

Disease surveillance



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Why is surveillance important?

- welfare and economic security of the industry
- defines background prevalence of disease in the horse population: 'endemic' diseases
- identifies incidence of new diseases in the horse population: 'exotic' diseases
- surveillance data is a pre-requisite for
 - defining health and welfare
 - benchmarking husbandry and preventive medicine
 - recognising endemic or exotic disease outbreaks
 - identifying sectors of the industry which need welfare and husbandry improvements

Exotic versus endemic disease

- which is more important?
- endemic diseases often less dramatic than exotic and some accepted 'facts of life' in the industry
 - WNV, AHS, EIA and piroplasmosis versus lameness, colic, strangles and influenza
- are endemic infectious diseases more important than non-infectious diseases?
- whose responsibility should surveillance be?
- passive versus active surveillance?
- how could endemic disease surveillance be done?

FEEVA survey 2008

- establish current status of disease surveillance and contingency planning across Europe
- questionnaire circulated to all FEEVA delegates
- 10 questions covering
 - exotic disease surveillance
 - endemic disease surveillance
 - industry consultation processes
 - veterinary profession preparedness
 - horse industry preparedness
 - public information resources

Exotic diseases

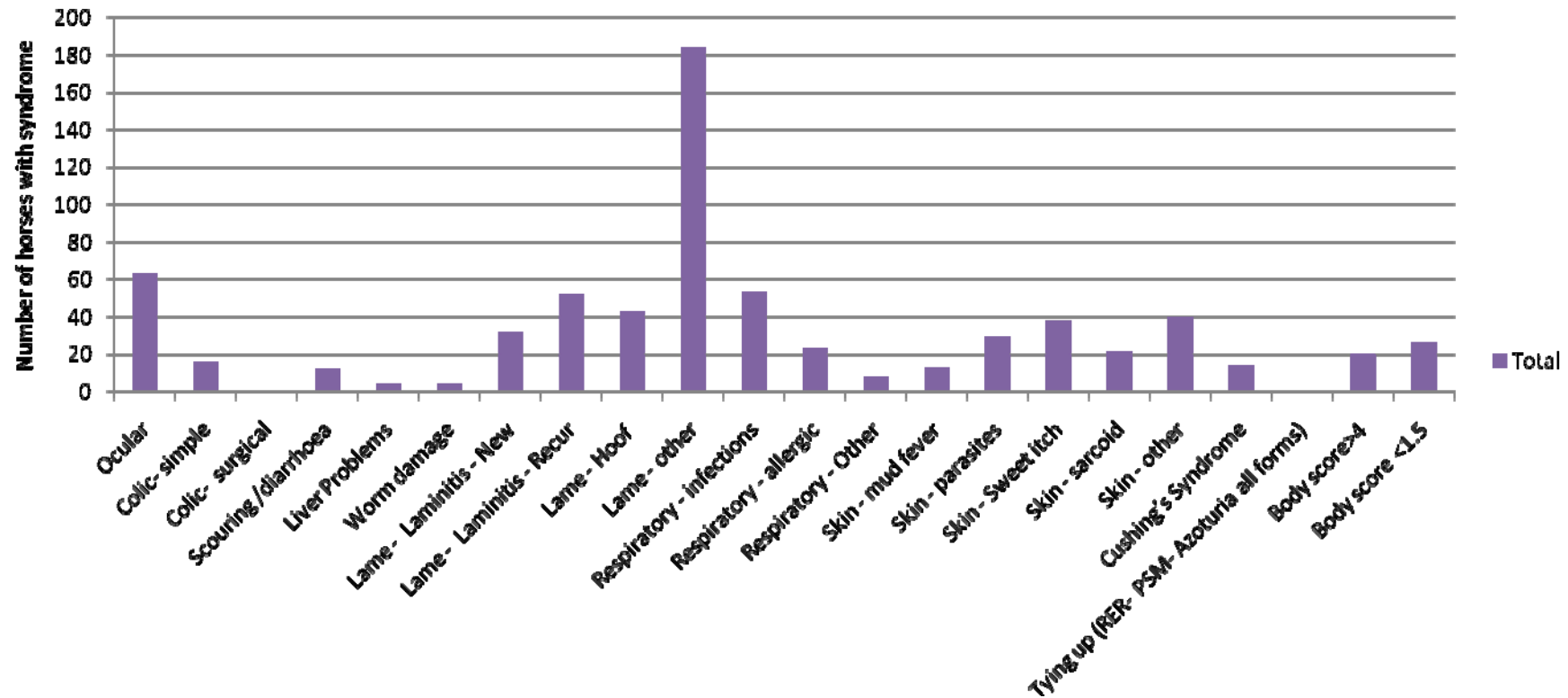
- government responsibility in all countries
- OIE List A diseases
- passive surveillance only
 - active serological surveillance for EIA in Latvia
 - similar scheme planned for Germany
- generic contingency plans in 5 countries
 - Austria, Denmark, France, Netherlands, UK
- disease-specific plans for EIA, AHS, WNV
- variable industry consultation and participation in contingency planning and legislation drafting

Endemic diseases

- government responsibility in Austria only
- some examples of industry-led surveillance schemes
 - small-scale passive surveillance schemes for infectious/contagious disease in France and UK
 - data from diagnostic laboratories (France & UK)
 - field data from practitioners (France)
 - surveillance for non-infectious diseases in UK
 - pilot scheme involving equine charities
 - syndromic surveillance from health records
 - proof of principle and rallying call to the industry

Syndromic surveillance (UK)

Syndromic disease surveillance: cumulative incidence May-July 08 (n=1641)



Next steps

- FEEVA-led international committee/working group on equine disease surveillance
- aims and outputs
 - identify and share best practice
 - identify and share information and other resources
 - provide ‘one voice’ on disease surveillance
 - offer advice and support to stakeholder groups
 - commission and coordinate work packages to facilitate development of policies and procedures
 - communication and information dissemination
- areas of focus?