

EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK NEWS



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Horses for body, mind and soul

Equine medicine is a set of practices whose interventions can be therapeutic, social, educational, sporting, occupational or recreational. The main practices are hypotherapy, manual work with horses, riding on foot for those with disabilities, equine facilitated psychotherapy and development of personal and managerial skills. The interaction between people and horses provides physical, mental, emotional and intellectual benefits. Horses represent the peak of many professions and specializations. In France, 63% of the psychiatric patients in children are referred to equine assisted therapy. Equine therapy is a new discipline designed for managers, executives and management consultants. It gives each participant the tools to achieve a better understanding of themselves, to optimize communication, stress management and resolve problems in management in compliance with good recovery practices.



Horses for Growth and Environment

A leaflet by the European Horse Network May 2015



Horses meet the objectives of 'greening' CAP

The latest version of the Common Agricultural Policy focuses on the need to balance agriculture with environmental and rural development. Horse breeding is a non-intensive, land productive and landscape conservation activity. Although horses are the smallest group of farm animals, the breeding activity for the 7 million horses (66 million head of animals) is the one with the least adverse impact on nature and presents many opportunities for rural employment.

The horse's digestive system does not thoroughly degrade the vegetation they eat. As a result they lose a great amount of energy through their excrement. This unique digestive system assists in the building up of the absorbent, nutrient-rich horse manure and urine. It is well known that the biodiversity of grasslands is improved by extensive grazing of horses. It is also recognised that horse manure is a valuable fertiliser for human consumption is healthier than other manure.

Looking to the future and considering ongoing changes in society and economic challenges, the horse has still got a great deal to offer and provides opportunities that could benefit both animals and people.

Moreover, the working horse is a renewable source of renewable energy since, through heavy ploughing, its own employment, something that tractor cannot do. Better still, a horse can be bred and fed locally, using locally produced sources of renewable energy, grasses and cereals. The ploughing done by a conventional diesel engine and compared to a fossil fuel-driven engine and to a horse, the horse produces only a very small amount of green-house gases: no carbon dioxide and little methane.



EHN and its Members

The EHN is a non-profit network composed of all of the following members:

EEF - European Federation of Equine Practitioners	FEF - Fédération Française des Éleveurs de Chevaux	ESHA - European State Equestrian Association
EFBA - European Federation of Therapeutic Riding Associations	FEH - Fédération Européenne des Éleveurs de Chevaux	COCOP - Italian Horse Confederation
FEI - International Equestrian Federation	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation	HFN - Hellenic Federation of Equestrian Clubs
EEF - European Federation of Equine Practitioners	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation
EMPA - European Equestrian Medical Association	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation
Hippika Club and Hippika Foundation	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation	HEF - Hellenic Equestrian Federation

EHN latest leaflet on growth & Environment

Publication on 3rd June 2015



June 2015

- EHN Board Meeting
- Next MEP Horse Group
- EAAP/EHN Joint meeting on Research 2nd September Warsaw
- Other Events

Welcome to European Horse Network News

Dear readers,

The last Board meeting, 29th April, was again interesting and efficient. I am happy to welcome an organization, wishing to be a new member at our Annual General Meeting 22nd October in Brussels. It is IFCE, the French Institute for Equine. Since 2010, EHN has grown from 8 to 20 members today and it is very positive for the future of the Network. The future will precisely be more discussed at our next AGM. I have sent a message to all members in order to call for candidates for the next election of Board members.

EHN needs to renew its Board with influential and dedicated persons. I have already received very positive responses, which mean again that EHN is regarded as an essential structure to communicate and advocate the place of horse in Europe. COPA Working Party on Horses was also attending our Board meeting last month to keep up our collaboration and use the resources and strengths of our different organizations as efficiently as possible (*more information on the Group below*). Enjoy reading.

Stefan Johanson Chairman



COPA Working Party on Horses meeting on 30 April

Pascal Bioulac from the French Farm Organisation FNSEA was re-elected by the Working Party for a 2 year term. He will be supported by Vice-Chairman James Murphy from the Irish Farm Association (IFA) who is a livestock producer and breeds thoroughbreds and sports horses.

