



# Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

## *FEEVA GA Copenhagen MINUTES 3 November 2011*

The meeting started with a welcome tour around the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Sciences, Department of Large Animal Sciences.

### **FEEVA European Meeting 2011**

10:30            **Welcome & introduction of new members**

All members briefly introduced themselves. J. Slater welcomed all and especially the new members.

10:45 to 12.30   **Roundtable discussion with special focus on:**

- 1. Veterinary medicines and antimicrobials**
- 2. Gender/generation issues**
- 3. Impact of recession on equine veterinary practice**
- 4. Disease surveillance**
- 5.**

All members country by country presented the most important issues their organisations are currently working on. An overview of issues mentioned can be found in Annex II.

12.30-13.30    Lunch

13.30-17:30    FEEVA European Meeting 2011

13.30            **FEEVA News Slot & guests:**

- 1. FEEVA Guest: Stefan Johansen: Presenting the “European Horse Network (EHN)”**

Stefan Johansen presented the European Horse Network (EHN), a non-profit network of stakeholders acting at a World, European, and National or Regional level within the European horse sector.

EHN has an Executive Board, Chair (S. Johansen), holds an annual meeting and has 16 members so far. Annual fee per member is 500 Eur.

The purpose of the network is to promote the horse sector in Europe and inform politicians about the importance of the horse in the society.

EHN made a publication with the most important data regarding the European horse industry which can be found on: [www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu](http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu)

He cordially invited FEEVA to become a part of EHN especially as FEEVA could provide expertise on veterinary affairs such as emerging diseases.

☞ Full presentation on “EHN” by S. Johansen see FEEVA website

## **2. Transport of horses**

### **By Istvan Soos**

Istvan Soos, member of the FVE working group on Transport, reported on the work done by the FVE working group on transport. The working group has been mainly focused on implementation and enforcement of Regulation 1/2005. The FVE transport WG released a position paper on role of vet in relation to transport, held an FVE/BEVA workshop on the enforcement of horse transport in December 2010 (J. Slater spoke on behalf of FEEVA) and did a survey on training and penalties.

The European Commission is expected to release a report on the implementation of the transport Regulation 1/2005 next week.

☞ Full presentation on “Transport of horses” by I. Soos see FEEVA website

## **3. Update FEEVA Positions**

### **By Jesper Møller Nielsen**

Jesper Møller Nielsen gave an update on the latest developed FEEVA position papers.

FEEVA adopted 3 new position papers namely on:

- infectious disease surveillance,
- need for slaughter of horses for human consumption (2010)
- identification and registration of horses

Possible topics for future position papers could be the transport of horses, horse welfare, responsible use of antimicrobials, medicine availability, anti-doping, ...

Some discussion followed on the FEEVA/FVE position on the need to maintain the status of horses as food-producing animals and the many aspects involved being economical (price disposal, taxing review, definitions, ...), ethical (should you eat a horse, can you deprive a horse of medicines, ..), legal (not allowed to euthanize a healthy horse such as in Germany, Austria, Italy, etc), societal/cultural (habit eating horse meat or not), ...

Delegates all agreed that position papers are essential tools to spread FEEVA opinions and that the FEEVA Board should continue to develop FEEVA position papers on important dossiers.

The FEEVA Board invited all FEEVA delegates to reflect and inform them about wished topics for future position papers.

☞ Full presentation on “FEEVA Position papers” by J.M. Nielsen see FEEVA website

**4. Update Acknowledged vets & EBPVD**  
**By AVEF on “Acknowledged equine vet in France”**  
**By Nancy De Briyne**

Nancy De Briyne gave an update on the project to establish a new organisation called “European Board for Professional Veterinary Development”. The aim of this organisation is to set standards and evaluate programs of Continuous Professional Development (CPD). Foundation organisations are EBVS, EAEVE, FVE, UEVP and the statutory bodies. An interim board has been formed; draft statutes are currently drafted and aimed to be approved next year.

Several participants remarked that it is important that CPD should respect societal demands and it should be clearly communicated to the clients.

Claire Scicluna from France briefly presented the work done by AVEF to develop a program for Acknowledged Equine vets in France. The French Ordre, Qualivet and AVEF worked together to develop competency standards and evaluation procedures for the development of an Acknowledged Equine Vet. More information on the French initiative can be found in the presentation on the FEEVA website.

☞ Presentations on “EBPVD and Acknowledged equine vet in France” by N. De Briyne and C. Scicluna see FEEVA website

**5. Update Identification and Registration**  
**By Kutasi Orsolya**

Orsolya Kutasi gave an update on the latest situation in the EU on the identification and registration of horses. Analysing the results of the FEEVA 2010 survey and the FVE 2011 survey, it is seen that:

- All EU countries have implemented the Horse Identification Regulation (Hungary is in the process)
- First choice is electronic identification but traditional breeding associations insist on hot branding in some countries
- Only a few countries have a central database.

