



Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

FEEVA Bulletin June 2009

Please find enclosed the May 2009 FEEVA Bulletin, full of interesting information namely:

- Equine influenza vaccination - time for a change?
- Next FEEVA General Assembly 5 November 2009 Ireland
- Disease surveillance: outcome FEEVA Enquiry
- FEEVA Board met on 12 February, will meet on 29 September
- Transport of slaughter horses limited to 9 hr?
- Laminitis: obese horses and ponies in greater danger
- Comparing pre-purchase examinations
- Future Equine meetings

Enjoy your reading!

Equine influenza vaccination - time for change?

FEEVA believes that equine influenza vaccination, along with all other disease control measures, should be based on current scientific evidence. Recent scientific evidence suggests that the current influenza vaccination protocols required by national horse-racing regulators across Europe are likely to result in a window of susceptibility to influenza from around three months after the second injection of the primary course, resulting from a decrease in serum antibody levels below those accepted to be associated with protection from disease.

Current influenza vaccination regulations

Dose/vaccination number	Timing
Vaccination 1 (V1)	Start of primary course (Day 0)
Vaccination 2 (V2)	End of primary course (21-92 days after V1)
Vaccination 3 (V3)	First booster (150-215 days after V2)
Annual boosters	Within 365 days of V3 or last annual booster

Although trainers may elect to administer V3 sooner than the specified 5 months, horses are not regarded as being properly vaccinated, and are therefore not allowed to race, unless a further dose is given between 5 and 7 months after the primary course. There have been calls from leading scientists in the field that the regulations should be amended to allow the timing of the first booster (V3) to be brought forward to three months after the primary course (V1 and V2) is completed, rather than the current 5-7 months, and that this move would improve the level of protection afforded to the European horse population against influenza. Indeed, a recommendation that the first booster (V3) be given from 3 months after the primary course has been incorporated into the AAEP Guidelines for Vaccination, 2007.

The European Horserace Scientific Liaison Committee has considered the current scientific evidence in relation to the timing of the first booster (V3) and has decided not to pursue discussions about changing the vaccination protocol for racehorses.

The FEEVA Board would welcome feedback from delegates on the current requirement that the first booster be administered between 5-7 months after the primary course, in the light of the new scientific evidence. Comments on the desirability of FEEVA championing this issue and entering into discussions with the European racing regulators to allow earlier administration of the first booster would be most welcome as would suggestions on how best to take this forward. Please send your comments to Nancy de Briyne (nancy@fve.org).

Next FEEVA General Assembly: Thursday 5 November in Ireland

FEEVA will hold its 2009 GA at the Royal Marine Hotel in Dun Laoghaire - a marina and ferry port with magnificent views of Dublin bay - in conjunction with the Irish Equine Veterinary Conference.

FEEVA's General Assembly (GA) will take place on Thursday November 5th in Dublin celebrating 10 years of work by FEEVA on behalf of equines and equine practitioners. Current President of FEEVA Joe Collins would like to warmly welcome FEEVA delegates from member associations.

FEEVA delegates are invited to remain on for the Irish Equine Veterinary Conference - an intimate, educational but also fun event for all interested in equine veterinary practice. Please encourage your colleagues and partners to come and join in the event which is hosted by Veterinary Ireland.

Please find in annex I all practical details regarding the registration, venue, hotel accommodation and the academic as social program.

We recommend that all FEEVA delegates and colleagues mark this weekend in their diary now. Veterinary Ireland can be accessed at <http://www.veterinaryireland.ie/>.

All bookings are handled by professional conference organisers Event Plus who can be contacted at info@eventplus.ie, tel. 00 353 1 2302591, further details can be found at <http://www.eventplus.ie/>

Disease surveillance and contingency planning across Europe

The importance of disease control for the welfare and economic viability of the European horse industry was discussed in the last FEEVA bulletin (November 2008) and FEEVA representatives were invited to contribute to a questionnaire to establish some baseline data about disease surveillance and contingency planning across Europe. The aim was to share information with a view of sharing best practice and to facilitate development of shared resources across Europe. Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Netherlands, Spain and the UK contributed information, for which we are very grateful.

