

## *FEEVA GA Basel MINUTES 25 April 2018*

### FEEVA GA BASEL

25 April 2018

The FEEVA GA was kindly hosted at the Swiss Congress Centre in Basel, Switzerland, in connection with the Swiss Veterinary Days.



### MINUTES

The meeting started at 9.00.

#### **OPENING**

**Daniel Meister**, President of the Swiss Equine Veterinary Association, warmly welcomed all FEEVA delegates to Switzerland.

**Mette Uldahl**, FEEVA President opened the meeting. Apologies were received Germany, where the delegate unfortunately got sick and from the Portuguese Equine Veterinary Association, which are hoping to join the next FEEVA GA.

**Update FVE and UEVP activities (presentation)**  
*by UEVP President Thierry Chambon*

**Thierry Chambon**, UEVP President, presented an overview of the FVE and UEVP activities, including:

- An introduction to FVE and its main priorities
- The structure of FVE and UEVP and how FEEVA interacts with FVE (FEEVA is UEVP member and also member of the medicines working group and the animal welfare working group)
- EU Vet Futures initiative and brochure. Six key areas were identified (leaders of tomorrow, rewarding career pathways, broadening the veterinary role, sustainable businesses, wellbeing of the profession and embracing innovation). Three actions have been started; namely to work on the promotion of the profession, setting up a Young Vet Network and making InfoGraphs on Veterinary Costs.
- FVE will repeat the FVE demography survey in 2018
- Other dossiers UEVP and FVE are following: dialogue veterinary medicines legislation, corporate practices, prudent use of antimicrobials, EU-JAMRAI, etc.
- Issues to tackle for FEEVA:
  - Horses travelling with their own medicines
  - Excluding horses from the food chain
  - Importing veterinary medicines for horses
  - Horse passport
  - Medicines availability

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, advised to also get numbers on graduated veterinarians and from veterinary faculties, to have an idea e.g. how many veterinarians are leaving the profession.

## **FEI Activities (presentation)**

*By John McEwen*

John McEwen presented the FEI Activities. FEI has a Veterinary Committee. This committee was/is involved in:

- Rethinking the anti-doping policy and making a clean sport policy
- Involvement and setting of responsibilities regarding the professionalism of officials
- They run several research projects. They did a study on Global Endurance Injury Study at Glasgow University and they do OIE Research regarding EIV and AHS vaccines and glanders testing.
- New FEI guidelines for management of horses in challenging climates. This is to prepare for WEG 2018 and Tokyo 2020.
- FEI now also has a medical committee, and they are looking at the welfare of the riders.
- Produce a protocol in respect to hypersensitivity
- All information can be found on the FEI website and FEI campus.

Claire Scicluna, France, asked why not using the results of the Atlanta event regarding climatic impact. John McEwen replied because the disciplines is different in Tokyo than in Atlanta plus because many professionals still have worries about aggressive cooling.

Julius Peters, Netherlands, do some horses not participate in too many events? John McEwen replied FEI wanted to maximize this, but it was impossible because some countries have no good records and also it is not clear when participating in too many events leads to welfare problems.

Svein Bakke, Norway, asked about the FEI vaccination protocol and whether a minimum time before giving a booster should not be added. John McEwen explained that the FEI is a minimum protocol and that they are reviewing it currently.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, is FEI part of the European Horse Network? Yes, Ingmar De Vos has been joining the meeting.

## **Horse ID and Passport:**

### ***Presentation outcome of discussion with European Commission By Mette Uldahl***

EU 262/2015 requires that horse owners must apply for passports before the horse is 11 months old and that horse passports must be updated by the passport issuing authorities if the status of the horse is altered such as regarding castration or consumer status.

The legislation also requires that horses can only be medicated legally, if they have a passport. The veterinarian must check the consumer status of the horse in the passport to be able to treat the horse according to current legislation. So how do we treat horses without passport?

