Report

EURCAW meeting with Competent Authorities

Online via Zoom conference

17 November 2026, 09:00–12:00 hrs CET

Disclaimer

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1 Keynote talks

During the first part of the meeting, three short keynotes on bovine and equine welfare were presented from Germany, Italy and Ireland. The presentation slides are provided below.

1.1 Phasing-out Tie-stalls for Bovines in Lower Saxony – Dr Kathrin Herzog



Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz
Postfach 2 43, 30002 Hannover

Niedersächsisches Ministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Verbraucherschutz

Landkreise, kreisfreie Städte,
Region Hannover,
Zweckverband Veterinäramt JadeWeser

Nachrichtlich:

Arbeitsgemeinschaft der kommunalen Spitzenverbände Niedersachsens

Nds. Landesamt für Verbraucherschutz und Lebensmittelsicherheit (LAVES)

Landesbeauftragte für den Tierschutz

per E-Mail

Ihr Zeichen, Ihre Nachricht vom	Mein Zeichen (Bei Antwort angeben)	Durchwahl 0511 120-	Hannover
	204-42507-1120/2025	-2335	02.06.2026

Tierschutz;
Veröffentlichung des Runderlasses „Ausstieg aus der Anbindehaltung von Rindern"

Anlagen: Runderlass „Ausstieg aus der Anbindehaltung von Rindern"
Musterallgemeinverfügung

Sehr geehrte Damen und Herren,

hiermit weise ich auf die Veröffentlichung des Runderlasses „Ausstieg aus der Anbindehaltung von Rindern" am heutigen Tage hin, Nds. MBl. 2026 Nr. 267 (https://www.verkuendung-niedersachsen.de/ndsmbl/2026/267/). Der Runderlass ist diesem Schreiben als Anlage angefügt; um Beachtung wird gebeten.

Ich weise darauf hin, dass die Untersagung der Anbindehaltung mittels Allgemeinverfügung zu erfolgen hat. Diese ist innerhalb von vier Wochen ab dem Tag des Inkrafttretens des vorstehend genannten Runderlasses bekanntzugegeben, s. Nr. 6.1 des Runderlasses.

Die anliegende Musterallgemeinverfügung wird zur Arbeitserleichterung übersandt und deren Verwendung wird empfohlen.

Sofern es zur Einreichung von Klagen durch Rinderhalterinnen oder Rinderhalter gegen die Allgemeinverfügung kommt, bitte ich um unverzügliche Mitteilung. Schriftsätze an das Gericht sind vorab schriftlich mit mir abzustimmen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen



Decree on the phasing out of tethered housing

General Order Prohibiting the Tethering of Cattle dated 2 June 2026:

1. Year-round tethered housing of cattle

2. Tethered housing of cattle with access to an outdoor run, exercise yard or pasture for *at least two hours a day* throughout the year (= *combined tethered housing*)

3. Tethered housing with daily access to pasture during the growing season (generally from May to October; = *seasonal tethered housing*)

4. Tethered housing of male beef cattle, which are kept tethered for a maximum of six months of their lives after reaching six months of age

Decree on the phasing out of tethered housing

Timeline of the phase-out scenario:

1. year-round tethering of cattle (no longer permitted in Lower Saxony since 2007!!!)

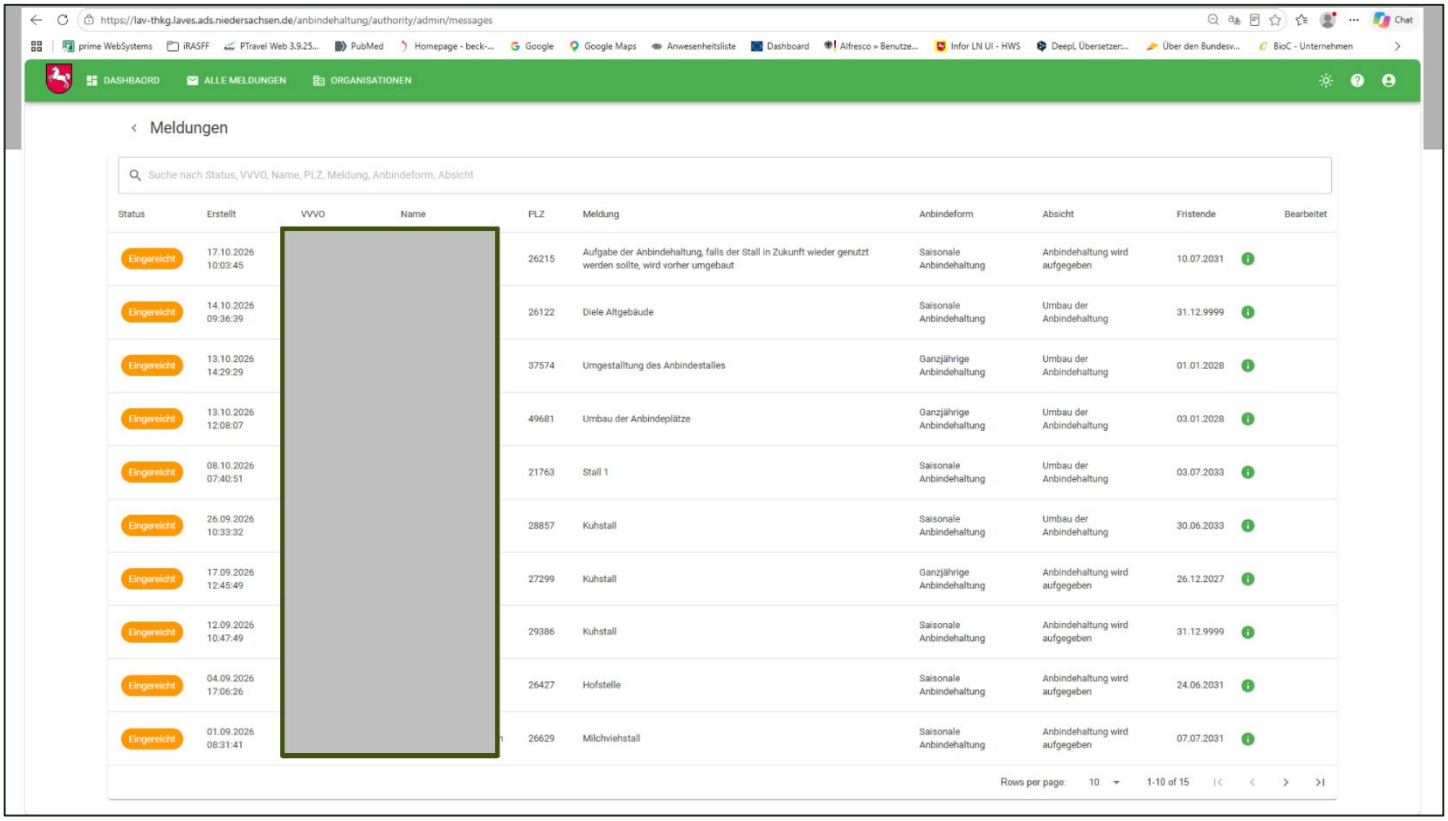
July 2026	<January 2027	<January 2028	
Announcement of the General Order	**<6 months:** Notification as to whether to discontinue or convert (farmer)	**<18 months:** be discontinued or converted.	✓ End of tethering

Decree on the phasing out of tethered housing

2. *combined* tethered housing
3. *seasonal* tethered housing
4. tethered housing of male beef cattle aged over 6 months for a maximum of six months of their lifetime