The information provided has been collated into a spreadsheet which is on the FEEVA website. In summary, the spreadsheet lists the government departments, together with their website addresses, that are responsible for surveillance of equine exotic diseases in each of the contributing countries. Disease surveillance is passive in all countries and is geared around OIE List A diseases. With the exception of Austria, governmental responsibility does not extend to endemic diseases, although there is active serological surveillance for EIA in Latvia and a pilot EIA surveillance scheme, based on testing of dead horses, is planned for 2009 by Germany. France and the UK have industry-led schemes for passive surveillance of endemic diseases, monitored via clinical sample submissions to participating laboratories (UK and France) and from data contributed by equine practitioners (France). The UK is repeating a pilot syndromic disease surveillance scheme in the horse charity population in 2009. Five countries have generic equine exotic contingency plans in place. With the exception of EIA and AHS, there are no disease-specific contingency plans in place in any countries and there is variable stakeholder consultation/involvement by government departments responsible for equine disease surveillance and control: in some countries there is active stakeholder consultation (e.g. Belgium, Denmark and France) whilst in others there has been none to date (e.g. Germany and Spain). Several equine veterinary associations have been involved in raising practitioner preparedness for exotic disease incursion, with particular efforts made in France and the Netherlands. All contributors felt that there was variable, probably rather low, awareness of equine exotic diseases amongst the horse-owning public, with the exception of AHS, although there are a number of public information web resources available across Europe.

We think the information in the spreadsheet is useful and we hope that this information will be shared between countries, including details on exotic and endemic disease surveillance schemes and contingency planning for exotic diseases. Sharing of materials and resources for horse owner education would be also most helpful.

The FEEVA Board wishes to take this initiative forward by

1. encouraging national policy makers to make harmonized risk assessments and contingency plans for equine emerging diseases, perhaps using African Horse Sickness as a starting point
2. taking a lead on raising the awareness and preparedness of equine practitioners for equine exotic diseases Europe-wide

Feedback from FEEVA delegates on this initiative would be most welcome, in particular with regard to the two points above: please direct your comments to Nancy De Briyne (nancy@fve.org).

FEEVA Board met on 11 February, will meet on 29 September

The FEEVA Board met in Brussels on 11 February last. This Board meeting was combined with the attendance to the "[European Pet Night](#)" reception organised by IFAH, the International Federation of Animal Health and hosted by the MEPs Neil Parish and Paulo Casaca. Being in Brussels, a delegation of the FEEVA Board also took the opportunity to hold two other significant meetings, namely a meeting with the DG Enterprise on the topic of medicines and a meeting with DG Sanco on the topic of the transport of horses.

Meeting with DG Enterprise on Medicines: the essential substances list will open up!

In the morning of 11 February, Joe Collins, Josh Slater and Jan Vaarten (FVE Office) met with Martin Terberger, Head of Unit F1 (pharmaceuticals) in the European Commission's DG Enterprise and Industry. During this meeting the availability of Equine medicines, the use and updating of the list of essential products and the revision of the Regulation on MRL's was discussed.

The revision of the EU legislation on MRLs has directed the European Parliament to address the issue of the (un-)availability of veterinary medicinal products. One of the amendments tabled by Mrs. Avril Doyle, the Parliament's rapporteur for the residues legislation, relates to an amendment of the medicines Directive (EU/2001/82) and will open up further the essential substances list for horses.

Until now, one of the criteria to be listed is that the substance has to be *essential* for the treatment of Equidae. Due to the amendment of A. Doyle, the scope of the list will be extended with substances, which bring *added clinical benefit compared to other treatment options* available for equidae.

So, FEEVA has the possibility to add extra substances to the list! The FEEVA Board want to thank all who contributed already on the survey on which extra substances FEEVA can request to be added. A meeting will be organized on 8 June between EMEA and a delegation of the FEEVA Board to discuss the individual substances. We will keep you all updated.

