International Competition Horse Movement – a new OIE initiative of interest for Animal Welfare

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- Background issues
- The value of the horse industry
- Facilitation of international competition horse movement
- Conclusions
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Introduction

- Animal Health is a key component to Animal Welfare
- Fits in with the concept to create a “high health” sub-population for competition horses
- Position within OIE Animal Welfare framework

Main thrust of OIE AW is on livestock production systems

High health, High performance horse (HHP)

Important: Chapters on transport

Working equids

Recommendations by AWWG 2013
Why create a «sub-population»?

“High health, high performance” (HHP) sub-population

Sport horses

Other horses, Incl working horses
Perceived challenges to travel internationally

- Application of excessive, inconsistent sanitary regulations
- Differing approaches to quarantine, laboratory testing
- Lack of knowledge/skills/interest/low priority for Veterinary Services
- No national regulations for temporary importation
Identified needs

- The need to facilitate international movements of these athlete horses has been recognized for some years.

- Particular need *intra-regionally* in Asia, South/Central America, Eastern Europe.
Addressing the needs

- A certain number of sport horses are under close veterinary supervision, governed by FEI\(^1\) and IFHA\(^2\) rules
- They present a low health risk and a **very high health status**
- They are identified and traceable
- They are “athletes” of high performance
- Their **welfare during transport** is essential to their capacity to perform (Chapters 7.2, 7.3, 7.4)

\(^1\)FEI = Federation Equestre Internationale  \(^2\)IFHA = International Federation of Horse racing
- They travel frequently internationally
- They enter countries on a temporary basis for competition purpose only, not for breeding
- They are kept in bio-secure environments at home and at event locations

→ the HHP sub-population
OIE approach to promote the concept

- The HHP horse concept has been presented at a number of key meetings
  - An FEI/OIE Workshop, Guadalajara, October, 2011
  - The FEI General Assembly, November, 2011
  - ‘Brainstorming Session’, OIE HQs, March, 2012
  - A Regional Conference in Dubai on Glanders, April, 2012
  - Equine Infectious Disease Conference, Kentucky, USA, October 2012
  - A Regional Conference in Panama City, December, 2012
  - The FEI Sport Forum, Lausanne, April, 2013
  - OIE General Assembly of Delegates, May 2013

- The HHP horse concept and benefits were well received
The value of the horse industry
Socio-economic benefits

- Significant socio-economic benefits accrue to countries, industries and consumers from international equestrian events, e.g. *Olympics /Asian Games*
- The sport horse and race horse industries are growth industries
- By facilitating the international movement of the HHP horse *globally*, more countries can benefit from this growth
FEI and IFHA Industries

- FEI Sport (growth 2009 to 2012):
  - 21% increase in total number of events
  - 19% increase in number of participating people/athletes
  - 22% increase in number of participating horses

- Racing: 162,000 flat/jump thoroughbred globally – 2.94 billion euros prize money
  - Growth in Asia important – 55-60% of global prize money/turnover
The Equine Industry in China in 2010

- “sunrise industry.... with tremendous potential”
- 280 registered horse clubs nationwide, numbers more than doubled in last three years
- The 2011 China Horse Fair in Shanghai attracted 82 exhibitors from 18 countries – double the number than 2010
- China imported 4000 horses in 2010, a tenfold increase from 2006

(An overview of China’s equestrian industry)
Increase in number of FEI events

Source: FEI statistics
FEI Group regions

Source: FEI
FEI event growth in emerging competition Regions
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FEI Group VII</th>
<th>FEI Group VIII</th>
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<td>New Zealand</td>
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CSI5* EVENTS 01.01.2011 – 31.12.2011

Movements of an HHP horse in a year to attend high level events

Source: Peden Bloodstock, Int. Transporters
Proposal for
The
Facilitation of International Competition Horse Movements
Based on
OIE Standards and approaches
OIE principles

- The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code lists 11 equine diseases and 5 multiple species diseases
- Members have reporting obligations!
- Zoning, Equine Disease Free Zones, and Compartmentalisation
- Identification and Traceability
- Veterinary Services and the PVS Framework
Trade regulation categories