After the good debates on this issue in the last FEEVA GA's and based on the input received from all FEEVA members, a delegation of the FEEVA Board met with Dr. A. Füssel, from the European Commission. This was a fruitful meeting, and Dr. Füssel said he would try to correct the situation within the tertiary legislation for the Animal Health Law. This would be in 2019.

Julius Peters, Netherlands, said that in the Netherlands there is a discussion on registration of all movements of horses. This is difficult as horses are much more travelling than other animals.

Claire Scicluna, France, said in France it is easier, because they have a unique database, which is linked with apps and GPS. This allows much easier to follow horses and to register medicines use.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, told delegates that the issue of registering all horse movements has also been discussed at length in Belgium. And although Belgium has a unique database, to register all horse movements will involve a lot changes to the database and enormous amount of work. A much bigger problem is that there is still no proper data exchange between national databanks. Belgium cannot check the status of the horses e.g. in France or in the UK to see whether it is registered as food-producing animal or not.

Mette replied that this was one of the issues discussed with the European Commission. They replied that the country of origin is responsible.

John McEwen, FEI looked at microchips on temperature measuring and did not found them working well. He wondered if there is more information on this.

## **Neurectomy in sport horses (presentation)**

### ***Debate by Bruce Bladon, Donnington Grove Veterinary Group and Mette Uldahl, FEEVA President, moderated by Giorgio Ricardi, past FEEVA President***

What is a neurectomy? A procedure which permanently interferes with a specific and anatomically recognised nerve.

Two procedures are of interest, namely the distal limb – palmar digital neurectomy and the neurectomy of the suspensories. This is mostly done for chronic lameness unresponsive to treatment with a poor prognosis. They showed the most used techniques. Complications are rather rare, some include recurrence of lameness, neuroma, stumbling and undiscovered injuries and trauma. The most problematic is re-innervation.

How can you see whether a horse has a neurectomy? Is difficult, you can look for scars, skin sensation, thermografi, etc but with all techniques it stays difficult.

Why do we bother with neurectomy? Due to risk for the horse and rider (due to stumbling), the welfare of horses presented with chronic pain, for ethical reason and for a equal level playing field.

In several countries, such as Denmark, you have national legislation that does not permit horses who had a neurectomy to participate in events. However, across Europe and even within countries, rules differ, which makes it very complicated.

For example, in the UK, different organisations have different rules, such as the British HorseRacing Authority, does not allow horses to participate in races if it is neurectomy. There is also an obligation to notify if a neurectomy is done. Other UK organisations use the FEI rules, which say that a horse is not eligible to take part in an event *if (part of) the limb of the horse is hypo or hypersensitive for as long as the alteration in sensitivity exists.*

A problem is that it is difficult to prove consistency in alternation of sensitivity.

Lateral plantar neurectomy does not give any hypersensitivity, so according to the FEI rules it is permitted. However, tests only look at skin alternation of sensitivity, but how about sensitisation in deeper tissues?

The two speakers gave arguments in favour and against banning neurectomy:

IN FAVOUR: ethics, welfare of horse and driver, level-playing field, public perception

AGAINST: reduces wastage of horses for competition, we allow much more invasive operations, few complications

Additional questions are:

- Should there be an obligation of reporting neurectomy?
- How to make it enforceable?

A debate followed with the participants:

John McEwen, FEI, is complex. We need to develop a better system to identify alternation of sensitivity.

Svein Bakke, Norway, vets should put horse welfare on the first place, not the welfare of the driver or the industry. Reporting will not be sufficient. In Norway, treatment has to be reported by vets within 7 days.

Bruce Bladon, UK, argued that neurectomy improves the welfare of the horse, as it stays wanted by the owner.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, suggested to compare it with human medicine. Is neurectomy or a similar procedure allowed for human athletes? Also, he said that for the public it will be difficult to compare between different forms of neurectomy and as such, accept one form and not another. He also wondered about the use of shock waves?

John McEwen, FEI, replied shock wave are not allowed within 7 days before the event.

Heidi Kiiskinen, Finland, what would happen if it would be allowed in some countries where it is now banned? This would be extremely detrimental.

