



Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

FEEVA GA Dublin MINUTES 5 Nov 2009

Location: Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

<u>GA Information 11:30 - 3.00 pm</u>
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11:30 Coffee

11:45 Welcome & introduction of new members

Joe Collins, President of FEEVA, opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to his homeland Ireland and the beautiful Dun Laoghaire.

Everybody briefly introduced himself. A list of participants can be found in Annex I.

Joe Collins introduced the topics of the day.

**12:00 Presentation Keith Meldrum, World Horse Welfare about Horse Transport
Followed by Questions & Answers**

Keith Meldrum, Veterinary Consultant for World Horse Welfare, presented which points World Horse Welfare (formerly ILPH) would like to see reviewed in the Transport Regulation 1/2005.

Regulation 1/2005 led to some improvements such as by transporter authorisation, vehicle approval and driver competence certificate but still serious health and welfare issues with (long-distance) transport remain. The Regulation got adopted without amending the travelling times and stocking densities and without technical details regarding the GPS system. The Commission is trying to publish a new proposal rectifying these issues but so far were unsuccessful. Article 32 of Regulation 1/2005 specifies that the Commission shall present a report on the impact of the Regulation by 2011.

World Horse Welfare campaigns to end long distance transport of horses for slaughter and wants to see the transport conditions improved.

World Horse Welfare did an extensive research study in 2008 on 2790 animals transported into Italy for slaughter. Studies showed that 14% of horses were not fit to be transported and 28% animals in Italy had one or more acute injuries. All is documented in the “dossier of evidence” that they created.

They are also concerned about the tripartite agreement between the UK, Ireland and France, which allows horses to travel between the UK, France and Ireland without the need for a health certificate. WHW also pleads for labelling of origin.

World Horse Welfare prepared this “dossier of evidence“(everybody willing a copy can have one on request) which includes proposals for improvement of the travelling times, the stocking densities, the



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design of the partitions, how to deal with unbroken horses, what to do when horses enter into the EU, how to improve registration and regarding the definition of registered animals.

They are searching the support of the European Parliament (which will have increased power under the Lisbon treaty as agriculture will come under co-decision procedure) asking them to adopt a written declaration. At least half of all MEPs must sign this declaration (Written Declaration 54/2009) before 21 January 2010.

Nancy De Briyne gave some update on the first meeting of the new FVE transport group. This new group had held its first meeting on 26 October. FEEVA also has an observer seat in the group and in addition one Working Group member, Mrs. Madeleine Campbell has special expertise in horses. Kenny Padraig from Ireland was elected as Chair.

During this first meeting - which was mainly a getting to know each other and brainstorm meeting – the group had discussed amongst other items the fitness for transport and enforcement issues. They will try to draft a check-list of items to check by the vet during loading and aim to update the fitness for transport definition. The next meeting will take place end March or beginning of April.

In the USA, transport and consumption of horses for slaughter is also extensively debated. A bill that would prohibit the transport, sale, delivery, or export of horses for slaughter for human consumption currently is being considered by the House. AEEP is worried that this bill could lead to much more suffering of unwanted horses. After the last three slaughterhouses in the USA were shut down in 2007, there was a great increase in the number of horses shipped to Canada, Mexico and other countries for slaughter.

Why are horses transported in Europe over such long distances simply to go to a slaughterhouse? Main drivers for this trade were named to be economics, request of Italian consumers for ‘fresh’ meat, difference in costs to owner of euthanasia/disposal versus selling the horse for slaughter and slaughterhouse which wishes to have enough throughputs. Gabor Bodo remarked that in Hungary all slaughterhouses for equines had been closed which meant that all horses had to be transported out of Hungary.

Michael Due asked whether World Horse Welfare supports the exemption in the Regulation for registered horses. Keith Meldrum confirmed that lately they see more and more registered horses also being transported over long distances for slaughter. The whole identification should be tidied up.

Juris Tolpeznikovs requested whether the retirement of racing horses (from 6 years! onwards) is under discussion in some countries. Several other delegates remarked it was not yet but they also thought it maybe should be.

Constance Zach and Harry Werner asked to receive the “dossier of evidence” and the template for the support letter.

