

Handling/Stockpersonship

I. General comments

- a. To promote enrichment for all species
- b. Define maximum stocking density for all animals inside and outside

II. Ruminants

a. Comments on the paperboard

- Implement training for handling (avoid fear during handling) → promote familiarity to handling procedures
- Electrical parameters that work in reversible stunning in order to achieve a good unconsciousness (problems in ritual slaughter)
- Protecting ruminants against predators (such as sheep against wolves). When should protective measures be deemed sufficient?
- What standards should cubicles for dairy cattle meet?
- Improve space allowance and enrichment for beef cattle
- Beef cattle are kept outdoor all year around (sometimes at -20°C) without sheds
- What about the young male sheep and goats
- Need for training of staff and good practice guidelines for sheep and goat sector
- Need for knowledge on welfare and management of sheep and goats
- Stocking density in sheep feedlots

b. Summary of the discussion

- CA present were from Cyprus, Finland, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, The Netherlands. We addressed the following points:
- What are the requirements / qualifications in your country for being a ruminant farmer? In most countries, farmers need a qualification, their training includes essentially knowledge on animals, on legislation... This can vary between countries: FIN requires training on know-how (in addition to knowledge) and Greece requires no specific qualification
- What is a good farmer to you? Participants mentioned
 - Skills: good husbandry, know when to call the vet
 - Results on animals: if the animals are OK then the farmer is good
 - Know how to be: "animal lovers", respect for animals, investing efforts for the animals to be good,

- What should be the number of animals per caretakers? In NL, 100 cows per caretaker. The group considers that such numbers depends on many factors such as production or housing
- Additional issue: who should perform euthanasia, only vets or farmers can do it? Some countries allow farmer to use captive bolts to euthanise animals: in NL, the farmer must be competent to euthanise animals but there is no formal check of that competence
- Additional comment from a Netherlands' participant: We recently had a case where a farmer was not capable of taking sufficient care of their animals (dairy cows, sheep, goats, and some pigs). Our lawyers and inspectors together came with the solution to force the farmer to keep less animals (half of the current amount). For a case like this, a factsheet on number of animals per caretaker (or the other way around) could be very useful for us. Especially if it also includes something about farmers with a mix of different animals, and about farmers that do not have state-of-the-art technology on farm.

III. Equines

a. Comments on the paperboard

- List of forbidden devices and training methods
- Horse tethering (semi-permanent)
- Mouth wounds with racehorses
- Keeping equines alone
- Lack of enrichment (stereotypic behaviours)
- Formation and training of slaughterhouse staff
- Environmental enrichment for individually kept horses (as companion or sporting animals)
- What should be appropriate age for horses to train/compete (sulky, riding, dressage)
- Training procedures ("breaking" of young horses)
- Social behaviour and individual keeping
- Knowledge/competence of private owners. More and more owners with a more "human" vision and treatment that can lead to animal welfare issues
- What would be limits for overworking (riding, pulling, carrying)? Animal based indicators for evidence of overworking
- Equines for tourist services: maximum hours for working, maximum weight for horse loading, required resting times
- Horse bleeding for PMSQ: welfare issues vs. necessity

- Competence of stockpersonship and good practice guidelines
- b. Summary of the discussion:
 - People keeping equines including private owners should be more educated/trained on
 - Biology
 - Needs
 - Equine communication
 - Behaviour
 - How to manage group housing
 - Feeding of equines
 - Are people capable to identify welfare issues?
 - Training methods of the horses (which one are good)
 - Forbidden devices
 - There is a need for scientific guidelines for these subjects.
 - We lack consolidated scientific evidences with animal-based indicators for veterinarian inspectors
 - How much an equine can work/ working duration (limits) → specific regulation in Austria for horses used in tourism and on dimensions of pens for equines
 - Riding and working equids – are there some serious welfare consequences
 - What we can provide to animals housed individually (e.g. enrichment)
 - Evaluate the feasibility of e.g. enrichments for farmers (in terms of costs and regarding the space allowance)
 - Regarding training, some things are done in Italy for the training of people keeping equines, but not mandatory. Videos are helpful to train people, translation of factsheet is maybe more important for inspectors.

HANDLING / STOCKMANSHIP

PERSON

List of forbidden devices (bit, etc.) and training methods

- Horse tethering (semi-permanent)

- protecting ruminants against predators (such as sheep against wolves). When should protective measures be deemed sufficient?
- What standards should cattle/cablers for dairy cattle meet?

Mouth wounds with racehorses

Keeping alone

Lack of enrichment → stereotypic behaviour

Handling / Stockmanship
Guide
• formation / training of slaughterhouse staff
• ~~indicator of~~

ENVIRONMENTAL ENRICHMENT FOR INDIVIDUALLY KEPT HORSES (AS COMPANION OR SPORTING ANIMALS)

WHAT SHOULD BE APPROPRIATE AGE FOR HORSES TO TRAIN / COMPETE (SULKY, RIDING, DRESSAGE)

training procedures "breaking of young horses"

Social behaviour and individual keeping

- knowledge / competence of private owners
↳ more and more owners with a more 'human' vision and treatment → issues of animal welfare

* To promote the enrichment for all species
* Define stocking density max for all animals and outdoors/inside

WORKING EQUINES
- WHAT WOULD BE LIMITS FOR OVERWORKING (RIDING - PULLING - CARRYING)
- ABIS FOR EVIDENCE OF OVERWORKING

Equines Handling equines for tourist services:
- Max hours for working
- Max kg of horse loading
- required rest time etc.

Ruminants
Electrical parameters that work in reverse, turning in order to achieve a good 'unconsciousness' (problems in ritual slaughter)

Beef cattle
→ space allowance
→ enrichment

Beef cattle are kept outdoors all year round (even at -20 degrees) without shelter

Handling / Stockmanship: Goats > sheep
Young males → surplus (?)

Horse bleeding for PITISG (ECR)
→ welfare issues w. necessity

- implement "Training" for handling (avoid fear during handling)
→ promote familiarity to handling procedures

Working equids HANDLING STOCKMANSHIP (Training) - Competence of stockmanship
Good practice guidelines

Sheep-Goats - HANDLING STOCKMANSHIP
Training competence of staff
Good practice guidelines

Equines
Ruminants
Stocking density in "sheep feedlots"

STOCKMANSHIP KNOWLEDGE ON WELFARE & MANAGEMENT OF SHEEP AND GOATS