

WBFSH General Assembly and Seminars October 24th – 26th 2011 Seville, Spain

Details about seminar speeches and speakers



Horse welfare discussion in Denmark (summary)
Monday October 24th 2011

CV – Karina Christiansen, e-mail: kc@varmblod.dk

- Diploma in Equine Studies 1996-1997 at the University of Dublin, Ireland
- MSc in Agriculture 1994-1999 at the University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Life Science
- From 2000 Breeding Manager for the Danish Warmblood Society
- From 2000 member of the WBFSH Executive Committee

Especially three horse welfare items have been discussed recently in Denmark:

1. *Rules for keeping horses in Denmark*
2. *Hotbranding*
3. *Riding "low, deep, and round"*

Re 1. Rules for keeping horses in Denmark

In the beginning of 2000 welfare organizations put pressure on the Danish government for making regulations to improve the welfare of horses. These regulations should affect all horse owners, private as well professionals, and should be implemented from 2008 and ahead:

From 2008:

- Exercise or on field/paddock at least 2 hrs. per day, five days a week
- Foals and youngstock must on field together with other horses
- Should be looked after at least once a day
- Free access to water if more than 4 hrs. in paddock/field. During winter period max. 12 hrs. on field without shelter. Sufficient forage should be offered
- The young horses must learn to be handled
- Trimming of the hooves/shoes must be done when needed

From 2011:

- Horses must not be kept in stalls, but they are allowed to stay there for max. 2 hrs.

From 2016:

- All horse keepers must have access to a paddock of at least 800 m² and a plan for using the field must be made
- No more than 4 horses on 800 m² and a max. of 5 groups per day
- If more than 4 horses the paddock must be extended with 200 m² per horse
- No more than 20 horses must be together on the field

From 2020:

- The area of the individual loose-box must be at least (2 x the height at withers)² of the horse (ex. 1.70 cm. = 11.6 m²)

- The area of a foaling box must be at least $(2,5 \times \text{height at withers})^2$ of the mare. The foal must have access to a foaling box the first month of its life
- The barn must have a volume of at least 30m^3 per horse, regardless of the size of the horses
- The min. height of ceiling must follow the height at withers (ex. $> 1.65 \text{ m} = 2.60 \text{ m}$ of ceiling)
- Window area must be at least 7% of the floor area to ensure natural light. Lamps must be added to ensure light at any moment

“Danish Forum for Horse Welfare” was established in 2010 with the aim to advise the Danish Department of Justice on horse welfare matters. Right now they are working on a consideration answer for adjustment of “Rules for keeping horses”, ex. no max number of horses on the field, if the field is big enough.

Re 2. Hotbranding

In 2008 a Danish Vet. master project concluded on the basis of seven horses that hotbranding is more painful than microchip transporter injection. Danish welfare organizations published the results through different media and the public forced the politicians to prohibit hotbranding in Denmark in 2010.

Re 3. Riding “low, deep, and round (LDR)”

The correct way of riding as regards the welfare of the horse has recently been discussed in Denmark, as well in other countries. Danish Animal Protection do not support the FEI rule of max. 10 minutes continuous “low, deep, and around” in the warm-up area. But knowledge about the consequences of LDR on the welfare of horse is currently missing. Therefore a group of Danish and Dutch scientists wants to examine the difference in stress, when riding in three different postures: 1. remount; 2. normal competition; 3. LDR.

18 horses are examined by video in all three postures, and each postures should be hold for 10 minutes. The stress level is measured by heart rate, stress hormones (samples of spit) and pressure on the reins. The results are expected to be presented at the Global Dressage Forum 2012.

Welfare discussion in the Netlerlands

Monday October 24th

By Johan Knaap from WBFSh executive committee

Twelve Guidelines for Horse-Keepers (which may be further developed as needed from May – September 2011):

a. Nutrition:

1. Adequate nutrition should be geared toward the individual animal. This means providing sufficient amounts of good-quality feed.

- Unrestricted access to fresh drinking water.
- Adequate feedings of forage at least twice per day, unless sufficient pasture grazing is available.

b. Stabling and Exercise:

2. Stall area in individual stables should be at least (2 x pony height) squared for ponies shorter than 1.56m. For horses taller than 1.56m, stalls should measure at least 10m squared. As of January 1, 2012, this standard will be used in reviewing requests for building or renovating stables. Existing stables are granted a 15-year transition period to complete modifications by January 1, 2027.