July 2026	<July 2029	<July 2031/33	
Announcement of the General Notice	**<3 years:** Notification as to whether to discontinue or convert	**<5 years:** discontinued **<7 years:** rebuilt	✓ End of tethering

unreasonable hardness: + 2 years



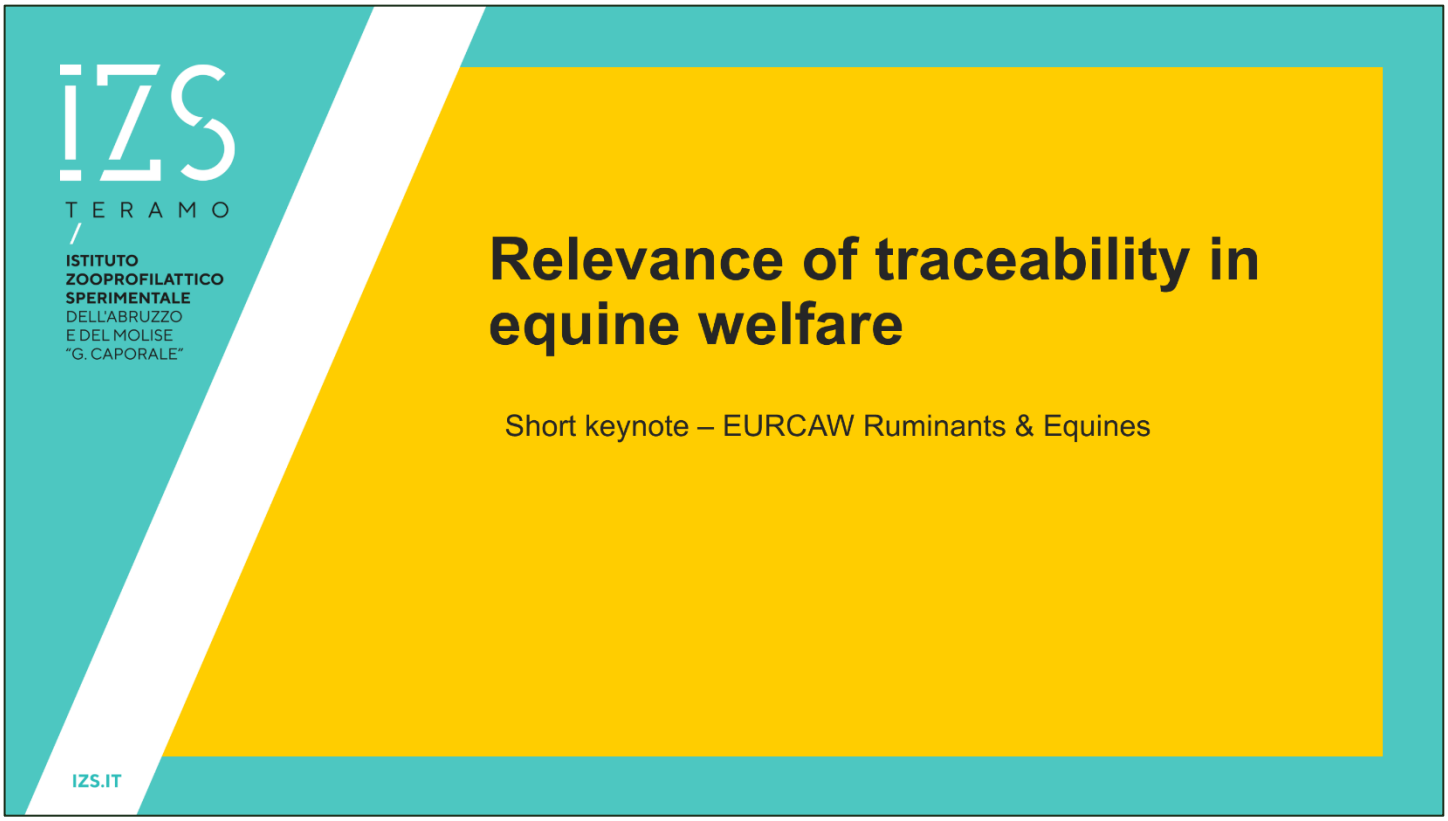
Phasing out of tie-stalls for bovines in Lower Saxony

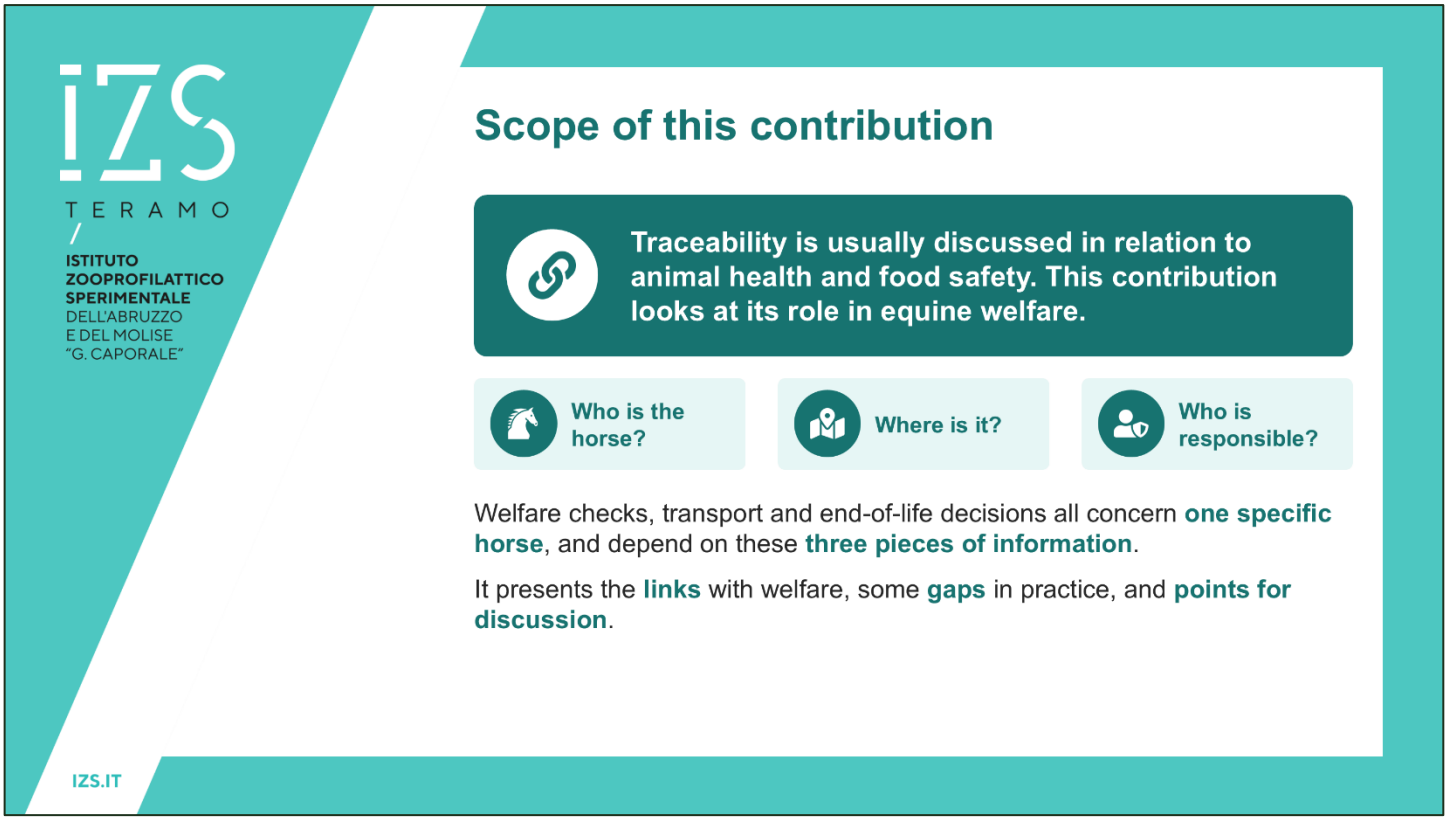


Thank you for listening!

