



**F**ederation of  
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**V**eterinary  
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## **DRAFT MINUTES FEEVA GA MEETING**

**January 24<sup>th</sup> 2008**  
**Palazzo del Casino, Lido, Venice**

### **GA Informative meeting: 1 - 3.30 pm**

Joe Collins, President of FEEVA, opened the meeting and welcomed everybody to the beautiful Venice.

A list of participants can be found in Annex I. Apologies were received from the Treasurer M. Duë from Germany.

- **Member Services - Prof. Josh Slater (UK) & Dominik Burger (Switzerland)**

Josh Slater and Dominik Burger both held a presentation regarding “Member services for national equine veterinary associations”.

Josh Slater reflected on why people join BEVA or other equine organisations?

Equine veterinarians mainly join their association for the educational resources, the political representation, the member services given, out of loyalty or because the organisation defends their trade union rights. Less important reasons seem to be subsidiarity of overall species associations. In no country represented during the FEEVA GA, it seems to be a statutory requirement for equine vets to join their equine association.

The goal for these organisations is to provide a “one stop shop” for all members’ need by making the association an information portal. Information provided by almost all organisations is done through education, publishing journals, giving professional and legal advice and providing web discussion forums. Some organisations also provide business advice and discount to outside companies (such as insurances). Few provide personal advice (debt, burn out, addictions) while this is seen by many FEEVA delegates as a necessity. In the future, it is foreseen that more information will be provided by electronic means.

☞ It was decided that FEEVA would inventories from each FEEVA member the Member Services it provides and the information it gives to its members in order to exchange information on most successful practises.

Dominik Burger continued the presentation by given two examples of specific services provided by the Swiss organisation, namely the collaboration in the “working group horse” and the project “Intervision”.

**President:**  
Joe Collins (IRE)

**Honorary Treasurer:**  
Michael Duë (DE)

**Secretary:**  
Josh Slater (UK)

**Vice-Presidents:**  
Gábor Bodó (HU)  
Marco Pepè (IT)  
Erik Gostelie (NL)

\* Collaboration in the “working group horse in Switzerland”

The working group found out that Switzerland had in total approximately 80.000 Equidae of which 78% were horses and 22% ponies and donkeys. 75% of the Equidae were used to ride but only 30% were registered in a breeding or sport association. Only 10% took part in jumping competitions. 87% of the licenses given are to woman of which 90% is younger than 35.

The complete report is published on the website: [www.harasnational.ch](http://www.harasnational.ch). This working group provided important key figures and conclusions which led to substantial political and strategic changes.

\* Project “Intervision”

A Swiss study has showed that mental problems or excessive consumption of alcohol/drugs appear in 19.1% of the Swiss vets. Swiss vets also have a 48% higher suicide rate than the normal population. Studies in the UK show similar results.

Reasons are complex and multi-factorial such as through the health risks involved, high working time, stress, difficult cases, bad work-life balance and the idealistic character of vets.

Some organisations are already running specific programs such as in France, the UK and recently also the “Intervision” program in Switzerland.

The “Intervision” project works through 6 group meetings (every 8 weeks) of 4 to 10 vets per group moderated by a professional coach. The aim of the meetings is to develop individual solutions for the specific problems of each participant and to profit hereby from the experience and the creativity of colleagues.

☞ The FEEVA GA thought that the FEEVA Board should further work on the issue of veterinarians facing mental problems.

Both the presentations of Josh Slater and Dominik Burger regarding “Member Services” will be published on the FEEVA website.

- **Emerging Diseases - Dr. Gábor Bodó (Hungary) and Prof. Josh Slater (UK)**

Dr. Gábor Bodó presented some thoughts on viral equine infections in Middle Europe. Investigating this topic, it became quickly clear that official statistics lack data.

#### Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA)

In Hungary, all equines should have a serological examination done every 3 years. If confirmed (+), euthanasia follows with state compensation (price estimated by an appointed expert). The prevalence of EIA in Hungary is very low and so far no outbreaks in high value horses occurred.

In Romania, 2x/year a serological examination for all horses needs to be done. If confirmed (+), euthanasia follows with state compensation. Romania has in some regions a very high prevalence of EIA.

Josh Slater told the GA that in the UK when a horse needs to be euthanised in an official eradication program, the compensation is 1 Pound whatever the value of the horse. This is problematic as also equine insurance excludes this from their contract.

Albrecht Fenner told the GA that in Germany outbreaks occurred in sport and leisure horses. Compensation of approximately half the estimated value of the horse is paid by a special national insurance for epidemics in animals.

#### Transport of slaughter horses

Hungary is not a slaughter horse producing country any more, only a transit country for horses coming from Romania, Lithuania and Latvia.