- Stalls should measure at least 12m squared for mares about to give birth (for use as foaling stalls) and for mares with a foal at their side, unless the mare (and foal, when applicable) is turned out in pasture for at least 8 hours a day.
- Tie stalls which serve as regular stabling for horses will be phased out and forbidden as of January 1, 2017. This rule does not apply to horses which are tied for short periods for the purpose of farrier work, veterinary treatment, or breaks during trail/arena riding or events/competitions.

3. Exercise. Horses stabled individually should receive at least 4 hours of daily exercise outside their stalls, unless they are ill or otherwise disabled.

4. Light exposure should be at least 80 lux for 8 hours a day.

5. Stalls and pastures should be in good repair and safe. They should be free of protrusions or other objects which can cause injury to a horse.

- The use of barbed-wire to enclose horse pastures is forbidden. The Safe Equestrian Sport Foundation will adapt this rule in the inspection protocol for its safety certificate as of January 1, 2013.
- Horses which are kept outdoors day and night should have shelter (a shed or cover provided by trees or shrubs).

c. Health:

6. Adequate prevention and treatment against disease and disorders should be implemented, such as vaccinating and deworming.

- Treatments which are important relative to practicing the sport should be recorded in a horse's passport.
- Space should be available for ill and/or lame horses to be physically separated from other horses.

- Young horses should be exercised in moderation and in a manner appropriate for their age. The cooperating parties in the Horse Sector Council (SRP) have established age guidelines in their rules for this purpose.
- Professional organizations (including those for farriers and equine dentists) should set their own conditions (certification) for membership and exercise control over the quality of care provided.
- Horses should be trimmed and shod by a sector-recognized farrier.
- Horses should be examined and treated as necessary by a sector-recognized equine dentist.
- It is forbidden to completely remove a horse's sensory hairs.
- It is forbidden to shave the hair on the inside of a horse's ears, as the hair protects the external ear canal. However, excess protruding hairs may be trimmed.

7. Docking. Horses born after 2004 which have docked tails may no longer participate in events in the Netherlands, unless docking is the result of non-elective veterinary surgery.

8. Horse markets may be held only in accordance with the protocol (see attachment) drafted by the Royal Dutch Society for Veterinary Medicine (KNMvD), the Equine Medicine Group (GGP), the Horse Sector Council (SRP), and Animal Protection.

9. Keeping a single horse is not recommended, unless it can have daily contact with one or more of its species.

10. Weaning should be done gradually or in a group of at least 2 foals.

- Foals may be weaned starting at age 4 months.
- Foals should be raised in a group of at least 2.

11. Stereo-typical behavior should not be discouraged, unless it poses a threat to the horse's health.

12. Whip Use. Excessive whipping is forbidden. A whip may be used to correct but not punish a horse.

Welfare discussion in the UK

Monday October 24th

By Johan Shenfield, BHHS and Celia Clarke, WBSUK

.. Slide 1:

.. **The FUTURE of HORSE WELFARE AND ETHICS IN the SPORT HORSE INDUSTRY In THE UK**

.. **WBFSH General Assembly 2011**

.. **Presented by John Shenfield (BHHS) and Celia Clarke (WBSUK)**

.. **Slide 2: The official view**

.. Monitoring of welfare issues in the sports horse industry is seen as the responsibility of the relevant governing bodies, except in cases so severe they infringe the law:

- ı The majority of equine sports (racing, jumping, dressage, eventing, polo, endurance riding etc) operate under complex rules drawn up by the individual governing bodies of the sports to protect the welfare of the horses involved and ensure fair competition.

- ú Para 367 of the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses, Ponies and Donkeys (3rd edition, 2009, National Equine Welfare Council)

.. **Slide 3: Organisations involved in Sports Horse Welfare**

.. **Government and enforcement bodies**

.. **Other national bodies**

.. **Competition organisations**

.. **Studbooks and shows**

.. **Local organisations**

.. **Notes:**

.. **Government and enforcement bodies**

.. DEFRA, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government, RSPCA, Trading Standards and Ministry of Transport

