

Meeting note (summary points where presentations are not available)

Animal Health & Welfare Pathway

Martin Jenkins gave a broad overview of the Pathway as a whole and how it might be adapted to be relevant for equines. It is effectively government co designing the Pathway with industry.

See <https://www.britishhorsecouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/BHC-Update-David-Mountford.pdf>

Equine ID Consultation - Olivia Herford

Public consultation on improvements to equine ID and traceability in England in order to understand how to support government priorities of equine health and welfare and improve the quality of data in CED.

Digitisation will be a key part plus other elements of a traceability regime, it will launch early in the new year after economic analysis and necessary parliamentary processes and be open for 12 weeks

HEIR - Ed Bracher

Human Equine Interaction Register – for all forms of practice where horses are used for therapeutic benefits for people, and is a currently unregulated environment

Purpose is to make sure that people who want to access these therapies can be confident the work is being done in a credible and safe way

Framework for anyone who engages focusing on five areas of standard - clear evidence of competence to practice, clinical development process, high standard of equine welfare, good communications of the benefits to the service user and policies for evidence gathering and good governance

Consultation now completed, currently analysing responses, all generally very positive and in touch with 300 organisations to further this element of work. HEIR is currently setting up governance structures and it will be set up with an online voluntary register, launching March 2022

Animal Health Law and Equine Movements – Helena Showell

The new Export Health Certificate requires premises from which horses are exported to be registered and the CPH number issued to be used from January 2022 for EU and NI. CPH number process on www.gov.uk, England applicants secure theirs from APHA and Wales residents from Rural Payments Wales. 350 issued so far. If a premises is already registered for other species, there is no need to reapply.

Please raise any cross border movements concerns through the fortnightly Birdtable meeting comms@britishhorsecouncil.org

Border Inspection Posts – Olivia Herford

Ongoing work on designation of BCPs. Sevington in Kent should be operational from July 2022. The inspection protocols and definitions of high/lower health horses are to be defined. Horses entering across any border other than the Short Straits may be checked at point of destination.

Defra is looking at the extent to which they apply the same controls for imports to GB as are applied by EU, not necessarily replicating EU, will update on decisions yet to be taken.

Zootechnical update – Rachel Davis

Caroline Liddell has replaced Rachel as Senior Policy Adviser for Genetic Resources and Zootech.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/getting-a-zootechnical-certificate>

Third country listing of EU approved studbooks is at 289 studbooks from 23 countries. Two new recent applications from Poland. Can only enter horses into the main section of a UK studbook if they have a passport or zootech certificate issued by one of these listed studbooks. If not then they will have to be registered in supplementary sections of a studbook.

American Miniature Horse Association (mother studbook) not listed with EU which meant that UK studbook (filial) had to stop entering horses into their studbook until EU listing was completed.

EU extended breeding programmes: List now published and UK residents can only register horses with studbooks that are in the EU that are on this list, breeders and studbooks are advised to notify Defra if they find breeders using studbooks that are not on the list.

Third country listing of UK studbooks: Defra just about to write out to remaining breed societies not included on the application for third country listing of UK societies by the EU. Only a couple not listed, which will go into the second tranche. Just compliance checks to be carried out.

Scotland Update – Nick Ambrose (written)

Continue to work with other administrations on implementation of requirements of 2021/963

Provided comments on Defra ID consultation

Scotland would prefer a fully digital solution with registration of equines centrally through Scotequine. Scotland does not plan any changes, however any would be subject to formal consultation.

England Update – Debbie Bailey

Defra and Devolved Administrations have provided guidance on how to comply with equine ID (known as Minimum Operating Standards or MOPs) to include changes as a result of Brexit and the NI Protocol.

Equine Register ran voluntary workshops for PIOs to gather feedback on the use of Digital Stable. PIOs were also shown new CED functionality on bulk uploads, workshops positively received and technical concerns were shared and able to be resolved.

National Chipchecker, on Digital Stable, now allows search by UELN and passport number as well as microchip.

Vet update – David Mountford

Thanked Simon Waterfield for his excellent service and wished Simon a happy retirement.

Anthelmintic and antimicrobial resistance continue to be top priorities.

Obesity management – working with many others in the equine sector to help manage horses that are at risk due to obesity.

Workforce – approaching a perfect storm of recruitment and retention. Profile of new vets is changing, more women becoming vets, all vets looking to improve work/life balance and corporates looking to reduce working hours for employed vets. Upsurge in need for vets (eg pre purchase examinations which increased during Covid) and not enough vets to meet demand.

Research – Jeanette Allen

Total funding total for 2021 relatively low due to reduced number of applications in that year.

Many ongoing grants extended due to closure of labs during Covid.

Horse Trust as interested in funding equine and human behaviour research as it is bench science.

Shortage of anthelmintic research experts in the UK so global collaboration may be needed and can be funded.

HBLB - Annie Dodd

Vet grant applications in 2021 – 21 major research projects, 10 small projects, 11 scholarships and 2 post docs and HBLB consulting with third party investors. Will be announced Feb 22.

HBLB trying to shorten the application to approval process.

Will be advertising for a number Veterinary Adviser Committee individuals.

Processes formerly run by AHT are now replicated by the collaboration between Rossdales and Cambridge University. Are evaluating how it works and how it can be made responsive to future needs.

www.equinesurveillance.org

All other presentations: <https://www.britishhorsecouncil.org/meetings/>