☞ Presentations on “Update Identification and Registration” by Orsolya Kutasi see FEEVA website

**6. Update on Medicines with FEEVA** Guest Rens van Dobbenburgh  
the Essentials list, Antimicrobial use and developing of prescribing

guidance to promote responsible use, ...  
By Rens van Dobbenburgh/ Josh Slater

Rens van Dobbenburgh, Interim Chair of the FVE working group on medicines, gave an update on horse medicines related issues in Europe. He started with giving respect to Henk Vaarkamp, one of the co-founders of FEEVA, who passed away in October.

He explained the activities ongoing on the European level in regard to medicines and how FVE influences them. He specifically looked at the horse, a species which is used both as companion animal and as food producing animal. Due to the public concern about antimicrobial resistance (AMR), many governments want to take actions to reduce the number of antimicrobials used. They try different ways to achieve this such as by prohibiting prophylactic use, establishing monitoring systems or decoupling prescribing and dispensing. In several countries such as Sweden, Italy, etc vets are not allowed to dispense medicines. In Finland, vets can sell medicines but cannot make a profit on it. Denmark, a very proactive country in the struggle against AMR, will hold the presidency of the EU the second half of 2012.

Some discussion followed on the status of the horse, on AMR and effects of decoupling.

J. Slater, also member of the FVE Working Group on medicines, told the FEEVA delegates that our profession has been asked for data from the European Commission. To answer this request, the FEEVA Board would like to collect some data on prescribing practices in regard to prophylactic, metaphylactic and treatment use, both 'on' and 'off-label'.

Recently AVMA, the American Veterinary Medical Association, did a survey amongst 2000 US practitioners. The survey consists of demographic information, attitudes to antimicrobial resistance, general prescribing practices and practical use of AM's in individual animals.

The FEEVA Board would like to adapt this survey and also do it in Europe. All agreed.

It would also be good for FEEVA to develop specific horse guidelines on prescribing antimicrobials for horses. J. Slater asked which countries have specific guidelines. The Netherlands have (in Dutch), Sweden and France are currently developing guidelines.

☺ Presentations on "Medicines Update" by Rens van Dobbenburgh and Josh Slater see FEEVA website

16.00 -  
17.15

### **FEEVA EMY**

- **President's report – Josh Slater**

See topics before.

The FEEVA Board suggests to set up two working groups:

- FEEVA working group on VMPs especially antimicrobials  
Led by Erik Gostelie  
Aim:  
1/ Survey prescribing behaviour antimicrobials horse vets  
2/ Compare and possible develop European guidelines regarding the prescription of antimicrobials in horses
- FEEVA working group on acknowledge horse vet  
Led by Clair Scicluna (will check if she can accept with AVEF)  
Aim: look into the issue of a European Acknowledged horse Vet

All members welcomed this initiative. NDB will prepare draft Terms of References and will circulate call for members.

- **Treasurer's report – Erik Gostelie**

Erik Gostelie, presented the FEEVA balance sheet. The total current assets of FEEVA are € 53093,41. The full balance sheet can be found in Annex III. On behalf of the whole FEEVA Board, he thanked Petra Dörken for doing so efficiently the FEEVA accounts since so many years. A FEEVA bank account will be opened in Brussels.

- **EMY Applications for 2012 – 2013**

The Austrian delegates warmly invited all FEEVA delegates to Vienna on 28 November 2012. This meeting will be followed by the Austrian Annual fall meeting on 29 November which has as special topic the geriatric horse.

EMY 2013 – 2014: Expressions of interest were received for 2013 from Italy (Milan – first weekend of February) and possibly France in 2014.

- **Nominations new FEEVA Board members**

Four nominations were received, namely from Vivienne Duggan (Ireland), Claire Sizucli (France), Miguel 'C Llorca (Spain) and Giorgio Ricardi (Italy).

- **Elections new FEEVA Board**

In order to keep a good mix between experienced Board members and new Board members, the Board welcomed Vivienne Duggan and Miguel 'C Llorca to the Board.

The FEEVA Board looks forward to working with Claire Scicluna and Giorgio Ricardi in the two working groups and would welcome their re-

nomination at the Vienna FEEVA GA.

The new Board (2011-2012) is composed of:

- Josh Slater - President
- Erik Gostelie - Treasurer
- Jesper Møller Nielsen – Secretary General
- Miguel ‘C Llorca
- Orsolya Kutasi
- Vivienne Duggan

The FEEVA President closed the FEEVA meeting at 17:15 after which all participants were picked up by bus and transported back to the Tivoli hotel.

