

FEEVA Bulletin nr1

June 2008

Note: The goal of this letter is to bring you some information about the Board's activities between two GAs. It must also foster exchanges between the Board and the delegates, and can also be a means of communication between National delegates if they wish. This letter might also be used to officially notify all delegates about items on which the GA will have to vote. It will be published as often as necessary.

All horses born in the EU after June 2009 to be "permanently identified"

All horses born after June next year will need to be permanently identified (most likely by microchip) and carry a single identification document (passport), according to the new EU Regulation on the identification on horses¹, which will apply from 2009. Member States may authorise "*suitable alternative methods*" as long as these allow correct identification of the horse without the double issuing of identification documents. Transponders should be implanted "*between the poll and the withers in the middle of the neck, in the area of the nuchal ligament*". Foals will need to be identified by six months of age or by 31 December of the year of birth, whichever is earlier.

If the original identification documents are lost, a duplicate will be issued, but the horse will automatically be classified as "*not intended for human consumption*" unless the keeper can "*satisfactorily demonstrate*" that no medical treatment was given that could compromise human consumption. To prevent microchips from entering the food chain, horse carcasses from which it has not been possible to remove the chip at time of slaughter must be declared unfit for human consumption. It is up to the Member State to lay down "*the minimum qualification required*" or designate "*the person or profession*" for the implantation of the microchip.

New FEEVA public website:

FEEVA has a new public website, giving more information about FEEVA to the interested public and policy makers! Check it out on <http://www.feeva.org>

On this website, you can find information about FEEVA's structure and members including FEEVA policy and position papers. The FEEVA members' restricted page is next in line to receive a new look and content.

¹ COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 504/2008 of 6 June 2008 implementing Council Directives 90/426/EEC and 90/427/EEC as regards methods for the identification of equidae

Equine Veterinary Medicines: easier to use products without MRL's

The European Parliament this week adopted a report² on maximum residue limits (mrl's) of veterinary medicinal products (used for the therapeutic treatment and the welfare of animals). This report included two amendments which will increase the availability of veterinary medicines for Equidae.

One clause states that veterinary medicinal products which do not have an mrl for Equidae, which are not included in Annex IV of Regulation (EEC) No 2377/90 or in Article 13(2) of this Regulation, and which are used "off-label", as defined in Article 1(16) of Directive 2001/82/EC, and "under the provisions of the cascade" and not administered intra-muscularly or subcutaneously, shall have a nominal withdrawal period of six months. The Committee stated that peer-reviewed science clearly indicates that no such residues would exist in muscle meat after six months following oral or intravenous administration: this allows a large safety margin on time. Furthermore, the use of pharmaceuticals containing pharmacologically active ingredients not on "the essential" substances list or the "positive list" for equidae referred to in Article 10(3) of Directive 2001/82/EC and not administered intra-muscularly or subcutaneously, shall have a nominal withdrawal period of six months.

President's report of Dublin meeting:

The Irish government is currently drafting an Animal Health and Welfare Bill designed to replace legislation dating back to The Protection of Animals Act of 1911 and has requested submissions from interested parties as part of a consultation process. FEEVA President Joe Collins addressed a seminar on equine health and welfare at University College Dublin (UCD) on June 16th, sponsored by World Horse Welfare and C&M Vetlink. In attendance were representatives from government, the equine industries, welfare charities and veterinary bodies. The seminar was opened by Avril Doyle MEP who spoke to the issue of the (lack of) availability of veterinary medicines as reported elsewhere in this bulletin. Joe presented some interim findings from a PhD project concerning attitudes toward equine welfare, the main perceived threats, motivating factors and potential means for redress. Other speakers included Des Leadon, veterinarian at the Irish Equine Centre (Transport of horses) and Garrett Shine, Local Authority veterinarian (The Control of Horses Act 1996) before a wide-ranging discussion of horse health and welfare issues including the roles of identification, traceability, education, fiscal remedies (levies and penalties) and legislation (provision and enforcement) to safeguard standards for horses. The UCD team conducting a review of equine welfare in Ireland, of which Joe Collins is a member, hope to assist in the process of fostering an informed debate on this subject.

² <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0285+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

Travelling times, space allowances: Commission launches public consultation

Transport has always been among the most controversial of animal welfare policy areas. At the time of the adoption of Council Regulation No 1/2005 (on the protection of animals during transport), the part of the original proposal of the Commission to improve travelling times and to define the densities for the animals on the vehicles was not adopted. Both the Commission and the European Parliament clearly expressed their disappointment at this outcome.

The Commission therefore launched an impact assessment of the current situation including an on-line consultation process³, in order to invite members of the general public, relevant stakeholders and national authorities to participate, with a view to introducing into the legislation new travelling times and space allowances, and to strengthening enforcement.

The Commission would like to present a proposal to revise the travelling times and space allowances in the first quarter of 2009.

New studies on horse trade routes for slaughter

> Investigation of trade of horses between Poland and Italy by [AGRA Ceas](http://www.ceasc.com) (<http://www.ceasc.com>)

Poland has traditionally a high production and good pasturing conditions for horses, and Italy a strong demand for horse meat.. In recent years more carcass meat has been traded and the live horse trade has decreased (from 75.000 horses in 1996 to around 40.000/year currently). To see the whole study: contact the FEEVA office (nancy@fve.org)

> A new study focusing on trends in horse slaughter has found that the number of horses killed in North America was determined by a demand for horse meat, primarily in Europe. ([study](http://www.animallawcoalition.com/horse-slaughter/article/541)) (<http://www.animallawcoalition.com/horse-slaughter/article/541>)

No clear way forward after Irish treaty no

The new Lisbon treaty will not come into force in the beginning of 2009 as originally hoped because of last week's Irish rejection of the treaty (53.4 % of voters voted no and 46.6 % yes). The most immediate consequence is that the European Parliament will not have co-decision power on such issues as the Common Agricultural Policy health check and pesticides. EU heads of states and government meeting on Thursday and Friday for a European Council in Brussels did not manage to agree on a calendar and a way to re-examine the way forward after the Irish rejection. Meanwhile, the European Union's Lisbon treaty has been passed by Britain's parliament on Wednesday. The UK is the nineteenth member state out of 27 to have now ratified the treaty.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/transport/initiatives_en.htm

Future FEEVA and other Equine meetings

> BEVA congress

Date/10-13 September 2008-06-24

Location: Liverpool, UK

More info on <http://www.beva.org.uk/>

> Internation Symposium on Laminitis (Gesellschaft fuer Pferdemedizin)

Date: November 11-13, 2008

Location: Berlin, Germany

More info on gmp

> European Equine Meeting of the Year 2009 and FEEVA General Assembly

Date: November 2009

Location: Dublin, Ireland: Details to be confirmed