.. **Other national bodies**

- .. British Horse Industry Confederation, British Horse Society, British Equestrian Federation, National Equine Welfare Council, Horseracing Regulatory Authority
- .. **Competition organisations**
- .. BD, BE, BS etc, Riding Club movement, Racing authorities
- .. **Studbooks and shows**
- .. 5 WBFSH member studbooks, approx 65 other breed societies and studbooks, showing classes affiliated to NPS, Ponies UK, BSHA and SHBGB
- .. **Local organisations**
- .. Local welfare and rescue organisations
- .. **Slide 4: Main current sports horse welfare issues**
- .. **All sports and competitions**
 - ı Drug use/misuse, unacceptable training methods
- .. **International Competitions**
 - ı Biosecurity in relation to London 2012, Greenwich as venue
- .. **Dressage**
 - ı Over-extension (rollkur), over-training of young horses
- .. **Eventing**
 - ı Horse falls, horse exhaustion
- .. **Showjumping**
 - ı Sensitisation of legs, rapping etc
- .. **Sports horse breeding**
 - ı Overfeeding of youngstock and
 - ı Breeding from ungraded / unregistered/ unproven stock
- .. **Racing (Horseracing Regulatory Authority)**
 - ı Over-use of whips, racing injuries, retiring racehorses
- .. **Slide 5: Current enforced legislation**
- .. **Current legislation**
 - ı A t least 60 different sets of main EU legislation

- A total of 64 UK Orders and Statutory Implements

- **Key legislation**

- Animal Welfare Act (2006) and Animal Health and Welfare Act (Scotland) Act 2006

- Horse Passport Regulations 2009

- 2008/500/EC Methods of identification of equidae

- Other relevant regulations

- **Notes**

- **Current legislation**

- At least 60 different sets of main EU legislation

- Areas covered include Animal Health, Competitions, Studbooks, Semen and ova, Horse passports, Import and export, Slaughter, Transport and veterinary qualifications

- A total of 64 UK Orders and Statutory Implements

- Areas covered include Animal Welfare, Farriery, Disease Control, Horse passports, import and export, markets and sales, slaughter, Transport and veterinary qualifications

- **Slide 6: Overall policy as outlined in Equine Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain**

- **Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses Ponies and Donkeys**

- **British Equestrian Federation Rule Book**

- **Individual rule books of regulatory bodies for specific disciplines / breeds**

- **Welfare of Animals During Transport: Advice for transporters of horses, ponies and other domestic equines**

- **Slide 7: Other relevant Codes of Practice**

- **FEI Code of Practice for the Welfare of the Horse**

- **BHS Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events**

- **British Horseracing Authority**

- **Notes**

- **Overall policy as outlined in Equine Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain**

- published in 2009 by DEFRA and currently being updated

- .. **Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines Compendium for Horses Ponies and Donkeys**

- .. Published in 2009 by the National Equine Welfare Council (NEWC)

- .. **British Equestrian Federation Rule Book**

- .. Updated annually, section on Disciplinary and Anti-Doping rules most relevant

- .. **Individual rule books of regulatory bodies for specific disciplines / breeds**

- .. **Welfare of Animals During Transport: Advice for transporters of horses, ponies and other domestic equines**

- .. Published in 2007 by DEFRA

- .. **Slide 8: Equine Health and Welfare Strategy for Great Britain**

- .. Drawn up in 2007 and currently being updated.

- .. Highlighted need for more co-ordinated policy and action, especially in the sports horse sector because:

- ..
 - Surveillance of general standards of health and welfare is provided via industry and sports groups
 - Some organisations work closely together, others operate in isolation, only working with other organisations when required
 - Skills passport for competition grooms being developed
 - Many charities and regulatory bodies have educational programmes but they are largely un-coordinated
 - Apart from general suggestions that better training of riders and horse keepers could be developed no policies / actions are suggested to improve monitoring of welfare of sports horses in training at home.

- .. **Slide 9: British Equestrian Federation Rule Book , Disciplinary and Anti-Doping Rules**

- .. All BEF member bodies must abide by these rules.

- .. Many studbooks and unaffiliated / Riding Club organisations also follow them

- .. Stewards and judges are required to enforce them at an Event.

