

## **UK Equine Disease Coalition Terms of Reference**

The UK Equine Disease Coalition (“the Coalition”) is established to increase the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak, will act as the GB Equine Exotic Disease Core Group in the face of a disease outbreak and will play a key role in addressing the health associated risks identified in the British Horse Council strategy. The Coalition will focus on key areas of risk that threaten the health of the UK horse population. It will enable the equine sector to use its knowledge and expertise to take the lead in this area, whilst working closely with relevant authorities (Government departments and Agencies).

The specific functions of the Coalition are:

- To review the key areas of risk that threaten the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak, grouped under the following headings:
  - Movement of equines and their products
  - Mixing of animals
  - Globalisation and environmental changePlease refer to Annex 1 for specific examples of risks initially identified.
- To formulate a practical, cost-effective and cohesive strategy to mitigate the impact of the risk areas identified, wherever possible, considering both exotic and serious endemic disease threats operating at a local, regional and national level and building on any existing disease mitigation programmes
- To liaise with Defra, other Government Departments and all relevant organisations in the equine industry on how the strategy, or elements of the strategy, could be implemented, either voluntarily or with Government support
- To promote with the equine industry and Government an implementation programme to deliver the agreed plans
- To act as the GB Equine Exotic Disease Core Group<sup>1</sup> during ‘disease outbreak’ mode and will provide advice to Government on issues surrounding the outbreak/incident and its impact, enabling quick and evidence-based disease control measures and policy responses. The Group will be chaired by Defra or the Administration in which the initial outbreak occurred. Additional members may be co-opted onto the Group, with the joint approval of all GB Administrations, to provide particular expertise for the duration of the emergency. Some members of the EDC may also be invited to sit as experts on a National Expert Group (NEG).
- To work transparently, whilst respecting confidences

### **Meetings**

The Coalition will meet on a regular basis (at least two time annually), either face to face or by teleconference. Core Group meetings are likely to be on a far more regular basis during an

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<sup>1</sup> To facilitate discussions in the Core Group, meetings will be held under ‘Chatham House Rules’ unless stated otherwise. Where information shared with the Group is marked as Official Sensitive it cannot be shared or discussed beyond the Group without the express consent of the Chair. Such information will be clearly labelled and further information on security classifications for Government information will be available on request.

outbreak. World Horse Welfare will provide secretarial support for the Coalition and Defra or the relevant Administration will provide secretariat support for the Core Group.

**Costs**

Members of the Coalition will be responsible for meeting their own expenses. If the Coalition, as a whole, needs to identify resources for any particular purpose they shall agree amongst themselves how the resources shall be found.

## **Annex 1 – Key risk areas that threatens the UK level of preparedness for a major equine disease outbreak**

1. Movement of animals
  - a. Unregulated movements of equines especially through international dealers in low value animals
  - b. Regulated and unregulated markets including private sales
  - c. Tripartite Agreement
  - d. Transportation Regulation (1/2005)
  
2. Mixing of animals
  - a. Livery yards
  - b. Equestrian Centres – including competitions, shows and events
  - c. Biosecurity at equine premises and other places where animals mix
  - d. Equine gatherings and associated transport
  
3. Global issues
  - a. Environmental change and impact on vector populations
  - b. Trade in equine products – including semen, embryos, meat and blood
  - c. Trade in non-equine related commodities – acting as fomites and/or vectors for disease spread