be identified during the first 12 months of its life.

Database: central or not? Such database exists in all States except 2. The stud book system is a good registration process but insufficient as there is a need to know where the horse is kept.

Veterinarians remain responsible for the process but the registration can be delegated to the breeding structures or any other efficient structure at national level (BE – The Horse Confederation). However, there is no need to have only one issuing body.

Compile database into one at EU level? The database for cows is done at the moment inside a pilot project called BOWIS. The experience could benefit the horse sector. Dr Füssel has evaluated that 10% of the 7 million horses in EU are moving.

Exclusion from the food chain: The horse has to be excluded from the food chain before being treated with relevant medicine.

Does it mean a life-long exclusion from the food chain? Can we consider a delay after medication? The discussion should be brought inside the European WG on Animal Health. It has to be discussed with medicine companies.

Chip issue: although it is compulsory for young horses (previous EU Regulation), it is not implemented properly even for competition horses inside FEI.

MEP Horse Group in Brussels – 19 March 2014 on Education.

Markus Scharmann from the German Equestrian Federation and coordinator of the Equestrian Educational Network (EEN) is preparing the agenda with objectives to push forward the benefits of horses in education as well as describe the activities of Equine schools.

Rory McDonald from the UK Racing School as well as Karin Ericson, responsible for education and research at the Swedish national horse center for trotting will attend the meeting as experts.

The EP Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals elected a new Chair



Dan Jorgensen (former President) has been appointed in December as the new Danish Minister for Agriculture and Food. **Pavel Poc** (S&D, CZ) has been officially appointed as new President of the Animal Welfare Intergroup on 16/01. The new President has a degree in biology and specialised in subconscious perception in animals. Throughout his political career he has contributed to promote animal welfare policy. **Esther de Lange** (EPP, NDL) is the new Vice-President. Animal welfare was one of the reasons why she decided to go into politics following the mass culling of mostly healthy animals during the foot and mouth disease outbreak in early 2000. The reduction of long distance transport of animals destined for slaughter is another issue she has been directly involved since many years. Sophie Auconie (EPP, FR), Hiltrud Breyer (Greens, DE) and Tonino Picula (S&D, HR) have joined the Intergroup as official Members.

Eurogroup for animal welfare (Secretariat of the EP Intergroup) is planning a specific meeting on Horse Health & Welfare in November. Roly Owers (WHW) participates to an expert/preparation meeting in March.

Current European Issues

EU Animal Health (COM(2013)260):

11 February, the European Parliament's Agriculture Committee voted on the draft report concerning the future EU Regulation on animal health: vote on the four files of the animal and plant health package – A total of 785 amendments have been submitted to the AGRI Committee, including 66 by the rapporteur, Marit Paulsen (ALDE, SE). AGRI also voted on the political agreement reached with the Lithuanian Presidency on the financial component of the package.



Plenary vote scheduled in April.

12 February - Conference on the achievements of the EU Strategy for the welfare of animals 2012-2015 - Mid-term review: The conference provides the opportunity for a mid-term review of the EU Strategy for the Protection and Welfare of Animals: the achievements and challenges centered on four major themes: farming, transport and enforcement, food quality, education and training.

[Programme](#)  (72 KB)