LAVES

1.2 Relevance of traceability in equine welfare – Dr Francesco Cerasoli





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Why are equids a special case?

Companion | Sport | Work | Food-producing

A horse can be a **companion**, a **sport**, a **working** and a **food-producing** animal, sometimes in the same life.

It lives **many years**, changes **owners** and **travels**, also across borders.

Every change of owner, place or use is a moment of **risk for its welfare**.

The more a horse moves and changes hands, the more traceability matters

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A sector we cannot fully count

≥ 7 million
equids in Europe

> €100 billion
economic impact per year

400,000
full-time jobs

These are **estimates**. Since **Regulation (EU) 2018/1091**, equines are **no longer included** in the EU livestock statistics, and in 2025 the European Horse Network asked for a **harmonised census**.

Without reliable population data, welfare policies and controls are **more difficult to plan**.

Sources: Eurogroup for Animals et al. (2024). Good Welfare for Equids, white paper; European Horse Network (2025). Position on statistical data

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The EU identification system in one slide

UELN	Transponder	Lifetime document	Central database

The rules are in the **Animal Health Law** and its delegated and implementing acts.

The document must **accompany the horse** in all movements, and it must be **returned within 30 days** after death.

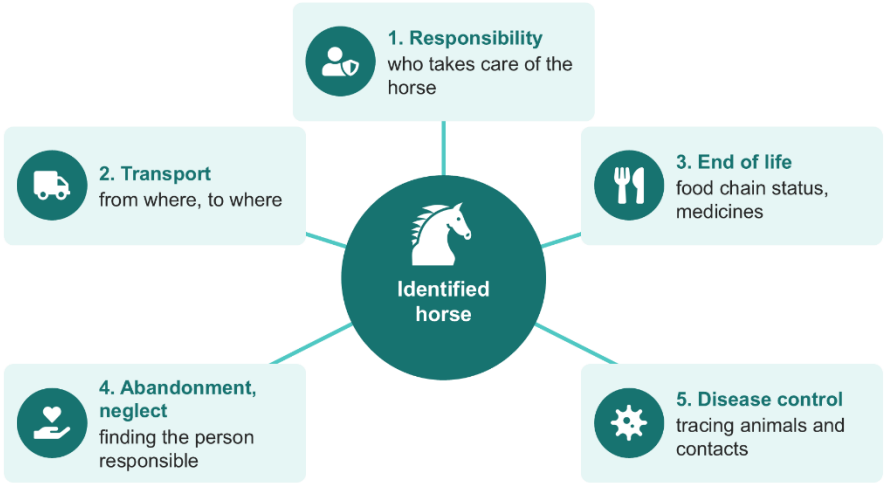
One horse, one number, one document, for the whole life

Reg. (EU) 2016/429; Delegated Reg. (EU) 2019/2035; Implementing Reg. (EU) 2021/963; DG SANTE – Identification of equine animals

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Traceability and welfare: five links



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Link 1: responsibility

> **To understand the welfare requirements of horses is "the responsibility of the owner or keeper".**

Welfare always needs a **responsible person**.

Traceability tells us **who** this person is, also when the horse **changes owner** or **place**.

When data are not up to date, it can be difficult for the official veterinarian to find the person to **contact**, to **advise** or to **sanction**.

Source: EU Platform on Animal Welfare (2019). Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses

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Link 2: transport

EFSA (2022):

13 highly relevant welfare consequences during transport

EFSA identified welfare consequences like **heat stress**, **injuries**, **prolonged thirst** and **handling stress**.

To prevent and control them, the authority must know **which horse** travels, **from where**, **to where** and **in which conditions**.

Without traceability, a problem found at arrival **cannot be linked** to the place of origin.

Source: EFSA AHAW Panel (2022). Welfare of equidae during transport. EFSA Journal 20(9):7444

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EU proposal on animal transport



GPS → TRACES

The proposal of **December 2023** is **still under discussion**: no Parliament or Council position as of October 2026. It provides for:

- **real-time positioning** of road vehicles, connected to **TRACES**;
- **fully digital journey logs**, with data kept for **6 years** for official controls;
- journeys to **slaughter** of maximum **9 hours**, with exceptions.

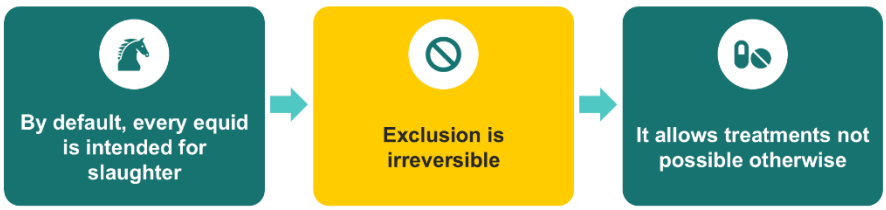
Transport for sport, competitions and leisure is subject only to general requirements (art. 2(2)(c)).

Sources: COM(2023) 770 final, art. 2(2)(c), recitals 26, 33, 34, 37; EP Legislative Train and OEIL 2023/0448(COD), Oct 2026

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Link 3: end of life and food chain status



To treat a horse with the rules for **non-food-producing animals**, the veterinarian needs the horse **declared not intended for slaughter** in its document.

When a **duplicate or replacement** document is issued, the competent authority **excludes** the horse.

For some essential substances the withdrawal period is **six months**. The document has **direct consequences for the horse**.

Sources: Reg. (EU) 2019/6, arts. 112(4) and 115(5); Commission Implementing Reg. (EU) 2025/901; DG SANTE equine identification FAQ

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Links 4 and 5: neglect and disease

Abandonment is a significant concern in several countries, "often exacerbated by rising living costs, unregistered equids, and inadequate identification systems" (2025).

Neglect and seizures
The **transponder** and the **database** are the first step to find the **person responsible** and to manage seized horses.

Disease control
Diseases like **equine infectious anaemia** also affect welfare. To control them, animals and contacts must be **traced quickly**.

Source: Eurogroup for Animals (2025). The cost of a fragmented approach to equid welfare in Europe, survey report, p. 8

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Italy: one national database

BDN

National Database for animal identification and registration

In Italy, the **BDN** is operational since **2002**.

It is managed by the **National Services Centre (CSN)** of my Institute, the **IZS of Abruzzo and Molise**, on behalf of the **Ministry of Health**.

It helps official veterinarians to find **the horse, the owner and the holding**, but only if data are **complete** and **up to date**.

Source: IZS Abruzzo e Molise – CSN, National Animal Identification and Registration Database

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Focus: public events with horses in Italy

The **Decree of 8 January 2025** (DPCM) sets rules for public events with equids outside authorised tracks, like many historic races (**palii**):

- Horses at least 4 years old
- **Regularly identified and registered**
- Clinical exam by an equine vet before the event
- Checks by the official vet of the local ASL
- Doping forbidden, with random controls

These checks rely on the correct identification of each horse

Source: DPCM 8 January 2025, arts. 5 and 7

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The gaps in practice

"Despite EU microchipping requirements, traceability challenges persist across all countries." (36 responses from 14 countries, 2025)

- **Outdated systems**, **weak enforcement** and **administrative burden** are reported in different countries.
- Data lose value if **changes of owner and place** are not registered quickly.
- **Owner and keeper** can be different people: who is responsible?
- Horses move freely in the EU, but each Member State has **its own database**.