#### Rabies in Hungary

Hungary vaccinates since several years foxes which made since 2002 the rabies incidence decreased enormously. The last case in a horse was in 2002.

#### West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is now endemic in Hungary. The first clinical case was documented in birds in 2003 and the first case in horses in 2007.

#### Equine Virus Arteritis

Equine virus Arthritis is found regularly in Hungary.

Josh Slater explained that exotic disease surveillance in the UK is handled by the government agency (DEFRA) but only of a list of specified exotic diseases, the 'notifiable' diseases, namely African Horse Sickness, Contagious Equine Metritis, Dourine, Epizootic Lymphangitis, Equine Viral Arteritis, Equine Infectious Anaemia, Equine Viral Encephalomyelitis (including WNV), Glanders (including Farcy) and West Nile Virus.<sup>1</sup>

BEVA is concerned that at UK level, there are no contingency plans for control measures against West Nile Virus. For African Horse Sickness (AHS), Council Directive 92/35 sets out the control measures with a compulsory slaughter and protection zone but the detailed implementation has to be determined by the national authority. In the UK, the risk assessment and contingency planning for AHS has not been conducted so far.

Endemic disease monitoring is not a task of DEFRA; they only cooperate with BEVA and AHT to compile reports from collaborating microbiology laboratories. The data are limited and only passive surveillance is done. The UK has no surveillance system for non-infectious diseases.

Josh Slater wonders what the situation is like in other countries regarding risk assessment, (endemic disease) surveillance systems and contingency planning. He proposes for delegates to share ideas and resources.

Julius Peters informed delegates that in the Netherlands they are working on establishing a surveillance system. Currently, they face the problem that no insect repellent is authorised.

Dominik Burger informed that in Switzerland they have a state run surveillance system called "Equinela". He wondered why Herpes is not on the list.

The US seems also to have a state run surveillance system.

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<sup>1</sup> OIE Equine 'notifiable' diseases are African horse sickness, Contagious equine metritis, Dourine, Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern + Western), Equine infectious anaemia, Equine influenza, Equine piroplasmiasis, Equine rhinopneumonitis, Equine viral arteritis, Glanders, Surra (*Trypanosoma evansi*) and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis  
[http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/en\\_classification.htm](http://www.oie.int/eng/maladies/en_classification.htm)

It was concluded that FEEVA delegates should share ideas and resources. Josh Slater will prepare a sort of questionnaire to inventories the current practices in the different countries.

Both the presentations of Gábor Bodó and Josh Slater regarding “Emerging diseases and surveillance systems” will be published on the FEEVA website.

- **Medicines and MRL's - Dr. Joe Collins (Ireland) and Prof. Josh Slater (UK)**

Recently the Commission has adopted a proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin. The European Parliament and Council are currently reviewing this proposal.

At the European Parliament, Avril Doyle - an Irish MEP - is the rapporteur. She has proposed some amendments which could increase the availability of veterinary medicines to the equine veterinarian.

General amendments:

- *“Priority should be given to the detection of the use of prohibited substances ...”*
- *“... recommendations should take into account any relevant scientific findings of the European Food Safety Authority ...”*

Specific amendments:

- *“VMP's which do not have a MRL for Equidae, which are not included in Annex IV of Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 or Article 13(2) of this Regulation, and which are used "off-label" and "under the provisions of the cascade" and not administered intra-muscularly or subcutaneously, shall have a nominal withdrawal period of six months. “*
- *“The use of pharmaceuticals containing pharmacologically active ingredients not on "the essential" substances list or the "positive list" for Equidae and not administered intra-muscularly or subcutaneously, shall have a nominal withdrawal period of six months ”*

Delegates discussed the amendments. While it was recognised that they could fall out of the scope of the MRL directive and that you could debate that they should count for all animals not only horses, it was decided to see how the European Parliament and the other EU institutions react on them. Even if the Commission and Council can not accept them, when they get passed through the European Parliament, this can be used as back up ammunition when a revision of the medicines directive follows.

On the same time, FEEVA delegates should not forget that they can propose new substances for adding to the essential list. The evidence to add these substances to the essential list must be well documented scientifically and no alternatives should be authorised.

The presentation of Joe Collins regarding the MRL proposal will be published on the FEEVA website.

- **Liason/relationship with FVE/UEVP - Dr. Marco Eleuteri (Italy) and Nancy De Briyne (FVE)**

Marco Eleuteri welcomed all FEEVA delegates in the beautiful Venice. FEEVA is officially a member of UEVP – the European Union of Veterinary Practitioners- , while UEVP is one of the 4 sections of FVE. UEVP has and is still very busy as many European initiatives will influence the daily life of veterinary practitioners. The relationship between FEEVA-UEVP-FVE is very good and this is necessary to reach the best possible results for the veterinary profession.