- “Official disease status”: FMD, CBPP, BSE, AHS, PPR, CSF
- “Self declaration” by the country:
  Dourine, EI, Glanders, VEE, Rabies, WNF
- “Follow recommendations for importation as given in respective disease chapters in the Code”

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<tr>
<th>African Horse Sickness **</th>
<th>Equine infectious anaemia</th>
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<td>Contagious equine metritis</td>
<td>Equine influenza *</td>
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<td>Dourine *</td>
<td>Equine piroplasmosis</td>
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<td>Equine encephalomyelitis</td>
<td>Equine rhinopneumonitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Western and Venezuelan *)</td>
<td>Equine viral arteritis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rabies *, WNF *, VS, JE and Anthrax</td>
<td>Glanders *</td>
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Zoning

- Zoning allows countries to put in place animal health measures for the whole country or designated parts of a country
  - Generally defined on the basis of geographic boundaries
- An Equine Disease Fees Zone (EDFZ) is a form of zoning for multiple diseases
Compartmentalisation

- Compartmentalisation - the establishment and maintenance of a sub-population of animals with a specified disease free status
  - Based on sound management and biosecurity measures
- Conceptually could be applied to HHP horse movements
  - If ID, traceability, management, biosecurity in place
HHP sub-population complies with these principles

Based on 4 pillars:

1. High Health status: vaccinations, tests, quarantine, health certification
2. Performance
3. Identification and traceability
4. Biosecurity

(biosecurity Guidelines for HHP in view of compartmentalisation principle are being developed)
Public-Private Partnership with equine Industry

- FEI and IFHA management arrangements have global outreach

- HHP horses participate in FEI organised international competitions and IFHA Group/Graded international races

- The ‘power’ and essential nature of PPP
Operationalisation of the proposal

- Formation of an OIE *ad hoc* Group on the International Movement for Equestrian Sport

- AHG is examining definitions, standards, biosecurity, EDFZs, PVS Performance Indicators, Welfare during transport

- And has developed a 3 years work program
Conclusions (1)

- Clear socio economic benefits can be gained from the expanding HHP horse industries, also in “non-classical” countries/regions
- There is a demand for OIE standards to support safe international movements of the HHP horse
- The HHP sub-population participates in FEI international competitions and IFHA Group/Graded races
- HHP horses have high health status and sound management underpinnings
Conclusions (2)

- Veterinary Services are essential to the implementation of OIE Standards and to provide credible certification.
- Regulatory services should work with industries through Public-Private Partnerships.
- The development of OIE Standards for HHP horses is a logical progression from the current OIE general Standards.
- The Animal Welfare aspects are particularly pronounced in the transport aspects.
Proposal specific for this region

Test the HHP concept at the 17th Asian Games to be held at Incheon, Republic of Korea, September 2014!

The Harbour Seals – mascots of the Games
Building on previous experience

- 16th Asian Games, equestrian disciplines, Conghua, Guangzhou, China – November, 2010 established as an EDFZ (Equine diseases free zone)
- Based on experiences e.g. Sydney & China Equestrian Olympics and Paralympics (Hong Kong)
Application of OIE Zoning principles

Protection Zone

Core Zone (Equestrian Site)

Surveillance Zone

Biosecurity Highway Passage

Hongkong

★ Locations of animal health supervision institution of relevant areas
Asian Games Venue Design Concept

Preparations before arrival:
- (Pre Export Quarantine)
- Equine Disease Testing of all horses

→ equivalent health status of all horses

→ All horses could be stabled in the same compound
16th Asian Games

- The 16th Asian Games Equestrian Events were held successfully at the Equestrian Venue in the EDFZ from 7 to 24 November 2010
- A total of 95 horses from 16 countries and regions of equivalent health status participated
- Biosecurity arrangements proved successful in enabling the safe arrival and return of all competing horses with no disease outbreaks occurring
Thank you for your attention