Source: Eurogroup for Animals (2025). The cost of a fragmented approach to equid welfare in Europe, survey report, p. 9

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Fraud and false identities

Passport and microchip fraud

The same 2025 survey reports that **passport and health certificate forgery** is a **widespread issue**.

In 2024, media investigations in Ireland revealed **tampered passports and microchips**.

A false identity **breaks the history of the horse**: medicines, food chain status, owners and previous checks are lost.

Some organisations suggest **more forms of identification**: photographs, a vet-verified description, and **DNA**.

Sources: Eurogroup for Animals (2025), survey report, pp. 9 and 16; World Horse Welfare (2024), statement on equine ID and traceability

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Positions of European stakeholders

European Horse Network
2024

"...an identification and registration fully digitalised system"

World Horse Welfare
2024

"...fully digitalised equine identification systems across Europe"

Eurogroup for Animals
2025

"...a centralised, interoperable, fully digitalized identification and registration system"

Breeders, users and animal welfare organisations point in the **same direction**: a **digital** and **interoperable** identification system, valid for **all equids** and across **borders**.

Sources: EHN, EFSA stakeholder meeting (June 2024); World Horse Welfare (June 2024); Eurogroup for Animals (2025), p. 7

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From identification to welfare data



Today, identification data are used mainly for **animal health** and **food safety**.

Protocols with **animal-based indicators** for horses already exist (e.g. the EU-funded **AWIN** project), like **body condition** and **lameness**.

If such results were recorded with the **UELN**, authorities could follow the **welfare history** of each horse and plan **risk-based inspections**.

Source (example): Dalla Costa E. et al. (2016). Welfare assessment of horses: the AWIN approach. Animal Welfare 25(4): 481–488

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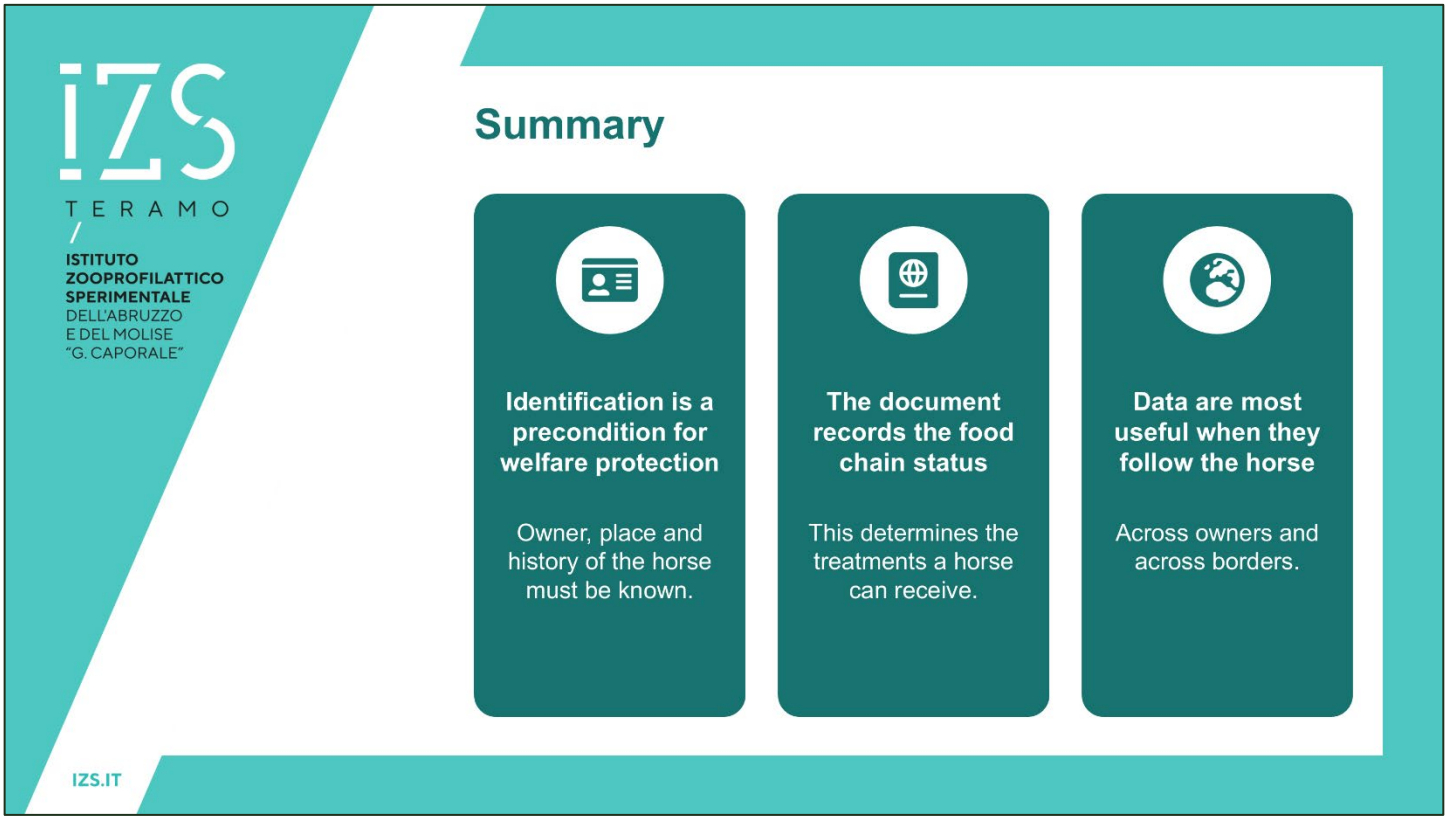
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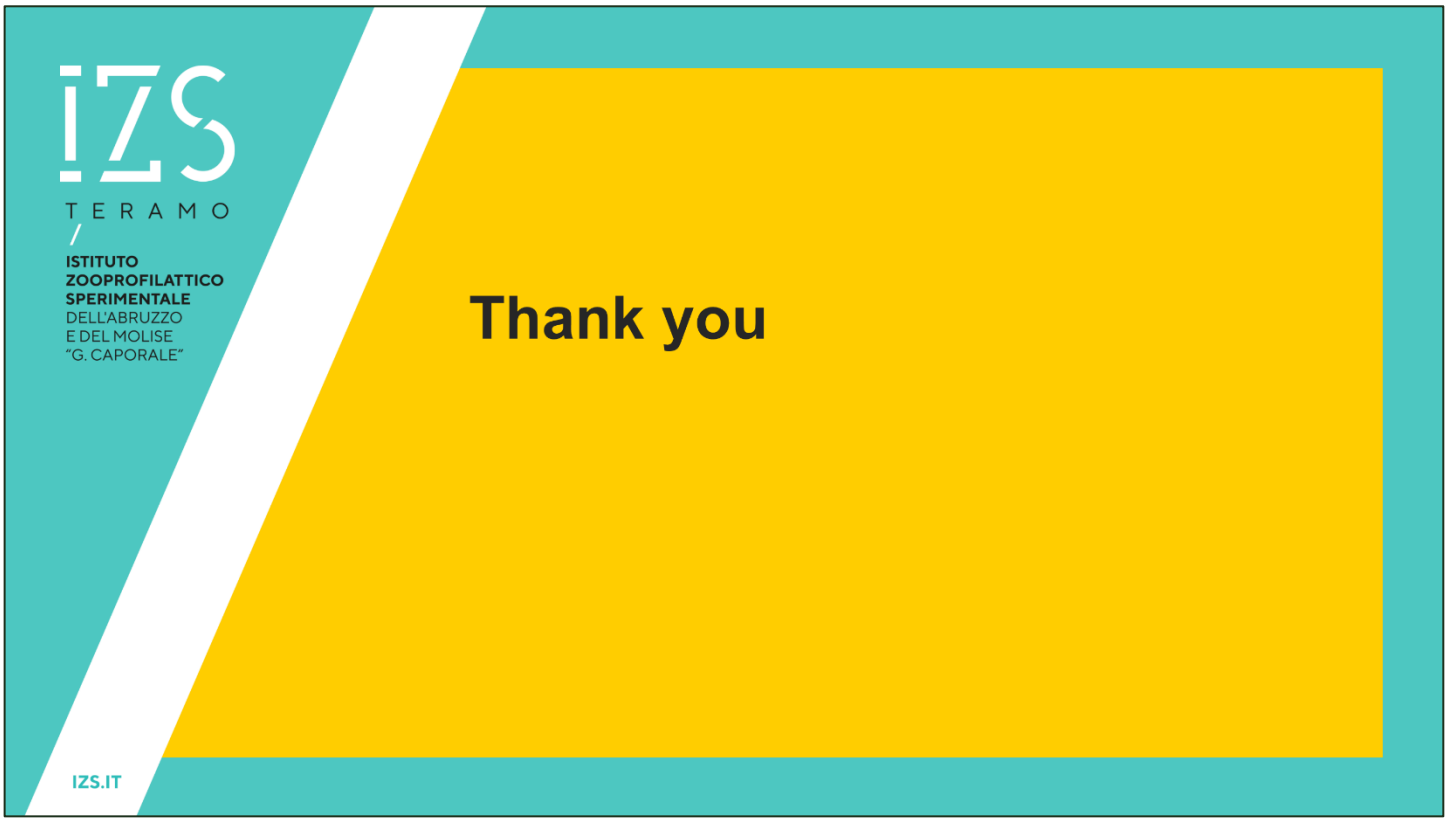
Possible topics