Bruce Bladon suggested to distinguish between palmar digital neurectomy and lateral plantar neurectomy. The first one he thinks should be banned, but the second one not. Mette Uldahl does not agree because both procedures serve the same purpose, namely to de-sensitise to stop pain and as such argues that both should be banned.

The problem is where is the limit? This is not only about the neurectomy, but regular joint injections and all other interventions done to allow the horse to perform and win. It is important for the veterinary profession to set the limit, otherwise others will set them for us.

The speakers asked the floor to vote by hand-raising on whether they felt neurectomy should be banned or not. Almost all FEEVA delegates felt that neurectomy should be banned.

## **Medicines (presentation Mark Bowen, Nick Bova and Nancy De Briyne)**

*By Mark Bowen, Nick Bova and Nancy De Briyne*

Mark Bowen gave an update of the work done by the FEEVA Medicines Working Group. The working group exists of Mark Bowen, Claire Scicluna and Robert Hertsch.

Some issues covered:

- Management of Rhodococcus Equi
- In respect to the essentials and list of added clinical benefit, the French are doing studies to prove the superiority of phenylbutazone to alternatives.
- FEEVA collected data on the use of aminoglycosides. They received 166 responses to the survey. Most horse vets use these products on a regular basis, mostly gentamycin and amikacin. Aminoglycosides may be put under restriction.
- The MWG looked into supply issues such as for Norodine (sulph/TMP), cefquinome, crystalline penicillin, tetanus antitoxin, Quinidine sulfate, Rose Bengal, EHV, EVA and Influenza and tetanus vaccines.
- Where can FEEVA help? To identify which medicines are available in other MS, to tell how the cascade is applied in your country and to tell us about the use of specials.
- Beneficial could be to use a mobile enabled consent form.

Mark Bowen introduced speaker **Nick Bova**, from the UK.

He is a pharmacist from Australia. He set up a company called BOVA which prepares compound veterinary medicines, also called 'specials' for treatments which are not existing. To produce specials in the UK, he needs to follow rules of Good Manufacturing Practice (such as stability trials, staff training, use external labs) and follow the specials legislation.

BOVA UK offer a range of different formulations and dosage forms that best suit your patients' needs. We produce a range of formulations for medications that are otherwise unavailable. We tailor the dosage form to improve patient compliance when currently available medications are not meeting your needs.

See website: <https://bova.co.uk/>

He showed an overview of products they prepare, such as omeprazole (against gastric ulcers), pergolide mesylate (against PPID), doxycycline paste, etc. Currently they supply mainly to the UK, and in limited amounts to Ireland and Spain. He is now talking to other EU regulators and is seeing whether they can also export specials to other EU countries.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, was surprised that they also produce chloramphenicol and metronidazole. Nick Bova replied this is allowed in the UK for non-food producing horses.

Some debate followed on whether the cascade should be allowed to be used for economic reasons. According to legislation, this is not the case.

Participants wondered for other countries, how they make sure the order comes from a veterinarian. Nick Bova replied that they verify the veterinary prescription with the country of origin.

Some participants noticed that the use of specials in their country was not allowed.

Nancy De Briyne gave an update on the status of the veterinary medicines legislation revision. This revision of the veterinary medicines legislation is now in the final state. At this moment, called 'the triilogue', the European Parliament, the Council of the EU and the European Commission are trying to agree on a final text. So far, 4 triilogue meetings took place, two more are planned, hoping to come to a compromise in summer. After the compromise is reached, the final text still needs official adoption, which is planned around end 2018. When adopted, a transition period of 2 or 3 years will allow all countries to implement the new legislation.

The new proposed medicines legislation aims to increase availability, reduce bureaucracy, enhance innovation and inserts provisions to fight antibiotic resistance.