Nancy De Briyne updated the FEEVA members on 4 European initiatives which were interesting for them:

- Community Animal Health Strategy (CAHS)

The CAHS is a vision paper specifying the commissions' strategy regarding animal health in the next 5 year. It is currently reviewed by the European Parliament and the Council. This strategy will be followed

by concrete action plans. It is expected that the European approach towards animal health and disease control will change significantly.

- MRSA conference: FVE is organising on 8 April a one-day conference regarding Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*. It will also deal with MRSA prevalence in Equidae. She invites all delegates who have information regarding this topic to forward it to the FVE secretariat.
- “European Veterinary Week”: FVE is developing together with DG Sanco a project with as aim to strengthen the animal health services, to promote the CAHS and to draw attention to biosecurity.
- Transport of live animals: revision of the annex regarding the loading densities and travelling times of Regulation 1/2005.

The presentation of Nancy De Briyne regarding “Actual European Activities” will be published on the FEEVA website.

- **Identification of Equidae – Dr. Joe Collins (Ireland)**

Joe Collins reported that the Commission is still working on a new Regulation for the Identification of horses. At this moment they are discussing revision 21 which they call final. Some changes have been made compared to revision 17 as presented by Alistair Barr during the FEEVA meeting in Edinburgh. In the presentation of Joe Collins you can see the changes highlighted.

In conclusion, several promising changes have been made to previous revisions although some concerns remain. As soon as enough agreement between the member states has been gathered, it is expected that the new version will be put on the agenda of the standing committee on the food chain and animal health - Section Animal Health and Welfare.

The presentation of Joe Collins regarding “Identification of Equidae” will be published on the FEEVA website.

## **FEEVA General Assembly Meeting: 4.00 - 5.30 pm**

### President's report - Dr. Joe Collins (Ireland)

The FEEVA Board reported that a Board meeting had been held previously to the FEEVA GA. The FEEVA Board had decided that while continuing to work on the old FEEVA issues such as medicines and identification & Registration, FEEVA should become more involved in new topics such as emerging diseases and member services. The FEEVA Board also wants to optimise both the internal as external communication. The FEEVA Board will meet again the next day reflecting on what was said today and how they will translate this in concrete actions for the future.

### Secretary's report – Dr. Marco Eleuteri (Italy)

Apologies were received from Michael Duë  
The minutes of the Edinburgh GA were adopted without changes.

### Treasurer's report - Dr. Albrecht Fenner (Germany - replacing M. Duë)

Albrecht Fenner presented the finances to the meeting. In total, FEEVA currently has around 37000€ compared to about 35 000€ the year before.

Almost no subscriptions were outstanding.

It was wondered what the 2311 € was paid to AVEF, the French Associations. Albrecht Fenner will clarify it.

In conclusion, FEEVA is financially in good shape.

### Election of new FEEVA member – Portugal (to be confirmed)

The Portuguese Equine association had inquired for membership. The FEEVA Board replied but did not get an answer so far. It was decided that when they would apply, the FEEVA GA would be happy to welcome them.

### Election of Board members

Both Marco Eleuteri (Italy) and Dominik Burger (Switzerland) are due to retire as they both served the maximum allowed time (6 years). The FEEVA GA thanked them for all their work done and commitment towards FEEVA.

Marco Eleuteri and SIVE President Paolo Gulden introduced Marco Pepe. Julius Peters introduced Erik Gostelie. Both were elected unanimously by all delegations as new Board members.

The composition of the new FEEVA Board:

President: [Joe Collins](#) (Ireland)

Honorary Treasurer: [Michael Duë](#) (Germany)

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

Further members: [Gábor Bodó](#) (Hungary), [Erik Gostelie](#) (Netherlands), [Marco Pepe](#) (Italy)

## Proposals to host FEEVA GA in 2009/2010

### **2009**

Joe Collins from Ireland said the Ireland would like to apply to become the EMY in 2009. His organisation organises a small 2-day equine congress. The Irish Equine group has about 200 members. The 2009 meeting is planned to be held in Dublin late October or early November 2009.

It was warned that AEEP does their meeting at the end of November and FVE in the middle of November.

### **2010**

Julius Peters from the Netherlands officially applied for the “Voorjaarsdagen” in Amsterdam to become the EMY in 2010. It could be that Hungary will also apply for the 2010 EMY.

### **2011**

Switzerland would like to apply for the 2011 FEEVA EMY.

Joe Collins thanked Netherlands, Hungary and Switzerland for their application or intention to apply. The ultimate decision rests with the FEEVA Board.

## Closure of the meeting

Joe Collins thanked again SIVE for the enormous generosity they provided. The FEEVA Board is most grateful for this support.

List of participants:

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