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☞ NDB to ask Keith Meldrum to forward Constance Zach and Harry Werner the dossier of evidence.

12:40 Lunch

13:30 Presentation Joop Loomans, University of Utrecht about the future of Equine Practice

Joop Loomans presented the research he had done regarding the social and economic position of equine practitioners in the Netherlands. He started his research by doing a SWOT analysis, listing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the equine veterinary profession. In the FEEVA meeting, he focused on the opportunities and weaknesses.

Opportunities seen are:

- Vets are indispensable in the equine industry; as long as people keep horses they need vets
- Increasing popularity of horses and spending leisure with horses
- Research – horses are used in many research projects which gives also many benefit to horses
- Wellness of all species is becoming more and more important (why not developing as equine practitioner your own yearly wellness program?)
- Future Horse Industry in Rural Areas and Society becomes more important (every 4-10 horses provide employment for 1 person)
- Economic and social contribution of horseracing in Europe
http://www.pari-mutuel-europe.org/Download/2009-09/EPMA_horseracing_Executive_Summary_EN.pdf
- Equine health insurance policies could play a more prominent role.

Threats seen are:

- Economic crisis? Do we really feel it in the practice? In auctions prices are down about 15% while the effects were less seen in horse riding clubs, servings of mares, etc
- Attitude of “the” horse owners – equine veterinary care has become a widely available commodity, horse owners travel easily with their horses, expertise of the equine veterinarian are not well known “*they more select their vet on the brand of its car than on his knowledge*”, ...
- More liability cases – mostly for inadequate emergency care
- Equine vets show little interest in matters such as pricing, benchmarking, practice and strategic planning.
- There are many competing professions such as farriers, physiotherapists, equine dentistry, equine behaviouralists, alternative medicine, etc. More communication should exist between the veterinary equine profession and these other “competing” professions
- Working with horses is a risky business. Many equine veterinarians have continuous health problems mostly related to their work.
- Availability of veterinary medicines products for horses. From a Dutch survey he learned that of the products used: 23% are authorised, 41% is proper use of the cascade, 9% are essential substances and 27% are improper use of the cascade.



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- Lifestyle changes – vets do want reasonable working hours; practice management clearly links to job satisfaction

From his research it became clear that good practice management is extremely important and lacking in many equine practices. To rectify this he worked with the American Equine Business Management organisation to develop a European Equine business management program.

(<http://www.equinebusinessmanagement.com/EBMSInternational.htm>)

The first program will take place in 21-24 April in Amsterdam during the “Voorjaarsdagen”. He invited all to join the program.

One particular meeting he mentioned he had attended recently was a meeting¹ called Equus that took place under the Swedish Presidency on the Future Horse Industry in Rural Areas and Society. He advised FEEVA to contact them so that FEEVA could become a part in one of the following meetings (contact stefan.johanson@nshorse.se or Philippe Houdart from Copa-Cogeca)

One problem is that no such thing as a “European Equine Board” exist; one organisation which can represent the Equine industry at a European level.

☞ FEEVA Board to consider contacting Equus to request becoming a member of the Equus European Horse Network.

14:10 Medicines: the Essentials list, Identification of Equidae, ...

By Joe Collins

Followed by Questions & Answers

Medicines

Joe Collins explained that much has happened in this dossier since the previous FEEVA GA. In 2006 Regulation 1950/2006 established a list of substances essential for the treatment of Equidae (which is a positive list not a negative list!). In 2008, the Regulation on MRLs was adopted including the amendments proposed by A. Doyle to extend the list of essential products for horses with products which *bring added clinical benefit compared to other treatment options available for Equidae*.