The main points (all still needing final adoption) are:

- Veterinary prescription will only be able to be done by a vet
- Internet trade only for veterinary medicines which do not need a prescription
- Stricter control on writing prescriptions
- The EU will be able to ban certain critical antibiotics from being used for animals
- Distribution will remain national competency
- The cascade will be changed to vet product, human product, third country product, specials. For horses, nothing will change, and the list of essentials and clinically beneficial products will remain.
- For horses, it will be more easy to authorise new strains of Equine Influenza, the medicines records will be linked to a single lifetime identification document and has to draft a report regarding the treatment of horses with medicines and their exclusion from the food chain, in particular re imports of horses from third countries by 2024.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, asked about updating the essentials list. This is possible, but we should be careful as opening it up might also lead to the disappearing of products.

## **PMSG (presentation)**

***By Sabrina Gurtner, Animal Welfare Foundation.***

Sabrina Gurtner, from the Animal Welfare Foundation, has been investigating the harvesting of PMSG in South-America for several years. She just came back from a week-long investigation last week and unfortunately, she found little improvement.

She explained:

- For what is PMSG used?
- How is it harvested?
- Welfare and ethical concerns with their use.

She showed two films showing the problems with harvesting the product in South-America. Especially in Switzerland and Germany, the public became very concerned which led to supermarkets no longer wanting to source this product and the promotion of the use of alternatives.

In 2017, MSD stopped importing MSD from outside Europe. They new source it from Iceland. CEVA and HIPRA prepared manuals and started doing audits.

Her organisation wants to EU Commission to take all necessary measures to prevent the sale in the EU of PMSG products obtained by these cruel production methods.

Juris Tolpežņikovs, Latvia, suggested a 24-hour video recording of these blood farms.

Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, suggested to contact ECAR, the Equine College of Animal Reproduction.

Claire Sicluna, France, wondered if the films showed are publicly available? Not yet, but will be soon.

Heidi Kiiskinen, Finland, asked how they filmed this. Via hidden camera's.

Nancy De Briyne, asked whether they visited the farms in Iceland. Not yet.

Nancy De Briyne, FVE, showed the FVE activities on this issue and the document answering all frequently asked questions on this issue.

## **Horse welfare issues: (presentation)**

### **Animal Welfare Platform Equine Subgroup**

*By Mette Uldahl*

The equine sub-group held its first meeting in Brussels on Friday 6 April. There are 15 members of the group, including Mette, representing FEEVA and FVE. The Secretariat being provided by Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare.

The meeting decided to produce guidance on both horses and donkeys. The focus initially is on the horse guidance and the donkey guidance will follow the same structure, appropriately amended as required. It was agreed that additional experts will be recruited to help produce the donkey guidance.

The meeting reviewed a considerable amount of feedback on the original discussion paper drafted by the Danish Ministry. An updated draft is currently being produced to be reviewed by the next meeting of the sub-group on 18 May. The group will provide an update on 21 June at the 3th meeting of the EC Animal Welfare Platform.

Julius Peters, Netherlands, asked how many countries are involved? Most seats are not based on nationality but based on organisations. A few of the members are vets.

Miguel Llorca, Spain, asked when will the report will become publicly available? Normally in the course of 2018, as the group already needs to report back to the AW Platform in June and November 2018.

### **End of Life: Presentation draft paper followed by discussion (presentation)**

*By Mette Uldahl*

The FEEVA Board, led by Mette Uldahl, has been drafting a paper on end of life of horses. The outline of the paper on this very complex issue was discussed. She showed the aims of the paper, the topics included and recommendations for the veterinary profession.

The draft document was discussed also already by the FVE AW Working Group, who received well the paper and suggested some comments.

Next steps:

- May: Mette will finalise the paper on the basis of all comments received (FEEVA GA, FVE AW WG), let the paper go to the FVE/FEEVA Board for approval for MS consultation
- June -mid-Sept: FEEVA and FVE members consultation
- End Sept: Build in the comments from all members to produce a final paper for adoption
- November FVE GA: possible adoption

Claire Sicluna, France, recommended that euthanasia should never be the only option for the end-of-life of a horse. The horse slaughter route should be kept open. John McEwan, FEI and also Frank Gasthuys, Belgium, agreed with this. When they banned horse slaughter in the US, they created a huge welfare problem. In many countries, shelters are full.