In the sources reviewed, the effect of traceability on welfare outcomes is not measured directly

1. A **review** on how identification data are used in equine welfare controls.
2. A **factsheet** for inspectors: checking identity during a welfare inspection.
3. **Guidance** on the responsibilities of owners and keepers.
4. **Good practices** for data exchange between Member States.
5. **Research** on welfare indicators recorded with the UELN.

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Summary
Identification is a precondition for welfare protection
Owner, place and history of the horse must be known.
The document records the food chain status
This determines the treatments a horse can receive.
Data are most useful when they follow the horse
Across owners and across borders.
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Thank you
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Main references

- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 (Animal Health Law); Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/2035; Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/963.
- Regulation (EU) 2019/6 on veterinary medicinal products, arts. 112(4) and 115(5); Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/901.
- European Commission, DG SANTE – Identification of equine animals; FAQ (food.ec.europa.eu).
- EFSA AHAW Panel (2022). Welfare of equidae during transport. EFSA Journal 20(9):7444.
- European Commission (2023). Proposal on the protection of animals during transport, COM(2023) 770; procedure 2023/0448(COD), status Oct 2026.
- EU Platform on Animal Welfare (2019). Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses.
- Eurogroup for Animals et al. (2024). Good Welfare for Equids, white paper.
- European Horse Network (2025). Contribution to the upcoming proposal on European agricultural statistics.
- Eurogroup for Animals (2025). The cost of a fragmented approach to equid welfare in Europe, survey report.
- World Horse Welfare (2024). Urgent call for a fully centralised equine ID and traceability system.
- European Horse Network (2024). The perspective of breeders/users, EFSA stakeholder meeting on the protection of Equidae.
- Dalla Costa E. et al. (2016). Welfare assessment of horses: the AWIN approach. Animal Welfare 25(4): 481–488.
- DPCM 8 January 2025 – Public events with equids outside authorised tracks (Italy).
- IZS Abruzzo e Molise – CSN, National Animal Identification and Registration Database (BDN).

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1.3 IHRB Equine Welfare Strategy – Dr Lynn Hillyer



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Equine Welfare…our strategy, objectives, priorities..& actions!

EURCAW Ruminants & Equines
EU Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

Lynn.hillyer@ihrb.ie, IHRB Chief Veterinary Officer

Welfare

IHRB | Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board

STRATEGIC PILLARS

'The IHRB is an all-island body which was established in 2018 as the **independent regulatory body** for horseracing in Ireland assuring public trust and safeguarding the global reputation of Irish horseracing.'

'world class regulator for horseracing, with an ongoing focus on excellence in the delivery of our core functions of integrity, rider safety and **equine welfare**.'

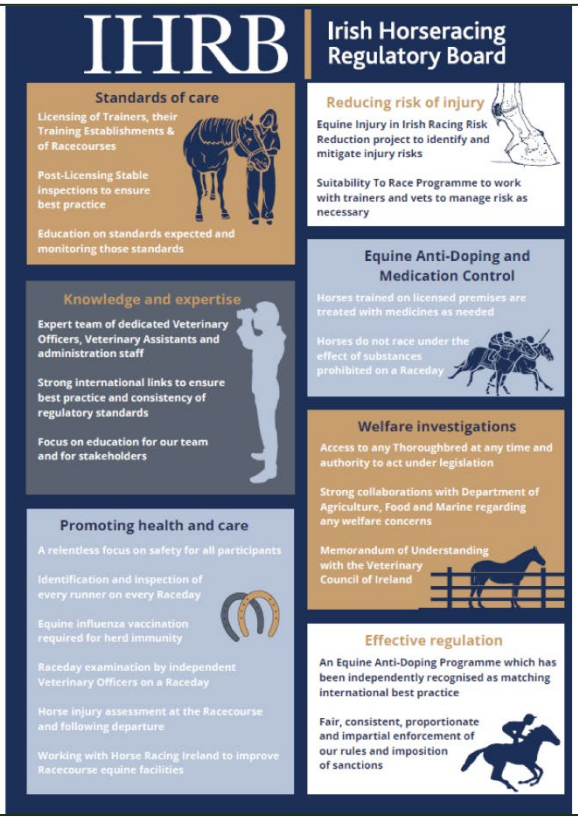
PEOPLE	INTEGRITY	WELFARE	DIGITAL FIRST	GOVERNANCE
Empowering all our people to openly and consistently achieve the highest professional standards	Maximising our knowledge and professionalism to deliver with uncompromising integrity	A relentless focus on the safety and well-being of our human and equine participants	Providing best-in-class information systems to support effective decision making and efficient operations	Consistently applying a robust governance framework and rigorous probity regime

IHRB STATEMENT OF STRATEGY 2024 – 2027 [7]

How do we do this?

- Strategic framework
- Statutory context
- Evidence-led Injury Prevention & Risk Management
- Standards-based Regulation
- Veterinary Governance and Oversight
- Traceability, Identification & Lifetime Accountability
- Enforcement (AO function)
- Education & Culture Change

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Rule Changes 2026

- Enhanced veterinary regulation and oversight.
- Improved welfare via mandatory recovery periods and prohibited practices.
- Greater transparency and accountability in treatment records and certification.
- Alignment with international best practice and compliance frameworks.