Immediately after the adoption, FEEVA in collaboration with FVE discussed in several meetings with EMEA which products they thought should be taken into account. After an internal FEEVA survey and an initial meeting with Martin Terberger, Head of Unit F1 (pharmaceuticals) in the European Commission’s DG Enterprise and Industry in February, a suggested list of products was in June 2009 submitted to the CVMP (Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products) of EMEA (European Medicines Agency). In their September meeting, CVMP decided to accept almost all suggested

¹ <http://www.equus2009.eu/index.html>



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products. However, they did not want to accept Halothane and Phenylbutazone. Josh Slater, Joe Collins and Jan Vaarten from FVE met in September with Martin Terberger again. During this meeting they discussed the decision taken by CVMP on the list of essential products and the status of products licensed in Ireland “for non-food producing horses only”. FEEVA does not agree with the decision taken by CVMP as the arguments to refuse Phenylbutazone (refused due to existing user-safety concerns) and Halothane (refused due to outstanding information on the teratogenic and carcinogenic potential) are unclear. Clear principles should describe what products are bringing added clinical benefit. The Commission has now to make the ultimate decision using the advice of CVMP. FEEVA/FVE is still trying to clarify the terms of reference for CVMP and the Commission and try to clarify discrepancies between Essentials List and National Medicines licensing rules. FEEVA/FVE is drafting a letter to the Commission explaining the complaint and trying to ease the mobility of medicines.

Avril Doyle added that one of the problems we face is that it is not hard science such as the 6 month period is an arbitrary period set. She emphasised that it is not only an equine concern but also a competition concern. Avril Doyle told FEEVA that in the European Commission, Terberger, A. Füssel and Kai-Uwe Sprenger were the people to talk to.

Juris Tolpeznikovs mentioned it is frustrating that in some countries it is extremely difficult to import medicines. Avril Doyle proposed to table an European Parliament question. She urged FEEVA to write one and she will get it tabled.

- ☞ FEEVA Board to discuss whether and if so, how, to oppose the refusing to put Phenylbutazone and Halothane on the list of essential products
- ☞ FEEVA Board to consider whether they would like to forward a question to the European Parliament.

14:50 Coffee

15:10 Disease spread and surveillance

By Josh Slater

Followed by Questions & Answers

Josh Slater explained that the surveillance both in infectious and endemic diseases is important for welfare and economic reasons. Endemic diseases, while often less dramatic and some time accepted as facts of life, have often a larger welfare and economic impact than infectious diseases. The question is whose responsibility it is?

To get more information, a survey had been circulated to all FEEVA delegates on the surveillance of emerging diseases. From the outcome it became clear that by whom and how emerging diseases are surveyed varies significantly between the EU countries. For most equine exotic



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diseases the government is responsible, usually surveying the OIE notifiable² diseases by passive surveillance. Generic contingency plans are available in 5 countries while some disease specific plans exist for EIA, AHS and WNV. For endemic diseases, only in Austria the government takes some responsibility. There exist some examples of industry-led surveillance schemes such as in the UK.

The awareness of equine practitioners has been raised in the last years; probably more could be done as they are often the first sentinels. Several countries have interesting public resources website on equine emerging diseases.

Josh Slater encouraged to set up a FEEVA led international committee/working group on equine surveillance.

Avril Doyle wondered how the different countries dealt with OIE notifiable diseases and how they would handle the transport restrictions when a disease outbreak would occur. What about professional preparedness for diseases we have never seen before? FEEVA feels practitioners should be made more aware of the exotic diseases they might face. One of the roles FEEVA might play is to collect best practices and share them. The profession should join up with the Veterinary Faculties to ensure teaching in the undergraduate curriculum and to prepare postgraduate courses.

Joop Loomans remarked that an equine Wellness program would perfectly fit in with that. It seems that in Europe almost none of these programs exist.

Richard Corde mentioned that in France an informal network of vets exists which are volunteering to survey some defined diseases. One lab does the samples for free. This French system was applauded by all and the president asked Dr. Corde to forward further information on how it works to the FEEVA Board.

- ☞ FEEVA Board to discuss setting up a disease surveillance working group
- ☞ R. Corde to forward further information on the French network to FEEVA

15:50 AOB

FEI and anti-doping rules.

A German letter had been sent to FEI but so far no answer had been received.

Identification

Identification of Equidae is still too complex with too many PIO (passport identifying organisations) and in many countries no central database.