COPA is advocating the possibility for European States to implement a low VAT for horses' related activities: www.copa-cogeca.be/Download.ashx?ID=1292801

Other priorities of the Working Party in the next 2 years include developing a common strategy on animal welfare and exchanging best practices on research and innovation in the sector to ensure a viable sector. Copa Working Party on Horses met EU Commissioner Pierre Moscovici on 30 April to discuss upcoming reform of EU VAT Directive and ways to improve economic viability of the Horse sector.

Equine Health
Equine health and welfare is pure human welfare

EHN leaflets are available
Horses in Europe, Horses and CAP, Horses and Sport, Horses and welfare, Horses and research, Horses and Health, Education and Training, Veterinary products

www.europeanhorsetnetwork.eu



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EHN Board meeting – 29 April 2015 in Brussels

Board members agreed on IFCE application (French Institute for equestrian sport and equines)

The IFCE represents all the French equine activities: breeding, racing, sport, research, training, leisure, scientific questions. It is considered as the French platform to relate all sectors, a technical institute which gives references, notes, advices on identification, zootechnical, reproduction and veterinary questions...

The IFCE competences and aptitudes are complementary to EHN: <http://www.ifce.fr/>

Guidance document on the watering of equine animals transported by road is now completed and available on the World Horse Welfare web site (<http://bit.ly/1SnntXb>).

Guidance on fitness for transport should be complete by July and will be available through the FVE website. Both are strong and useful documents. A communication plan for the fitness for transport guidance is under discussion as well as translation perspectives (promotion from mid-July).

Practical Guidelines to Assess Fitness for Transport of Equidae (Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)



Practical Guidelines on the Watering of Equine Animals Transported by Road



Equine Welfare Report "Removing the blinkers: The health and welfare of European equidae in 2015", focuses on the size and scope of Europe's equine sector, the legal status of equidae and the welfare problems which persist. World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals are currently seeking funding to have the document

translated into FR and DE. For the moment, only the executive summary (5 pages) will be available in multiple languages.

Copies will be available from mid-June from World Horse Welfare and Eurogroup for Animals.

www.worldhorsewelfare.org

Removing the Blinkers:

The Health and Welfare of European Equidae in 2015



WorldHorseWelfare

EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS

Next MEP Horse Group - 3rd June 2015 in Brussels

Growth, jobs, environment:

- Show how Horses are playing a societal role
- Explore new areas for economic and social development where horses are present
- Review the economic size and employment evolution of equestrian sport and horseracing

Speakers:

- Bo Helander, HNS – Horses' benefits in society
- Pit Schlechter, FECTU - Horses are coming back in Agriculture and Forestry
- Ali Kucuk, EEF, Economic size of Equestrian sport
- New jobs: Jean-Paul Bérard - Equi-coaching, Géraldine Senterre - hippotherapy

EAAP/EHN Joint Meeting in Warsaw – 2nd September 2015

Innovation and research for developing the horse sector

It will be a unique opportunity to share experiences gained in several European countries, to support the importance of funding equine research and to boost the equine section in Europe.



It is organised during the 66th EAAP Annual Meeting in Warsaw: <http://eaap2015.syskonf.pl/programme>

Innovation and Research in the Horse sector is organized on one day, 2nd September from 8.30 – 17.30

Morning session: Developing Equine practice into Science

Afternoon session: Research in Horse/Human interaction

Round table – How to fund the equine research? Pierre Lekeux and Stefan Johanson will moderate the debate.

Other Events

Horse Conference (2nd edition) in Caen on 29 September 2015: <http://www.assisesfiliereequine.com/en>

Round tables on the horse sector needs for a sustainable future:

- Benchmark of the horse policy in different EU states (taxation, agriculture funding...)
- Look for new financing resources
- Horses end of life: a major issue

Announce EHN General Meeting and Conference in Brussels 21 & 22 October 2015 – Save the Date!

EHN Board is preparing the programme for members to meet decision makers, discuss relevant issues such as welfare and responsible care and take advantage of networking sessions.