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Rule Changes

NOW IN EFFECT	FURTHER CLARIFICATION REQUIRED	NOT PROCEEDING
7 Proposals	**8 Proposals**	**5 Proposals**
Unanimously supported by stakeholders and approved by the IHRB Board.	Additional stakeholder clarification requested and under further consideration.	Will not be progressed.
• Clenbuterol • Bisphosphonates • Immunocastration • Gene Doping • IA 14 day stand down all • Tracheostomy • Post-race min. cool down	• Cryotherapy • Equipment in racecourse stable yard • Thermocautery • Shockwave therapy • Prohibited practices (firing) • Fatality review • Stand-down following epistaxis • Stand-down following AMD	• Veterinary certification • Veterinary procedure documentation • TB Welfare Standard Rule • Non-Runner Rule • Injections after declarations

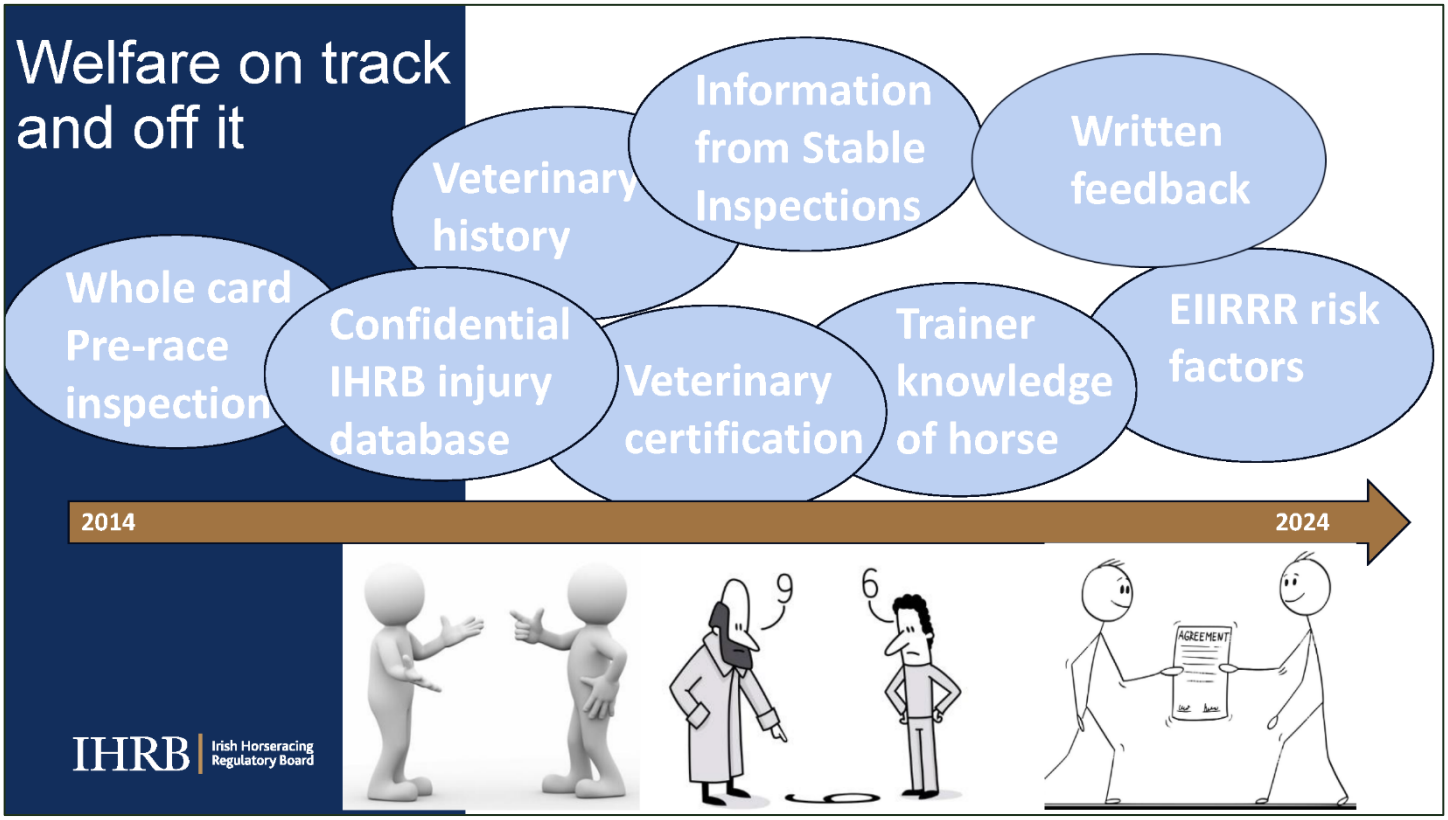
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- Fatality review including post-mortem
- Trainer awareness and knowledge transfer
- Suitability to Race programme including
- Veterinary treatment records
- AI assisted gait analysis tool
- (Pre-race) Inspections

Welfare on track and off it



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Traceability:

Post-Licensing Stable Inspections

In Q3 of 2026, 47 inspections,
- 23 as basic post-licensing stable inspections,
- 8 inspections with out of competition testing,
- 3 as AAF investigations,
- 2 for permanent import testing
- 2 for equine welfare follow up.

21 were triaged with RR&I for an Improvement Notice and/or referral for breach of rule.

Most cases referred non-compliance with Rule 148 (xii), requirement to maintain accurate and up-to-date records of the identity and location of all horses under care and control & notify movements within 24 hours.

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Traceability:

Identification and Passports

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MOU with DAFM to act as Authorised Officers relating to **Section 37 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act and Regulation 24 of the European Union (Animal Identification and Tracing) Regulation 2023**

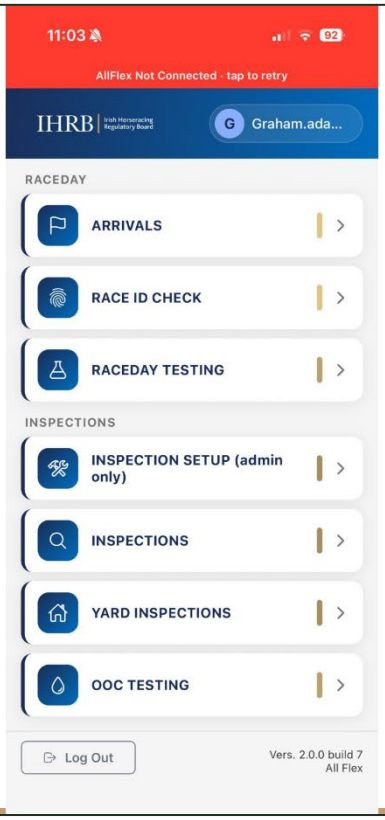
- Operator must ensure horse identified with a microchip and be accompanied by its passport
- Upon death passport to be surrendered.
- Passport must be correct - food chain status, microchip and ownership information.
- More checking needed re signing out of the food chain if giving a medicine that requires such.