² http://www.oie.int/Eng/maladies/en_classification.htm



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FEEVA will do a survey on that issue in the near future. The European Commission DG Sanco is also trying to collect the information, making it available on:

http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/identification/equine/ms_information_en.htm

☞ FEEVA Board to further work on questionnaire regarding identification of horses

FEEVA AGM:

16:00 EMY Applications for 2010 - 2011

FEEVA 2010

Gabor Bodo from Hungary invited all participants to Budapest on 28 and 29 May 2010. WEVA Congress is held every two years in association with a national equine veterinary association congress. The 2009 WEVA congress took place in Brazil and WEVA will organise an 'intermediate' congress in Budapest on 28 and 29 May for East Europe. The daft program is currently being finalised.

FEEVA 2011

Steen Bo Larsen from Denmark said the Danish Veterinary Association would like to invite FEEVA to Copenhagen in 2011. They will have their Annual Congress from 6 to 8 November 2011 (usually 120-150 participants) and FEEVA could do it's FEEVA GA on 5 November 2011.

16:40 President's report - Joe Collins

Already covered in other points

16:50 Treasurer's report – Michael Duë

Michael Due presented the finances to the participants. The financial statement had been audited by Albrecht Fenner. In total, FEEVA currently has around 49195,50 €. Almost no subscriptions were outstanding. The FEEVA Board decided to finance some of the costs of the dinner in the evening.

In conclusion, FEEVA is financially in good shape.

17:00 Election of new Board members

(nominations received: Karen Dunne (Ireland), Orsolya Kutasi (Hungary), Jesper Nielsen (Denmark))



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Joe Collins, Gabor Bodo and Michael Due had to leave the FEEVA Board. In the meantime three nominations have been received namely Orsolya Kutasi (HU), Karen Dunne (IE) and Jesper Moller-Nielsen (DK) were nominated to replace the 3 leaving Board members.

All 3 nominations were unanimously adopted. Joe Collins congratulated the new Board members. The newly elected board left the room to decide upon the functions.

The composition of the new FEEVA Board:

President: [Josh Slater](#) (UK)

Honorary Treasurer: [Erik Gostelie](#) (Netherlands)

Secretary: Jesper Moller Nielsen (Denmark)

Further members: [Orsolya Kutasi](#) (Hungary), [Marco Pepe](#) (Italy), [Karen Dunne](#) (Ireland)

17:30 Welcome Avril Doyle

Joe Collins welcomed Avril Doyle, thanking her for her great contribution to the Equine Veterinary Professions. She thanked FEEVA for the invitation. She explained how her love for horses grew over the years. She talked about her period in the European Parliament, where she dealt with many veterinary issues in particular the medicines issue. Currently the medicines directive is under review, now is the time for FEEVA and FVE to approach the European Commission.

In the new medicines Directive we should have a clear definition on what a veterinary medicines and prescription is. Slaughter she emphasised is a humane way to get rid of unwanted horses.

17:50 Final Discussion followed by closure by newly elected FEEVA President at 18:00

Josh Slater, the newly elected FEEVA President, thanked Joe Collins for the excellent Chairmanship and the enormous work he did in the last years.

He saw many new tasks awaiting the new FEEVA Board, which he will try to lead as good as possible.

He thanked all participants for the excellent meeting and wished them a nice further stay in Ireland.



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Annex I: List of Participants

Name	Country
Zach, Constanze	Austria
Hinterhofer, Christine	Austria
Kutasi, Orsolya	Hungary
Gostelie, Erik	Netherlands
Llorca, Miguel	Spain
Tolpeznikovs, Juris	Latvia
Pepe, Marco	Italy
Grasis, Andis	Latvia
House, Chris (<i>only attended the dinner</i>)	UK
Vainute, Anna (student)	Latvia
De Briyne, Nancy	FVE
Foley, David	USA
Werner Harry	USA
<i>Loomans, Joop (speaker)</i>	Netherlands
Slater, Josh	UK
Bodo, Gabor	Hungary
Due, Michael	Germany
Nielsen, Jesper Moller	Denmark
Peters, Julius	Netherlands
<i>Meldrum, Keith (speaker)</i>	UK
Carson, Deidre	UK
Larsen, Steen Bo	Denmark
Corde, Richard	France
Collins, Joe	Ireland
Dunne, Karen	Ireland
Duggan, Vivienne	Ireland



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Annex III: Contact details FEEVA Board

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