**Annex I: List of participants**

Austria	Constance Zach
Austria	Renate Reisinger
Denmark	Jesper Möller Nielsen
Denmark	Steen Bo Larsen
Finland	Heidi Kiiskinen
Finland	Tina Eskonen
France	Jacques Bardies
France	Claire Scicluna
Germany	Michael Düe
Hungary	Orsolya Kutasi
Hungary	Istvan Soos
Ireland	Karen Dunne
Italy	Giorgio Ricardi
Latvia	Juris Tolpeznikovs
Latvia	Nauris Laizans
Netherlands	Erik Gostelie
Netherlands	Julius Peters
Netherlands	Rens van Dobbenburgh (guest speaker)
Portugal	Nuno Bernandes
Spain	Miguel C. Llorca
Spain	Paco Vazquez
Sweden	Lena Malmgren
Sweden	Stefan Johansen (guest speaker)
UK	Josh Slater
UK	Ben Mayes

## **Annex II: Summary round-table on ‘hot’ issues**

All members country by country presented the most important issues their organisations are currently working dealing with. An overview of issues mentioned can be found underneath:

### **Medicines**

The availability of horse medicine, the cascade, (illegal) import, doping, homeopathy, the use of antimicrobials and antimicrobial resistance were important issues in almost all countries.

Some specific examples were mentioned:

- Finland - establishment of de-worming days including CPD and guidelines which were spread to all equine vets and horse owners. Better diagnostic labs/methods also became available.
- In several countries the government had made the intention to reduce the use of antimicrobials in animals by the next years. Several organisations are looking into the use of antimicrobials in horse practice (eg. France). Several organisations have developed (NL) or are developing guidelines (e.g. Sweden, France, Germany, ..).

### **Equine Passport and ID**

Most European countries have been busy with the implementation of the horse identification Regulation. In some countries a central database was developed. For example, Denmark established one central equine database in which 3 other Passport Issuing Organisations feed in. More than 90% of horses have been registered. In Ireland on the other hand, the government decided not to develop a central database.

### **Disease surveillance and preparedness**

Disease surveillance remains an important issue for equine veterinary associations. In some countries, some emerging diseases became endemic e.g. WNF in Hungary. Veterinary association are involved in disease outbreak preparation and detecting.

### **Animal Welfare**

Several animal welfare issues remain high on the agenda of equine veterinary associations, namely:

- The status of a horse: companion animal or food producing animals. See policy papers. A specific conference will be held in Cremona on this issue on 13 January.
- Hot branding, firing
- Transport of horses especially for slaughter
- Abandoned horses due to crisis
- New animal welfare laws
- ...

### **Socio-Economic issues**

The economic crisis is felt deeply in the horse industry in several European countries. Unemployment went up especially for recent graduates in several countries.

In almost all countries, over 85 % of all recent equine vet graduates are female (also Germany, Austria, UK, Spain, etc). In some countries you see that most clinics are run by older vets with little young vets becoming associates. Especially large animal practice in remote areas is not attracting the mostly female young graduates. Remuneration is low in some countries, even sometimes seen as a 'hobby' profession. In several countries, they are struggling to keep vets interested in staying in equine industry.

In Austria, social security is requesting a change between employed versus self-employed vets. In France a similar issue happened a couple of years ago, the issue was solved by creating a new statute.

### **Para-Professionals**

In France, equine dentists and osteopaths become legal by Law. Details have to be worked out such as what tasks can they do, training requirements, registration, ... Vets will need to ensure that they are educated.

### **Insurances**

- The number of horses insured depends very much from country to country (from 0% in Portugal, to 70% in Sweden).
- Pre-purchase examination: can lead to court cases and therefore they developed a manual.
- It becomes more expensive for vets to get insured.

### **EDUCATION**

- Started by AVEF Acknowledged Vets, NL has certified equine vets, and in Sweden they also developed a Swedish horse specialist, and Spain also wants to develop Acknowledge vets.
- CPD courses were developed eg. on septic arthritis in Sweden, de-worming in Finland, etc.
- Spain, Portugal and Italy have too many vet faculties and too many graduates

### **Miscellaneous**

- Radio-protection rules become more restrictive the whole time
- The Netherlands produced 7 guidelines for evidence-based procedures
- ...

### Annex III: FEEVA Balance sheet

Balance sheet FEEVA 1/01/2011 until 30/09 2011

#### Assets

Cash/ Bank account: € 43.506,41

#### Receivable payments:

- Norway	€ 370,00
- Austria	€ 378,00
- Spain	€ 100,00
- Ireland	€ 460,00
- Netherlands	€ 1000,00
- France	€ 1000,00
- Portugal	€ 180,00
- Germany	€ 1000,00
- Belgium	€ 400,00
- Great Britain	€ 1000,00
- Denmark	€ 668,00
- Sweden (2010+2011)	€ 1728,00
- Latvia	€ 40,00
- Italy	€ 1000,00
- Finland	€ 263,00

#### Still to receive:

- Switzerland
- Hungary

Total Current Assets € 53093,41

#### Liabilities

#### Accounts payable:

- FVE secretarial work (5/12/2010)	€ 1530,00
- Tot.exp. Gostelie	€ 507,59
- UEVP subscription 2011	€ 713,46
- Tot. exp. Nielsen	€ 1082,00
- FVE sec./ meeting room	€ 1198,05
- Tot. exp. Dunne	€ 209,53
- FVE sec.	€ 79,50

Account carrying fees € 44,91

**Total Current Liabilities € 5365,04**

**FEEVA Equity € 47728,38**

Total Liabilities & FEEVA equity € 53093,41