

Meeting note of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 - Defra, Nobel House

**Attendees**

Chairman - AHWBE	Tim Brigstocke
The Horse Trust	Jeanette Allen
The Horse Trust	Jan Rogers
The Horse Trust	Carolyn Madgwick
Animal Health Trust	Richard Newton
ABTC	Donna Skinsley (CC)
APSPH (Polo Organisation)	Lucy Wilson
Animal Welfare Foundation	Ben Mayes
826 Equine Studbooks Association	Celia Clarke
BEF	Nick Fellows
BETA	Claire Williams (CC)
BEVA	David Mountford
BHA	Amanda Piggot
BHS	Gemma Stanford (CC)
Blue Cross	Rosie Mogford
Bodmin Moorland Pony Rehabilitation	Shelley Oldfield
Bransby Horses	Elijah Kettle
BTRC	Gillian Carlisle
BTRC	Gordon Sidlow
Caspian Horse Society	Ruth Staines
DEFRA	Thomas Youngman
DEFRA	Tristan Crago
DEFRA	Eleanor Glendenning
DEFRA	Pamela Thompson
DEFRA	John Briggs
Donkey Breed Society	Carol Morse
Donkey Sanctuary	Dr Joe Collins
Equine Register	Stewart Everett
Farriers Registration Council	David Greenwood
Horse Welfare Collaborative	Vicki Painter
Horse Welfare Collaborative	Jacqui Chandler
Native Ponies GB Ponies	Sandra Mansell
NEWC Secretariat	Wendy Minor
Polopermits Ltd	David Morley (CC)
Redwings Horse Sanctuary	Lynn Cutress (CC)
Retraining of Racehorses	Philippa Gilmore
RSPCA	Mark Kennedy
RSPCA	David Bowles
Positive Riding	Liz Morrison
The Donkey Sanctuary	Hannah Bryer
The Talland School of Equitation	Brian Hutton

Thoroughbred Breeders Association	Claire Sheppard
Traditional Gypsy Cob Association	Andrea Betteridge
We Hear the Horses Whisper	Julie Miles
We Hear the Horses Whisper	Helen Soame
World Horse Welfare	Roly Owers
World Horse Welfare	Steven Gale
World Horse Welfare	Kim Ayling (CC)
World Horse Welfare	Liz Kelly
World Horse Welfare	Jessica Stark (CC)
<b>Apologies</b>	
ABRS Scotland	Brian Robertson
AHWBE	Tim Morris
Animal and Plant Health Agency	Alastair George
British Dressage	Lou Jones
British Hanoverian Society	Kate Eaton
BHS (Scotland)	Helene Mauchlen
Donkey Breed Society	Rosemary Clarke
Peden Bloodstock	Henry Bullen
Retraining of Racehorses	Paul Jepson
Stallion AI Services	Tullis Matson
TBA	Caroline Turnbull
Weatherbys	Nick Craven

(CC) = joined by conference call

### 1 Chairman's Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Tim Brigstocke welcomed everyone to the meeting including those calling in and thanked Defra for providing the venue and the TBA for hosting lunch.

### 2 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved by all present.

Matters arising: GDPR matter raised by SE (CED)

### 3 British Horse Council Update –Jeanette Allen

JA reported that there was a lot going on with the current vote on Brexit now being delayed.

- Ministers' portfolios: Lord Gardner is splitting his portfolio between 'Health and Biosecurity' which he will keep, and 'Welfare' which will be led by David Rutley. He assures the group that for matters of the horse we will still have his leadership and ongoing support.
- Risk Matrix: JA reported that it is time to bring it back. The last two matrixes relate to the BHIC (mainly business risks) and the ESC (health and welfare risks). This matrix relates to risks to the UK equine population. Views on this will be gathered from the sector and presented at the summer meeting.
- Supporter Fees: as we are growing into a large group now there will be a supporter fee of £50 per organisation for one seat paid per calendar year. For an additional seat there will be a charge of £25 per annum, space permitting. Stand-alone projects will be funded separately with donations requested. BHC meetings will continue to be held in London where possible.
- **Regulatory Guidance: Steven Gale (Annex 1)** reported that for the guidance to be enforceable it must be simple, clear and concise, not too prescriptive and to allow for

professional interpretation. It must also be achievable. At present we have the following areas for which regulations/guidance are being developed; PIOs' minimum operating standards, Equine ID and the hiring of horses. Consultations are taking place between the BHC, stakeholders and enforcers. It has been stressed to Defra that this coordination is essential – especially given the issues with the Equine Code and Hiring of Horses guidance being published before being scrutinised by the BHC.