Heidi Kiiskinen, Finland, told that in Finland it is no problem to euthanise a healthy horse because the owner does no longer want or can take care of the horse. Some countries reacted that in their countries this is prohibited and against the Veterinary Code of Conduct or Oath.

## **Update on disease surveillance network: (presentation)**

*By Miguel Llorca/Don Collins*

Don Collins gave an update on the disease surveillance network. He presented the aims and objectives of this working group and the work done already over the years by this network. He especially thanked Miguel Llorca for the huge work done over the years. The next meeting is planned on 19 June in Deveter, the Netherlands.

Miguel Llorca, continued focusing on the activities done by the network so far. Miguel reported on the last meeting of the disease surveillance network and other meetings on disease surveillance he attended.

At this moment, the European Commission in the delegating and implementing acts regarding is deciding which horse diseases will be subject to additional control measures.

## **Protocol for developing and adopting FEEVA statements – Draft on X-Rays for PPE (presentation)**

*By Don Collins*

Don Collins presented a FEEVA protocol for developing and adopting of FEEVA statements, as this is currently lacking in FEEVA. It was decided that consensus statements are not suitable for FEEVA and that position statements are more appropriate. It was felt that for FEEVA it is important to do position papers. Don showed the procedure agreed to initiate, draft and adopt FEEVA position statements. Current FEEVA statements can be seen on the FEEVA website: [http://www.fve.org/about\\_fve/organisations.php#feeva\\_policies](http://www.fve.org/about_fve/organisations.php#feeva_policies).

The FEEVA Board prepared a first draft FEEVA position on DSP Radiography. This position is based on a discussion at one of the previous PPE symposium where there was consensus agreement between all experts in the room. In this statement FEEVA says 'that there is no evidence of correlation between radiographic appearance if the dorsal spinous processes of the back and the future risk of disease in asymptomatic horses. FEEVA does not recommend that such radiography is included in a standard pre-purchase radiographic protocol.'

Claire Scicluna, France, noticed that 'does not recommend' is too strong.

John McEwen, FEI, expressed its surprise that FEEVA only now starts to make a statement. It could be opening a door, with a request for many statements on clinical issues following.

Lena Malgren, Sweden, notified that some horses should not be radiographed at all in certain situations.

Giorgio Ricardi, Italy, suggested to discuss mostly about the procedure to adopt statement, not about the content. Statements should be made by experts, as this one was done by PPE experts in Birmingham.

Heidi Kiiskinen, Finland, informed the GA that FEEVA is also sending this statement to specific PPE experts.

Claire Scicluna, France, underlined that it should not be about this one X-ray being done for PPE or not, but about the total number of X-rays done on horses for PPE.

The FEEVA Board told the FEEVA delegates that they will this draft statement to all delegations for coming for one month.

Thierry Chambon, suggested that for political statements, it is beneficial to make a joint FEEVA, FVE and UEVP statement.

**ACTION:** FEEVA Board to forward PPE statement for member consultation.

## **Presentation of FEEVA attendance at FVE/UEVP GA and the Media Plan (presentation)**

***By Heidi Kiiskinen***

Heidi Kiiskinen gave an overview of the issues discussed during the FVE/UEVP GA she attended in November 2018. The next FVE/UEVP GA will take place in June in Bergen, Norway.

She also presented the FEEVA Media Plan. FEEVA is now posting regularly on the FEEVA Facebook page. A plan has been made on when and on what to post. The website will be revised to make it easier to find documents and more attractive. Regular News mails are being sent to the FEEVA members.

## **Any Other Business**

Mette Uldahl thanked Daniel Meister for all the support with drafting the standards for the VetCee program on veterinary practice management. In respect to the Spanish Equine VetCee program, it was remarked that it still was going through evaluation and had not been approved yet.

# **FEEVA AGM**

## **Treasurer's report**

- **Report Treasurer and internal audit**

- **Discharge final Rolling statement 2017**
- **Adoption Budget 2019**

The FEEVA Treasurer, Dr Stefan Wachtarz, unfortunately was sick and could not join the meeting. Therefore, Mark Bowen, took over the presentation made by Treasurer Stefan Wachtarz.

