The OIE proposal on facilitation of international horse movement

Susanne Münstermann

Scientific and Technical Department, OIE Paris

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The HHP concept in brief: Rationale

- A certain number of sport horses are under close veterinary supervision, governed by FEI\textsuperscript{1} and IFHA\textsuperscript{2} rules.
- They present a low health risk.
- They are identified and traceable.
- Their welfare is essential to their capacity to perform.
- They enter countries on a temporary basis for competition purpose only, not for breeding.

\textsuperscript{1}FEI = Federation Equestre Internationale  \textsuperscript{2}IFHA = International Federation of Horse racing
They can be defined as a **SUB-POPULATION** of the global equine population

**Proposed name**

**HHP horse**

*(High health, high performance horse)*
Sub-population

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

Sport horses

Other 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
Collaboration with the industry

Key partners:

- International Equestrian Federation (FEI)
- International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)

- MoU between FEI and OIE and IFHA and OIE
- Engagement in Public-Private-Partnership to address movement constraints at global level
The value and growth of the horse industry
Socio-economic benefits

- Significant socio-economic benefits accrue to countries, industries and consumers from international equestrian events, e.g. Olympics
- 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
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)
The equine industry in New Zealand

- **Race horses**: 40,000
- **Sport horses**: 80,000
  - (70,000 < 3000 $ value)

**Racing**
- 1.6 bill NZ$ value added contribution to GDP
- 39 Mill NZ$ in wagering taxes
- 16,930 Full time jobs
- 47,000 participants

**Sport horse industry**
- 1 bill NZ$ annual expenditure or 0.5% of GDP;
- 12,000 full time jobs

Impact

Disease outbreaks:

Example – Equine Influenza outbreak - Australia 2007

- 70,000 horse / 9000 premises involved - disruption
- Australian Government Financial assistance – AUD $97.7 million
- Economic loss – AUD $1.00 billion plus
- Class action lawsuit pending
Proposal for the Facilitation of International Competition Horse Movements

Based on

OIE Standards and approaches
OIE standards and principles

- The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code lists 11 equine diseases and 6 multiple species diseases
- **Members have reporting obligations!**
- Zoning, Disease Free Zones, and Compartmentalisation are defined in the Code
- Animal identification and traceability described in the Code
- Global Model Health Certificates
- Quality of Veterinary Services and the PVS Framework
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

- If public-private partnership is endorsed
HHP sub-population complies with these principles

Based on 4 pillars:

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

Note: Biosecurity Guidelines have already been drafted!
Work at OIE level

- Formation of an OIE ad hoc Group on the International Movement for Equestrian Sport
  - AHG is elaborating definitions, standards, biosecurity, EDFZs, PVS Performance Indicators, Welfare during transport, research etc
- has developed a 3 years work program
  - Promotion of the HHP concept with OIE Delegates
  - Regional Workshops, e.g. Panama, Hong Kong....
New Code chapter for adoption in 2014

Draft Chapter 4.X.

HIGH HEALTH STATUS HORSE SUBPOPULATION

Article 4.X.1.

General provisions

This chapter provides recommendations for the establishment of a subpopulation of horses that are moved internationally to compete in equestrian competitions, including thoroughbred races, and that have a certified high health status, in order to facilitate their safe temporary importation, onward movement and return to the country of usual residence.

In line with the provisions in Chapter 4.4., the subpopulation is established by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create a functional separation between horses within the defined subpopulation and all other equids. The separation, at all times, of high health status horses from all other equids is essential to maintain their membership in the subpopulation.

Horses that are moved internationally for the purpose of breeding or any other purpose not linked to competitions are not included in this subpopulation.

Article 4.x.2.

Criteria for the inclusion of horses in the high health status subpopulation

1. High health status

Each horse in the subpopulation is subjected to specific measures to protect its health and minimise the probability of spreading diseases to other horses.

These measures comprise a specific set of laboratory tests and vaccinations appropriate to the disease status of the horse’s region of origin and the regions that it will visit. Records of all vaccinations, and results of tests and clinical inspections are documented in an individual passport that complies with Chapter 5.12.
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Biosecurity key issues

PART I GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON BIOSECURITY FOR THE HHP SUB-POPULATION

1.1 Roles and responsibilities
1.2 Chain of command
1.3 Horse identification and traceability
1.4 Record keeping
1.5 Monitoring compliance and corrective action
1.6 Disease surveillance and reporting
1.7 Health management of the HHP sub-population
1.8 Administration of vaccines and other veterinary interventions
1.9 Contingency planning - premises and equestrian events
Part II: Premises, transport, events, certification

1. Planning an equestrian event
   - Responsibilities and objectives
   - Facilities, construction and equipment
   - Planning in relation to the transport of horses
   - Provision of veterinary services at an event

2. Contingency planning
   - Roles and responsibilities
   - Communication with participants, the public and media
   - Recommendations on contingency plans
   - Additional biosecurity measures to be implemented in a disease incident

3. Preparation of horses to attend an international equestrian event
   - Official health requirements
   - Recommendations to the person responsible for the horse

4. Transportation of horses
   - Transport by road
   - Transport by air

5. Veterinary health certification
   - OIE standards
   - FEI Veterinary Regulations
   - IFHA Guidelines

6. Arrival of horses at an equestrian event or other establishment
   - The examination on arrival
   - Recommendations to the person responsible for the horse

7. Management of an equestrian event
   - Prior to the arrival of horses
   - Allocation of stables
   - Monitoring and supervision of stables
   - Ensuring the separation of horses of different health status
   - Monitoring the health of HHP horses at an equestrian event
   - Use of the isolation facility
   - Departure of horses from an equestrian event
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
Conclusions

- Clear socio-economic benefits can be gained from the expanding HHP horse industries, also in “non-classical” countries/regions
- Veterinary Services complying with OIE standards are essential to the implementation of OIE Standards and to provide credible certification
- Regulatory services should work with industry organisations (e.g. IFHA and FEI) through Public-Private Partnerships
Thank you for your attention