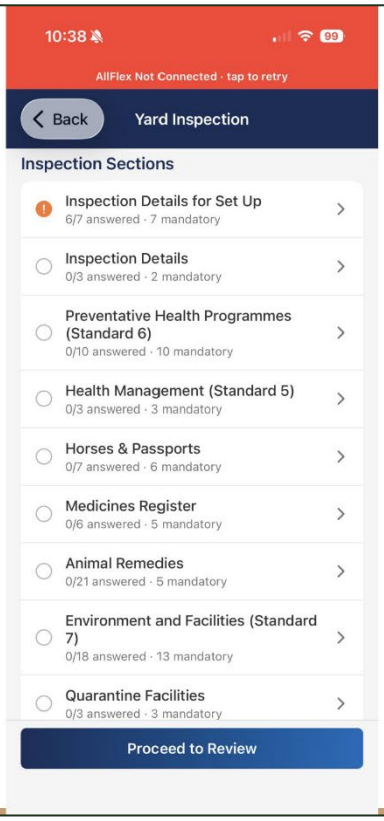
IHRB TB Welfare Standards 'What'

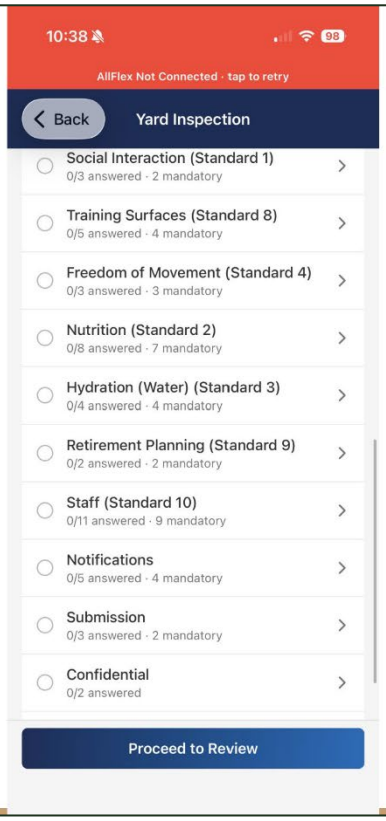
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1. Social Interaction
2. Nutrition
3. Hydration
4. Freedom of Movement
5. Health Management
6. Preventative Health Programmes
7. Environment
8. Training Surface
9. Retirement Planning
10. Staff

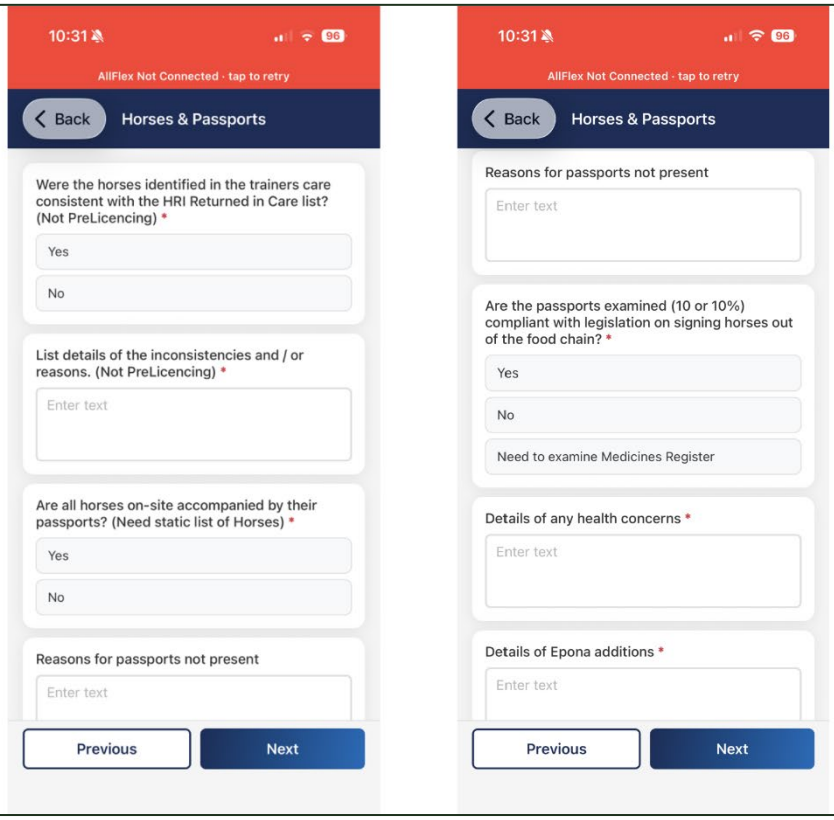
IHRB TB Welfare Standards 'How'





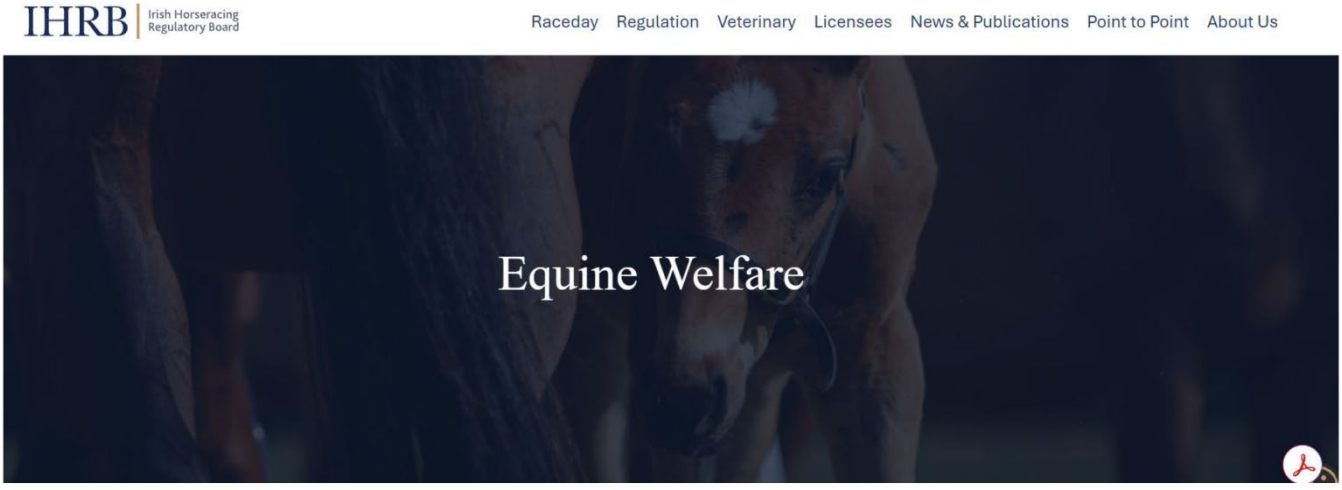


IHRB TB Welfare Standards 'How'



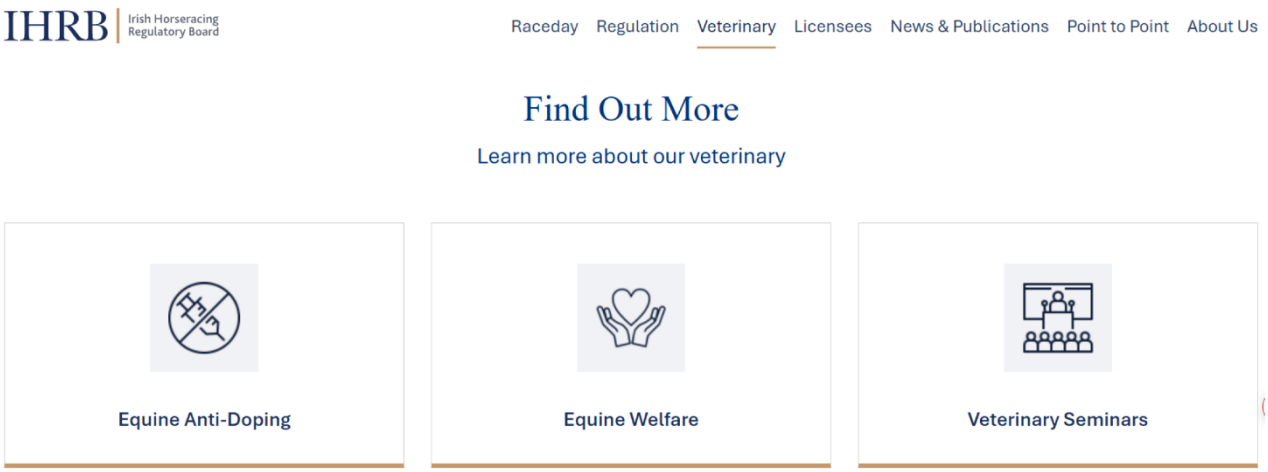
Find out more...!

