

European Horse Network AGM 12 October 2011

World Horse Welfare: Transport and Disease issues 1. EU Council Regulation 1/2005



Current timeline

- A report on the impact of the current Regulation was due by January 2011
- The European Commission is now due to release this report in mid November!
- But the report will not include any proposals for change to the Regulation
- In the short term more use could be made of guidance on fitness to travel and water provision.

Regulation 1/2005

- Introduced significant improvements e.g. training, single stalling and movement of unbroken animals
- Provided exemptions for registered Equidae on Journey length and GPS monitoring of journeys
- Did not update provisions on journey length or space allowances
- Came into effect on 1 January 2007

Key World Horse Welfare Recommendations

- Maximum journey limit:
 - of 9-12 hours for all Equidae intended for slaughter (including Registered horses moved for slaughter) and non-registered Equidae. No changes to the current exemptions for Registered horses are being proposed
- Water:
 - constant *ad libitum* access to fresh water, along with good quality forage, prior to the journey, during rest stops and upon arrival at destination
 - During the journey water and forage should be offered for a minimum of one hour at least every 4.5 hours. This watering requirement should be planned to correspond with driver rest

Key problems with Regulation 1/2005

- Current journeys can last for days - limitless
- Equidae show signs of dehydration, disease, fatigue and exhaustion
- Injuries frequently occur during the journey due to fatigue and poor vehicle design
- Horses loaded with pre-existing conditions (e.g. injury, signs of disease) – they are unfit to travel
- Inadequate provision of water before, during and after the journey

Key Recommendations/2

- Guidance on the interpretation of fitness to travel and the provision of food and water to be agreed by the Commission and Member States
- Enforcement is very patchy in the EU according to the Commission's own reports
- We are recommending more targeted audits by the Food and Veterinary Office of the Commission, more attention to animals rather than systems and more unannounced inspections

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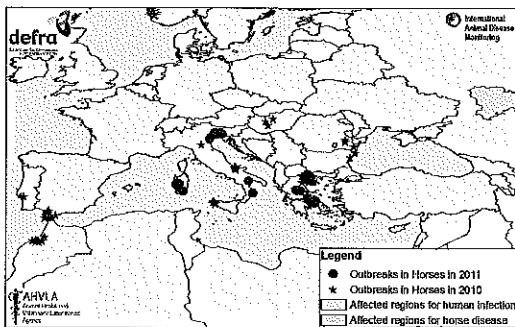
World Welfare:
Transport and Disease issues
2. European equine disease update



Glanders

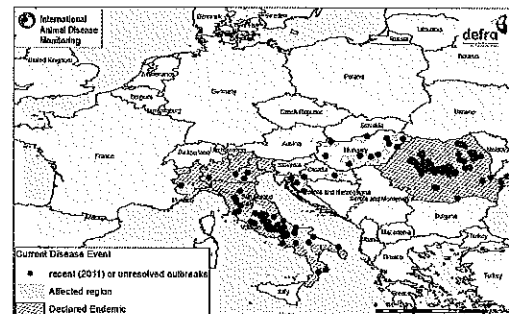
- Recognised as a re-emerging disease – Middle East situation is poor
- Bahrain still reporting outbreaks and therefore suspended from exporting
- Lebanon recently reported disease for first time
- Syria and Kuwait also identified as problem countries
- May be exacerbated by “Arab Spring” uprisings

West Nile Virus in Europe



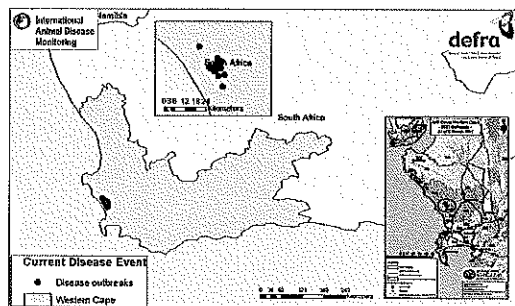
West Nile Virus Outbreaks in horses and humans:
Central Europe and the Mediterranean, June - September 2011
and outbreaks in horses in 2010

Equine Infectious Anaemia in EU



Equine Infectious Anaemia outbreaks
in Europe in 2011

African Horse Sickness

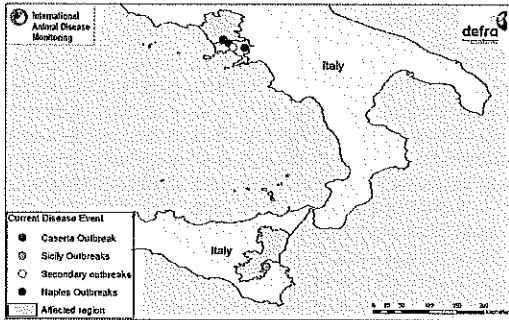


African Horse Sickness (Strain 1) outbreaks
South Africa, June 3rd 2011

UK view

- Likelihood becoming infected?
 - Medium risk (could occur regularly) if close to clinical horse in vector active season
- Likelihood of disease introduction to UK?
 - Clinical infection = destruction
 - sub-clinical = not infectious therefore very low risk

Dourine

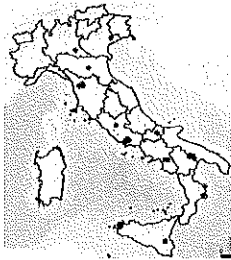


Dourine (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*) outbreaks in Italy in 2011

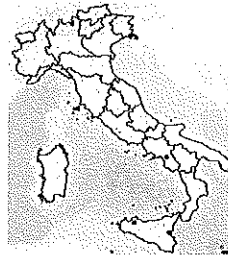
Other Diseases

- Hendra virus
 - Transmission (rare) through close contact with fruit bats; case fatality 75%; no vaccine (Australia and Far East)
- Equine Encephalitides (Venezuelan, Western, Eastern)
 - VEE mosquito-borne; horses and humans; horse reservoir in epizootics (USA and South America)
 - EEE mosquito-borne; wild bird reservoir; also infects mammals, humans and reptiles (USA and South America); more pathogenic in humans in USA
 - WEE mosquito-borne; low mortality and subclinical (USA and South America)
 - Vaccination available for horses for all encephalitides

Dourine follow-up in Italy



- Retrospective study on WNV samples:
- In 2010 61/1,231 positive (5%)
- In 2011 4/149 positive (2.7%)



Summary

- Risk
- Vigilance
- Reporting disease
- Education
 - Veterinary Surgeons
 - Horse owning public

Additional Controls

- All horses in the UK for breeding purposes from Italy are being tested for Dourine including some back tracing
- Italy implementing additional controls in central and southern regions on all stallions and all EIA horses
- Considering expanding to all regions
- Reinforcing all horses breeding regulations
- Improving knowledge on Dourine