Meeting with DG Sanco on transport of horses: Update on revision Reg 1/2005

After the meeting in DG Enterprise, Joe Collins, Josh Slater and Nancy De Briyne (FVE Office) hurried onwards to the office of Laura Perez-Alvarez, DG Sanco Animal welfare Unit, charged with the transport dossier in order to discuss derogations for certain classes of horses and to discuss travel times, space allowances and grouping of horses in general. There will be more on this dossier in one of the next articles.

The next FEEVA Board meeting will be on 29 September in Brussels.

Transportation of horses: Transport of slaughter horses limited to 9 hr?

The EU Commission is currently preparing a draft proposal to amend the animal transport Regulation 1/2005. The aim is to limit journey times and to reduce stocking rates during transport. It will also introduce a legal base for implementing a satellite navigation system linked with TRACES.

The current proposal, still in an early stage, aims to align social rules for drivers with traveling times for animals. The option selected consists of limiting transport times to 9h for animals intended for slaughter and sequences of 20h transport- 9h rest for animals for other purposes. The derogation for registered horses will stay intact. For non-registered horses, the transport time of horses going for slaughter will be limited to 9hrs (+2hrs). For non-registered horses transported other than for slaughter the transport time will change from 24 hrs to 20 hrs (+2hrs) after which the animals must be unloaded, fed, watered and rested for at least 9 hrs in a control post. New, slightly reworded space allowances have also been suggested for horses.

When the draft proposal will officially be published will depend on the amount of discussion between the DG's. The proposal is under the consultation procedure, meaning the European Parliament will be asked its opinion. The Swedish Presidency - starting 1 July - says they will advance the debate in the transport dossier, if proposal are indeed published by the Commission in the autumn as planned.

Laminitis: obese horses and ponies in greater danger

A BVA Animal Welfare Foundation (BVA AWF) and Merial Animal Health sponsored study has examined the factors that affect the likelihood of recovery from laminitis, a painful and debilitating condition that affects the feet of horses and ponies, and found obese animals were more likely to die.

In the practice-based study members of the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) documented cases over four years and found that overweight animals which develop laminitis tend to have more severe signs than those of optimal weight.

The summary analyzed 107 cases of acute pasture-associated laminitis. They were recruited from first opinion practices to study factors associated with clinical severity, survival and return to ridden exercise. 83% of the horses/ponies were overweight and there was a trend towards severe laminitis cases having a higher BMI. Eight weeks after disease onset, 95% were still alive. A lower body weight, optimal body condition, mild rather than severe laminitis and acute/chronic founder were significantly associated with survival.

Another take-home message from this study was that practice-based studies in which equine practitioners have to take part in the data collection need to be well prepared, appropriate to accommodate the already busy schedule of practitioners and properly resourced. More info can be found on <http://www.bva.co.uk/1520.aspx>

Comparing pre-purchase examinations

Please find enclosed the following message requesting your support on the issue of pre-purchase veterinary examinations from Dr. Jeremy Mantell of the Liphook Equine Hospital in the UK.

"Dear FEEVA delegate,

I have been asked to present a paper at BEVA Congress this September, comparing the different ways that we all carry out a pre-purchase veterinary examination [PPE] of a horse in our different countries in Europe and I would be most grateful if one, or hopefully, two people from each country in Europe would be prepared to answer a short questionnaire, giving details of the PPE in their country.

If you are prepared to help me with this project I would be most grateful and would be most happy to share the results with you, if you are not going to BEVA.

I shall forward the questionnaire to you once I receive your acceptance; if you wish, your reply will be treated in confidence but, if not, I plan to acknowledge and thank all participants at BEVA.

If you cannot help, would you be prepared to suggest another one or two people from your country who might be willing to help me, please?

The wider the range of countries the more interesting and useful this exercise will be.

Thank you in advance for your help and co-operation. I look forward to your reply - please email JARMantell@aol.com.