- **Licensing of Activities Involving Animals: Carolyn Madgwick (Annex 2).** This will cover all animals and the licensing of all premises will be required, not just for the hiring of horses. The business test is 'does it make a profit'? The local authority will make the decision and will need to go to HMRC for information on income/profit. Premises will be inspected by a vet annually and each LA will have a list of inspectors. The conditions of each licence will be appointed by each LA and can last one to three years depending on risk assessments. BM added that the RCVS keep a list and have 141 inspectors.

#### **4 EU Exit Day One – Pamela Thompson/John Briggs (Annex 3)**

Parliamentary vote scheduled for tomorrow now cancelled.

- JB reported on 'no deal' planning for equine movement. There is no default therefore no movement of equines between the EU and the UK. An application for third country status and categorisation has been submitted and received positively but no guarantees. There are seven categories for equines within the list for health category status. Blood tests are required for various diseases for each category to determine pre-export testing.
- Certification: Export health certificates will not replace passports, they will be supplementary to passports. Studbook passports will be recognised but unregistered horses will need another ID document to accompany the passport which will need to be issued by Government. Points of entry are being discussed for Day One with a significant impact on travel routes.
- Transportation: workshops are being held and legal advice offered for transporters.
- Imports: Requirements are not changing and there will be no additional testing. EU tariff rates on UK imports are yet to be set. EU tariff rates apply to change of ownership but will not apply to temporary moves.

DB (RSPCA) highlighted a huge transport problem if there is no deal as there is no abattoir in NI. PT (Defra) said they are talking with equine bodies, ports, airports, transport agents and local authorities and will continue to advise and clarify.

JA added that concerning the BIPs (border inspection posts) there will be the need to build an infrastructure to cope with live animals at the borders.

RS (Caspian Horse Society) asked if they can still issue passports for their own breed populations in all EU countries. Defra will report back.

CC (826 Equine Studbook Assoc.) asked about semen transportation. PT said there will be different tests.

RO (WHW) queried whether the government's current proposed deal would mean that a ban on the live export of animals for slaughter will not be possible – as indicated by some organisations – and an answer is needed from Defra.

#### **5 Trade Claire Williams: (Annex 4)**

##### **Safety equipment**

Body Protectors – new standard was harmonised earlier this year (13158 2018) and this was matched with the BETA standard being published in September with garments entering the market from October 1.

Disciplines will continue to accept both the 2009 and 2018 standards for an agreed period of 6 years (2024).

- **Hats** - EN1384. There is an ongoing issue with the Commission who continues to resist harmonisation of this standard. Harmonisation is useful in offering consistency of approach in the market as it sets a presumption of conformity to the basic health and safety requirements as laid down in the PPE regulations and makes it easier for manufacturers to obtain the CE mark and customers to understand that what they are purchasing is consistent regardless of brand or manufacturer. Following an exchange of correspondence we (working group of TC158 with experts on riding hat manufacture) met with the Commission last week in Brussels to discuss a compromise. The outcome of the meeting was a suggested revision to the 1384:2017 which will go some way in meeting the concerns of the commission but allow us the opportunity to fully revise the standard once the scientific evidence base has been provided. This could lead to a new standard being published in 2019 with a new year which will supersede the 2017 version which has not entered the market in the UK.
- On an EU front, good news is that we will be able to contribute towards the standard making process thanks to the Commission agreeing to maintain BSI's membership of CEN/CENELEC who is responsible for the standard process. As members of the BSI working groups this will continue our involvement.

**Feed Safety** – a stakeholder meeting has been called by the FSA in conjunction with enforcement bodies to discuss issues of importance surrounding feed safety including threats to raw material supply, setting of feed enforcement priorities for 2019 and the potential impact of Brexit to sourcing and supply.

Key concerns include the increasing price of feed materials and the threat posed by the bio fuel industry. Labelling is also a key area of focus, ensuring that ingredients are declared appropriately.

**Equestrian Statistics and NES** - reminder that we are currently half way through the updating of BETA's survey which provides key data including the value of the equestrian industry to the economy and the number of riders and frequency.

The survey is done in 3 parts, first of which is a national survey a cross section of the population (not just riders) for which the results are imminent. Stage two is a national telephone survey – so say yes if called – and the third is an online survey which it is key we get as wide a participation as possible.

Can the following link can be shared with member organisations networks and supporters via social media, email and websites. It is important we get as good a response as possible to better assess the health of our industry in terms of participation, ownership and spending habits.

<https://www.snapsurveys.com/wh/s.asp?k=154541456676>

TB asked the group to support the survey which will be reported at the NEF early March.

