

Protecting the welfare of the horse in France

(From Florence Desperin study)

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



Juridical status of the Horse

- By law (1976)
 - Sensitive animal
 - Bad treatments forbidden
- Rural Code for Horse
 - Has to be kept in conditions in compliance with the biological requirements of the species
 - Is a farm animal : it may be eaten and may be used for its physical abilities

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



Rural Code for horse

- Bad treatments forbidden
 - Abandonment
 - Lack of care, of food
 - Cruelty
- The animal can be placed by the court in an animal welfare association of public utility farm, after the court decision

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



Identification

- Mandatory since 2001
 - european passport : Medication forms
 - Ownership card
- Microchipping
 - Voluntary since 2001
 - Mandatory since 2008
- Everything into the national database SIRE : haras-nationaux.fr

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



Ownership management

- Ownership managed by the central database (mandatory since 2001)
 - With a card of ownership separated from the passport
 - Must be changed at every change of ownership
 - Can be registered and changed by secured process on Internet

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



The register of livestock

- Rural Code
 - For every owner and/or holders they must register :
 - inputs and outputs of animals
 - all the sanitary and medical data
 - all the breeding data (deworming, transport...)

28/10/2011

WBFSH 2011 seminar



7

Detention of horses

- Condition of detention :
 - "It is forbidden to keep outdoor equine where there are no devices or facilities to avoid the suffering that may result from variations in climate."
- Declaration of places of detention
 - Mandatory since January 2011

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

8

Transport

- CE regulation : CE 1/2005 of 22/12/2004
 - Animals shall not be liable to be injured or unnecessary suffering
 - they must have appropriated conditions to meet their needs.
 - Individual stalls for Long-Term Transport
- Rural code :
 - Drivers/ carriers must be licensed since 2009

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

9

Carrier responsabilites

- Rural code
 - Carrier is responsible for the surveillance and welfare of animals : water, food, 1st aid, call the vet if necessary
 - The driver must have the passports of horses
 - Trucks must be cleaned and disinfected

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

10

For dead horses

- Compulsory rendering
- Reading of the microchip
- Passport must be sent back to the SIRE DB

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

11

Animal welfare lobbying

- Some animal welfare organizations would prohibit the slaughter for human consumption.
- These associations have recently tried to give the horse the status of pet, by law.
- they consider that these changes in our legislation would ensure the well being of the horse.

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

12

Horse consumption advantages

- the prohibition of the consumption of horse meat has been detrimental to the welfare of this species in several countries already.
- In France hippophagy was promoted by the legislators in ancient times when the sick or injured horse was left, to induce the owner to maintain it in good condition until it is slaughtered for consumption

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de l'équitation

13

Horse as a pet ?

- then it would be forbidden to use it in high level competitions such as racing.
- Cruelty on pets are discovered every day
 - By pure cruelty of the keeper
 - By ignorance of the animal natural requirements
- Look at the miniature horse case..

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de la randonnée

14

The professionals position in France

- professionals feel they are better able to ensure the welfare of their animals because
 - they are fully aware of the characteristics and needs
 - and because it is their financial interest to keep them in good shape, to optimize their performance,
 - as sport horses or racing horses,
 - but also as working horses or consumption

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de la randonnée

15

The professional proposal to the Commission

- their proposal to the European Commission is
 - to promote good practices, they began to write,
 - rather than producing ever new regulations that do not fit all situations

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de la randonnée

16

The professional proposal to the Commission

- their proposal to the European Commission is
 - to promote good practices, they began to write,
 - rather than producing ever new regulations that do not fit all situations

28/10/2011 WBFSH 2011 seminar Institut français du cheval et de la randonnée

Thank you !

Institut français du cheval et de la randonnée