With best wishes

Jeremy Mantell "

Future FEEVA and other Equine meeting

BEVA Congress

Date: 10-12 September 2009

Location: International Conference Centre, Birmingham, UK

More info: <http://www.beva.org.uk/node/458>

WEVA Brazil

Date: 24-27 September 2009

Location: Sao Paulo, Brazil

Info: <http://www.weva2009.com.br/>

Use and misuse of drugs in the Athletic Horse organised by the Nordic Committee for Veterinary Scientific Cooperation

Date: 1-2 October 2009

Location: Upsalla, Sweden

Info: <http://www.sva.se/nkvet2009>

FEEVA European Equine Meeting of the Year and General Assembly 2009

Date: 5-8 November 2009

Location: The Royal Marine Hotel, Dublin, Ireland

Annex I: Further information EME Dublin

The event

FEEVA's General Assembly (GA) will take place on Thursday November 5th in Dublin celebrating 10 years of work by FEEVA on behalf of equines and equine practitioners. Current President of FEEVA Joe Collins would like to warmly welcome FEEVA delegates from member associations. We are planning an ambitious programme of topical events which we know will be of great interest, and relevant to all. There have been significant advances, particularly in the areas of medicines and transport, since the last FEEVA GA in Venice in January 2008. It is timely that the FEEVA Board should update delegates on progress on critical issues. Dr Joop Loomans of Utrecht Veterinary School and Dr Keith Meldrum of World Horse Welfare have agreed to attend and address the meeting. AAEP will also be represented to give us a North American perspective.

FEEVA delegates are invited to remain on for the Irish Equine Veterinary Conference - an intimate, educational but also fun event for all interested in equine veterinary practice. Please encourage your colleagues and partners to come and join in the event.

The local organising committee, headed by Dr Vivienne Duggan Dip. ECEIM Dip. ACVIM, would like to extend a very warm invitation to colleagues from FEEVA member associations to come to Dublin and enjoy the 'caint, ceol agus craic' (talk, music and fun) of the Irish Equine Veterinary Conference.

The venue

The FEEVA European Equine Meeting of 2009 will be hosted by the Equine Group of Veterinary Ireland and will take place at the same venue as the FEEVA GA - the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin - commencing the evening of the 5th of November 2009. Wet-lab sessions will be held at the nearby University Veterinary Hospital on Sunday the 8th of November.

See <http://www.royalmarine.ie/> for detailed information about the hotel venue.

Dublin Airport has daily services to many European (and other) cities - see <http://www.dublinairport.com/> for details of operators and routes.

There is a direct hourly coach service (40 minutes journey time approx.) between the hotel and Dublin Airport -see <http://www.thepattonflyer.ie/> for details.

See <http://www.ucd.ie/vthweb/index.html> for details of University College Dublin's Veterinary Hospital.

The education programme

The Two-day Two-stream veterinary programme will feature sessions covering Lameness, Soft Tissue Surgery, Infectious Disease, Poor Performance, Foal Medicine, Emergency Medicine, Business Management, Education resources, Equine Welfare and Topical Issues.

Audience participation and engagement will be encouraged through the use of an interactive electronic voting system. The Veterinary Defence Society will host a session on management of difficult situations in practice using role play and audience involvement.

A full day stream for Equine Veterinary Nurses will run concurrent with the veterinary programme on Saturday 7th November.

Main invited speakers include:

University College Dublin Dr Florent David Dip. ECVS

University College Dublin Dr Lisa Katz Dip. ACVM

Royal Veterinary College Professor Josh Slater Dip. ECEIM

Belgian private practitioner Dr Hans Wilderjans Dip. ECVS

There will be supporting presentations by other private practitioners ensuring that sessions remain focused on the needs of equine practitioners.

Wet labs will take place on the morning of Sunday 8th November in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at UCD and will cover diagnostic and treatment techniques for the Upper Respiratory Tract, the Head and Neck, and Orthopaedic limb conditions.

The social programme

The traditional pre-conference meeting on the Thursday evening will be an opportunity for the early arrivals to kick off the social side of proceedings. The conference will include a trade exhibition and the Conference Banquet will take place on the evening of Saturday November 8th at the Old Jameson Distillery in Dublin city centre. See

http://www.jamesonwhiskey.com/Heritage_Old_jameson_distillery_Corporate_events.aspx

for further details.

Further details and bookings

We recommend that all FEEVA delegates and colleagues mark this weekend in their diary now.

Veterinary Ireland can be accessed at <http://www.veterinaryireland.ie/> . Conference details will also be available on IVIS www.ivis.org.

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