## 6 Racing (Claire Sheppard)

- **Levy Reform:** This order is being scrutinised by the Commons and Lords Committee. This is going to need primary legislation which means a delay and the question is who will be responsible for it. DM (BEVA) added that veterinary research is supported in a comprehensive way due to what comes in from the levy.
- **Independent Welfare Body Parliamentary Debate – Amanda Piggot (BH):** Apologies from DS. Recent debate was 15 October to discuss the possibility of a new independent body to protect against race day fatalities, use of whip etc. Defra have expressed support and a committee is being formed.

## **7 Vaccine Harmonisation - Richard Newton- AHT (Annex 5)**

In order to improve clarity for horse owners and their veterinary surgeons and consequently optimise compliance with equine influenza vaccination requirements, the Animal Health Trust proposes a single set of flu vaccination rules for consideration for adoption by all equestrian bodies to replace their existing rules. The proposed new rules are wherever possible based on scientific evidence, whilst at the same time fitting around all currently licensed equine influenza vaccine datasheet recommendations regarding vaccination dosing intervals. It is suggested that 1st January 2020 might be considered as the potential initiation date for the implementation of these new, harmonised rules if they are adopted. Richard's presentation illustrated this concept for which there was broad support.

## **8 Central Equine Database (Stewart Everett)**

CED has progressed and is now moving on to the next stage after GDPR with a greater number of practical functions.

- Equine Register Digital Stable. Users will soon be able to plug in to chip checker and can also add information on their horse such as 'not for sale' or 'stolen'.
- PIO and CED will share data as shared controllers and data will be kept clean together. Data cleaning will begin in January.
- Event pre-registration and biosecurity. This is for owners, keepers and trainers delivering event biosecurity. Digital Stable can be updated by confirming the equine and adding vaccinations, high health certification and any live documentation.
- Liz Kelly (WHW) reported on the Equine Biosecurity project which has been set up, with advice from the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT) to use behavioural interventions in a pilot trial to assess their potential to improve biosecurity on yards. An initial survey, which looked at the attitudes of horse owners to a number of management practices including vaccinations, facilities, visitors and emergency procedures, is now complete with 2.5K responses. Next steps are to conduct focussed visits to a small number of livery yards to gain more information on any barriers preventing horse owners/yard owners adopting more biosecure practices. The results from the visits will be discussed with the BIT and a pilot trial taken forward.

## **9 Equine ID Regulations- Making them work – David Mountford/Jan Rogers**

- Update Scotland and Wales (RO). For Scotland the Lord Advocate has raised concerns about authentication of the unique microchip number and no resolution is anticipated in the near future. There is no expectation that Wales will move forward with Equine ID regulations any time soon.
- Vet Plans (DM) BEVA. There is a need for a support structure for vets and BEVA is developing a decision tree.
- Industry round table (JR) . To be held in January 2019, made up of key stakeholders, vets and PIO's with actions for each sector to carry out. We need to also have the local authorities on board and be able to support the knowledge that this is low on their priority list.

## **10 Consultations update list (Roly Owers)**

Consultations underway of newly completed:

- Call for evidence on controlling live export for slaughter/improving animal welfare during transportation – consultation complete

- FAWC transport working group meeting – World Horse Welfare, BEF and BHA presented key points from their call for evidence – including potential for removing derogation for registered equines now that the principle of High Health High Performance horses has been established with the OIE – and is likely to be the basis of any replacement TPA

- NI ID consultation

- Livery yards and sanctuaries – equine component – there was general support for the licensing of rehoming centres and sanctuaries for equines on the basis that an impact assessment and full consultation is undertaken as part of the process.

JA said Lord Gardner is keen to take forward the registration of all equine establishments including sanctuaries and other non-registered organisations. DB (RSPCA) added that the Government is stopping the third party sale of dogs and cats and is now looking at other species.

#### **11 EU Animal Health Regulation Update – Tom Youngman/Eleanor Glendenning**

By April 2021 all health rules will be brought together and progress is slow and not always communicated until late in the day, allowing little time for consultation. Disease list is finalised and now published. Now working on a second list for eradication and trade rules.

#### **12 AOB:**

- Liz Morrison reported on her new online veterinary information site and is now preparing for phase one to be launched this year.
- David Mountford (BEVA) explained the group RAMP which is recognised by BEVA as a register of practitioners qualified to treat animals using Chiropractic, Osteopathic and Physiotherapy techniques. This register will aid vets when referring an animal to a MSK practitioner for physical therapy.
- Roly Owers raised the proposed establishment of a Scottish Animal Welfare Commission – we understand that this will require a legislative ‘tweak’ to be established – so is not imminent – but aims to be a FAWC equivalent and is planned to include horses. We understand that licensing of sanctuaries and rehoming centres will be moved forward via this body in Scotland.

#### **13 Date of next meeting Monday 10 June 1pm-4.30pm Nobel House.**