He showed the final Rolling Statement for income and expenditure 2017. The total income and expenditure is very much in balance, ending with a minimal loss of 118 Eur.

The FEEVA Board was very grateful that Julius Peters, from the Netherlands, had been willing to do the internal audit of the accounts. Julius expressed its satisfaction with the way the accounts had been managed and the way the FEEVA Board had spent the money. The FEEVA GA agreed to discharge the final FEEVA Rolling statement of income and expenditure for 2017.

The budget for 2019 was presented. The idea is to keep the membership fee in 2019 at the same level but to increase the membership fee in 2010 from 3 Eur per vet to 3.5 Eur per vet. The FEEVA Board also wondered what delegates preferred, a gradual yearly increase corresponding to inflation or a bigger increase every 3 to 5 years.

The FEEVA GA adopted the 2019 budget.

## **Election new Board members**

The only FEEVA Board term ending is the one of the Treasurer, Stefan Wacharz. As it was his first term, he can and is willing to stand for re-election. The FEEVA Board so far had not received any notifications of other nominations to take the position of FEEVA treasurer and none were received from the floor.

The FEEVA GA re-elected Stefan Wachtarz for a second term as FEEVA Treasurer.

## **Future dates for FEEVA GA's and EMY's**

Mette Uldahl presented the future dates for the FEEVA GA's and EMY's.

- o GA 2019: in connection with BEVA Congress in September in Birmingham, UK
- o GA 2020: FEEVA is looking for hosting countries
- o GA 2021: Tampere, Finland.

## **End of the meeting**

The FEEVA AGM ended at 17:00. Mette Uldahl ended with thanking Daniel Meister and Paivi Nussbaumer for the great hospitality and the willingness to host the FEEVA AGM.

**Annex I: List of attendants.**

Himmelmayer	Karin	Austria	TraunkreisVetClinic VÖP Austria
Zach	Constanze	Austria	VÖP Austria
De Briyne	Nancy	Belgium	FEEVA Secretariat
Gasthuys	Frank	Belgium	Belgium Equine Practitioner Society
Plachy	Jakub	Czech Republic	Czech Veterinary Equine Association
Lassen	Kenneth Englund	Denmark	Odsherreds Dyrehospital
Uldahl	Mette	Denmark	FEEVA Board
Eskonen	Tiina	Finland	Finnish Equine Vet Pract.
Kellokoski-Kiiskinen	Heidi	Finland	FEEVA Board
Chambon	Thierry	France	Speaker
Gurtner	Sabine	Germany	Speaker
Soos	Istvan	Hungary	Hungarian equine vet association
Collins	Donald	Ireland	FEEVA Board
Duggan	Vivienne	Ireland	Veterinary Ireland
Castellano	Guido	Italy	SIVE
Vainute	Anna	Latvia	Latvian Equine Vet Association
Tolpežņikovs	Juris	Latvia	Latvian Equine Vet Association
Kranenburg	Lieuwke	Netherlands	Danish Veterinary Association
Peter	Julius	Netherlands	NEVA
Freyr Sigurdsson	Sigurdur	Norway	Norwegian Equine Vet Association
Bakke	Svein	Norway	Norwegian Equine Vet Association
Llorca	Miguel C.	Spain	AVEE Spanish Association of Equine Veterinarians
Holm Forsström	Karin	Sweden	Swedish equine veterinary association
Malmgren	Lena	Sweden	Swedish Equine Veterinary Ass
Remy-Wohlfender	Franziska	Switzerland	Swiss Equine Vet Association
Meiser	Daniel	Switzerland	Swiss Equine Vet Association
Nussbaumer	Paivi	Switzerland	Swiss Equine Vet Association
Bowen	Mark	UK	BEVA
Bladon	Bruce	UK	Speaker
Bova	Nick	UK	Speaker
McEwen	john	United Kingdom	Speaker FEI
Ricardi	Giorgio	United Kingdom	SIVE