

British Horse Council Meeting – summer session 24th June 2022

Welsh Government update

Welfare

- Welsh Government is fully engaged with Defra in work on welfare in transport, including the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill and WATO reform (including forthcoming workshops with equine sector). This work and all proposals are being developed on a GB basis.
- Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Implementation Plan mentioned during the December BHC meeting has now been published and can be found under the following link: <https://gov.wales/animal-health-and-welfare-framework-implementation-plan-2022-2024>
- With regards to licencing animal welfare establishments, while the Animal Welfare Plan does not make specific reference to equines, it broadly sets out our plans to bring forward licensing requirements in relation to animal exhibits and animal welfare establishments. We will work in partnership with key stakeholders to identify areas of particular concern before consulting on revised proposals for the further licensing of activities involving animals, such as animal welfare establishments (including sanctuaries and rescue/rehoming centres).

Disease Policy

- Defra Policy are planning for a stakeholder consultation regarding the consolidation of equine disease legislation (date of consultation to be confirmed). Due to resourcing limitations and differences in legislation, Welsh Government will not be consulting jointly with Defra, but we will plan for future consultation and equine legislation when policy and legal resourcing allow.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

- Arwain DGC (Definydd Gwrthficrobaidd Cyfrifol - Responsible Antimicrobial Use) <https://menterabusnes.cymru/arwaindgc/home-2/> launched its Equine Health Clinics to vets on 25th January. It was launched during an online webinar where 48 vets from Wales were in attendance. The webinar included a presentation on 'Equine Health - Antimicrobial Stewardship and Biosecurity in Wales.
- The Clinics were then launched with equine owners via social media on 18 February 2022. The Clinics offer equine owners in Wales support worth up to £250 to receive one-to-one advice and screening from their local vets to help prevent illness and avoid unnecessary exposure to antibiotics in horses. Advice is offered in areas such as health planning and biosecurity.
- You can contact your vet to express interest in an Equine Health Clinic funded by Arwain DGC. For more information about their Equine Health Clinics

please contact Arwain DGC on arwaindgc@menterabusnes.co.uk or visit their website: <https://menterabusnes.cymru/arwaindgc/equine-sector/>

- At the beginning of 2022, we conducted a survey of veterinary practices that treat small animals and equines across Wales.
- The survey was designed by members of the Delivery Group, as a first step to engaging with companion animal and equine practices.
- The purpose of this survey was to assess:
 - Current awareness of AMR across veterinary practices in Wales;
 - Perception of AMR awareness in companion animal and equine owners;
 - Ways in which veterinarians communicate with their clients regarding the responsible use of medicines;
 - Conditions under which antibiotics are used in practice; and
 - The preferred ways for seeking out and receiving information regarding antibiotic prescribing.
- The results of the survey increase our understanding of current antimicrobial prescribing practices and awareness of AMR in the companion animal sector, including equines.
- Results of the survey have been reported to the Animal and Environment AMR Delivery Group and will be used to guide next steps taken to reduce the risk of AMR in companion animals.