



Federation of  
European  
Equine  
Veterinary  
Associations

## Member Services: Example Switzerland

Dominik Burger  
Swiss Association of Equine Practitioners/  
Swiss national Stud Avenches



## Services of Association of Swiss Veterinarians

- Directory with addresses of members
- Website (partially restricted area)
- Journals
- E-mail Newsletter (once a week)
- Individual legal advice (about 250 questions per year, free of charge)
- Insurances for practitioners, for accidents in practice and for employment
- Organisation of veterinary days ("Vets")
- Project "Intervision"

## Services of Swiss Association of Equine Practitioners



- Website (partially restricted area)
- Advice in work related problems (server)
- E-mail Newsletter (once a month)
- Co-Organisation of Continuing Education
- Co-Organisation of seminars/ congresses (reduced fees)
- Advice in tax planning
- Advice/ guidelines in medication and medicines
- Spontaneous working groups (complementary medicine)
- Collaboration in "Working Group Horse in Switzerland"

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

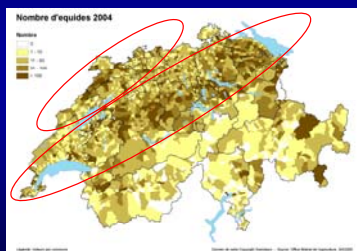
- 80'000 equids
  - 78 % horses und 22 % ponys, donkeys and mules
  - 67'000 adult equids
  - 60'000 equids for riding or driving
  - 25'000 horses registered in sport/ breeding association
- 8'000 horses with placings in show jumping competitions
  - 2.5 – 4.3 placings per horse
  - 6 mio winning fee



Quelle: BFS Einblicke in der schweizerische Landwirtschaft, [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch) (2004)

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

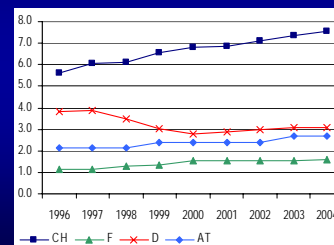
Localisation of horses:



Quelle: Office fédéral de l'agriculture 2005

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

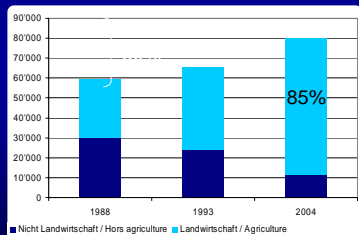
Number of equids / km<sup>2</sup> :



Quelle: Neppi-Jullien, Impacts sociaux, économiques et environnementaux du cheval en Suisse, Ecole supérieure d'agronomie, Nancy, 2006

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

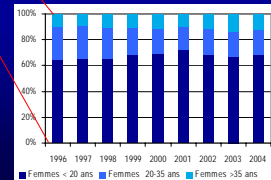
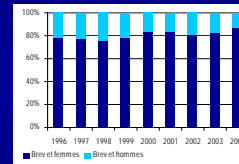
85% of horses kept in agriculture:



Quelle: BFS Einblicke in der schweizerische Landwirtschaft, [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch) (2004)

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

Education of women and men:



- 4'200 brevets / year
- 500 (12%) licenses / year
- 8'200 license actives
- 87 % women
- 10 % > 35-years-old

Quelle: BFS Einblicke in der schweizerische Landwirtschaft, [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch) (2004)

## Working Group Horse in Switzerland

- report published under [www.harasnational.ch](http://www.harasnational.ch)
- important key figures and conclusions for politics and strategies and
- for the welfare of the horse industry and
- for the welfare of the equine practitioners....!

Quelle: BFS Einblicke in der schweizerische Landwirtschaft, [www.bfs.admin.ch](http://www.bfs.admin.ch) (2004)

## The welfare of the vet...

Study on Swiss vets shows:



**Mental problems/ excessive consumption of alcohol/ drugs**

- 19.1% of vets
- > psycho-somatic problems
- employed vets > independent vets
- small animal vet > others

**Burnout**

- 20-30% with symptoms
- 46-65 years-old

**Suicide rate**

- Swiss vets 48% higher rate than normal population

## The welfare of the vet...

Reasons:



- health risk ↑
- working time (48h/ week; 15% of vets with 70h/ week)
- stress
- difficult cases (euthanasia...) and clients
- bad income and acceptance of female vets
- bad work-life balance
- vets mostly idealists

## The welfare of the vet...

Preventive programs:



- France:
- non-profit organization since 2002 with 35 voluntary collaborators
  - internet/ telephone service
  - [www.vetos-entraide.com](http://www.vetos-entraide.com)
- Switzerland:
- first plenary session at „Vets 2007“
  - start of project “Intervision”

## Exemple « Intervision »

### Methods:

- 6 group meetings of min 4 - max 10 vets per group, ideally without direct relation in daily work relation
- structured by moderation by professional coach (psychologist/ mediator)
- groups formed by Association of Swiss Vets
- constant group composition after a first meeting
- meetings all 8 weeks ca. 2 hours

## Exemple « Intervision »



### Objectives of colleagues consulting:

- to develop individual solutions for specific situation of each participant and to profit hereby from experience and creativity of colleagues
- to ameliorate their professional conduct and to increase by that the working quality
- to work on questions concerning practical firm and staff management
- to prevent against burn-out

## Exemple « Intervision »

### Costs:

- 500 Euro for 6 "Intervision" meetings/ year
- first meeting taken into charge by Association of Swiss Vets