- .. World Class, Performance, Potential and Equine Bridge programmes provide welfare guidance, training and veterinary monitoring for elite and potential elite riders and horses

- .. Very little guidance is given as to how training and welfare of a sports horse can be monitored at grass roots/ novice level when not at a competition

- .. **Notes:**

- .. Key rules are:
- .. Rule 10. No participant shall
- .. (d) ill-treat in any way a horse at an Event whether inside or outside the competition area
- .. (e) misuse or use excessively a whip or spur
- .. deliberately use the action of the bit as a means of punishment and/or misuse any item of saddlery in a manner likely to cause pain or discomfort to the horse
- .. (g) Allow a horse in the collecting ring or anywhere on or in the vicinity of the Event to:
 - .. (i) Be rapped
 - .. (ii) Jump a pole or obstacle which is held by hand
 - .. (iii) Jump an oxer which has the back element lower than the top pole of the front element
 - .. (iv) Jump a fence in the wrong direction
- .. [h) Allow, knowingly or otherwise, a horse for which he is responsible to compete in any competition under the influence of a prohibited substance

.. **Slide 10: BHS Code of Practice and specific Discipline rules**

- .. BD, BE, BS and all other BEF member bodies have sections in their rules based on FEI Code of Conduct
- .. BHS Codes of Practice and for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies at Events

.. **Slide 11: Future legislation**

- .. Any further legally enforceable regulations relating to equine welfare along Danish lines are extremely unlikely unless enforced by EU because:
 - ⌋ Most are covered by self-regulatory Codes of Practice
 - ⌋ Current government/coalition has promised to roll back legislation rather than add more
 - ⌋ Enforcement agencies (i.e. DEFRA, local authorities, Ministry of Transport) are reducing not increasing staff due to funding cuts
 - ⌋ Involvement of RSPCA in enforcement can cause problems

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26th:

Biotechnology of equine reproduction, by PHD professor in veterinary medicine, Consuelo Serres Dalmau

CURRICULUM VITAE CONSUELO SERRES DALMAU:

Doctor in veterinarian science and professor at the Complutense University School of Veterinarian Science in Madrid, Department of Medicine and Surgery

Director of the Veterinarian Hospital at the Complutense University School of Veterinarian Science in Madrid

A number of publications in magazines and journals as well as international conventions

Director of a variety of research and development project in the field of equine reproduction

SUMMARY OF HER ITEM: Biotechnology of equine reproduction

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For many years, horses were the most important domestic animal. They were used as transportation for people and goods, in farming, and at war. However, mechanization (automation, tanks, tractors...) transformed horses into an animal used, for the most part, in competition, as company and for recreation.

Reproductive biotechnologies play a major role in sport horses since competitions hinder traditional breeding methods. Also, when these horses retire from training to start breeding problems are encountered, usually linked to aging. In these cases, the application of the reproductive biotechnology is not only useful but rather, it is essential.

These breeding methods are only limited by technical restrictions and the conditions or prohibitions imposed by the breeder associations and stud books. Among the breeder associations that have yet to accept the use of these biotechnologies is the English Thoroughbred.

Reproductive biotechnology refers to any technological applied to reproduction by humans. These technologies have been used with equine species since the 16th century, but it was not until the 20th century that artificial insemination and embryo transfer were developed and extended, resulting in a major impact on productive systems (Squires, 2009).

Today, reproductive technologies commercially available for equines include: artificial insemination (AI), sexing of sperm, embryo transfer (ET), cryopreservation of embryos and oocytes; in-vitro fertilization (IVF); oocyte transfer (OT), gamete intrafallopian transfer (GIFT), intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) and cloning. These will be explained in depth during the speech.

It is also essential to remember that although horses are outside the traditional productive framework, the current crisis is affecting the application of these biotechnologies. Only in those cases where a horse is extremely valuable does the application of such techniques become feasible.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 26TH:

Corrective shoes, for foals and adult horses with hoof problems, *by Juan Carlos Blazquez, farrier*

Abbreviated CURRICULUM VITAE *Juan Carlos Blazquez, farrier*

Professional Profile

- Master Farrier- Qualified Veterinary Assistant by the Ministry of Defense, 1986
- Certified Orthopedic and Therapeutic Farrier (Ministry of Defense, 1990)
- Farriery Instructor for Armed Forces staff
- Farrier for the National Arab Emirates Team at the 2005 World Championships in Dubai
- Instructor of Basic and Advanced Farriery for Breeder Associations and Official Organisations (Schools of Veterinarian Science, National Police Force, etc.) since 1996
- In charge of Farriery, Training and Refresher Courses at the REEF Stables (Stables owned by the President of the United Arab Emirates) since 2002
- Clinical Farrier and Collaborating Professor at the Department of Animal Medicine and Surgery, Veterinary Hospital, School of Veterinary Science, Complutense University in Madrid since 2007