IHRB | Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board



'Transparency & Welfare'

IHRB | Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board



Lynn.hillyer@ihrb.ie, equine@ihrb.ie

2 EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* Work Programme 2028–2030

The second part of the meeting was dedicated to a short review on outcomes of previous work programmes from 2021 onwards followed by parallel group discussions on priority activities and topics to be addressed in the upcoming EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* work programme 2028–2030.

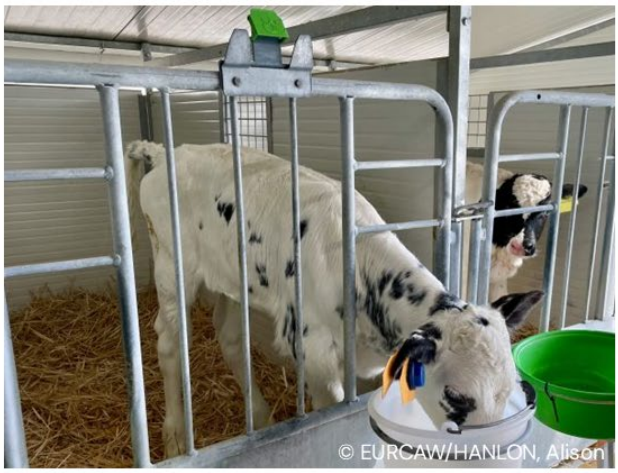
2.1 Review of previous work programmes 2021–2027



EURCAW Ruminants & Equines
European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

Work programmes 2021-2027

- Topics addressed so far
  - Calf housing and calf feeding
  - Enrichment
  - Equine housing and care
  - Thermal comfort
  - Fitness for transport (cattle, equines, small ruminants)
  - Hoof care
  - Pasture access
  - Quality of care
  - Pain and stress (cattle only)



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EURCAW Ruminants & Equines
European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare

Work programmes 2021-2027

- Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)

2026
- Transporting cows in relation to delivery
- The principle of unnecessary suffering
- Lead poisoning in cattle
- Space requirements for mares kept with their foals until weaning
- Stunning buffaloes at slaughter
- Glycerol in water as anti-freeze during transport

2025
- Feeding of cattle in abattoirs
- Need for veterinary care
- Oesophageal tube feeding of dairy calves
- Preparedness plans for livestock welfare emergencies during natural disasters
- Social contact and freedom of movement in horses
- Shelter for robust breeds on pasture

2024
- Slaughter of lamoids
- Small trailers for horse transport
- Wind turbine effects on bovine
- Fasting intervals for equines
- Emergency killing of bovines and small ruminants
- On-farm application of electrical devices
- ABMs collected at slaughter to monitor on-farm welfare in cattle

2023
- Official training and certification
- Space allowance for cattle Appendix
- Space allowance for cattle
- Good husbandry practice for cattle (part 2)
- Good husbandry practice for cattle (part 1)

2022
- Care for male dairy calves
- Individually housed horses

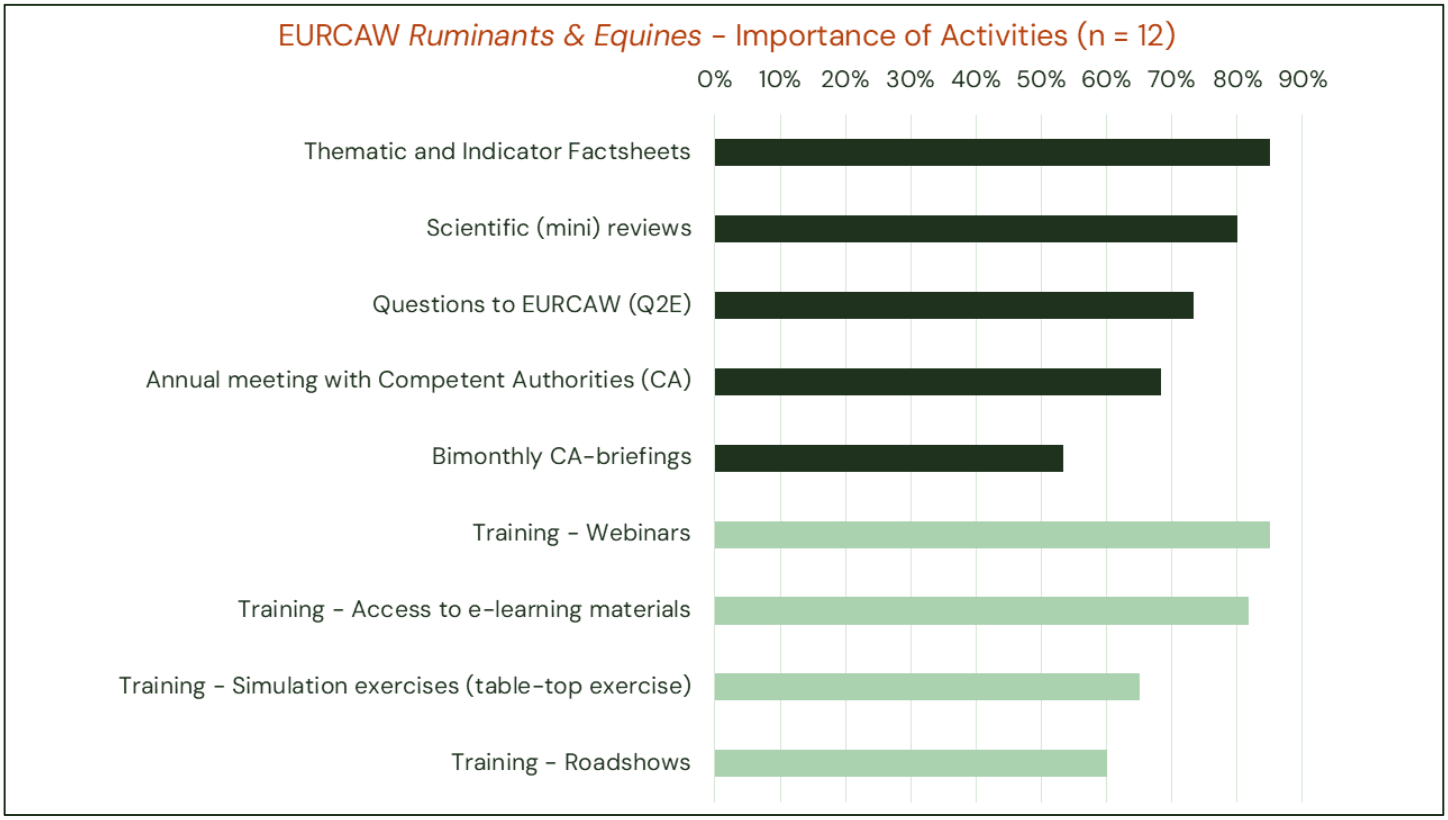
2021
- Housing standards for calves

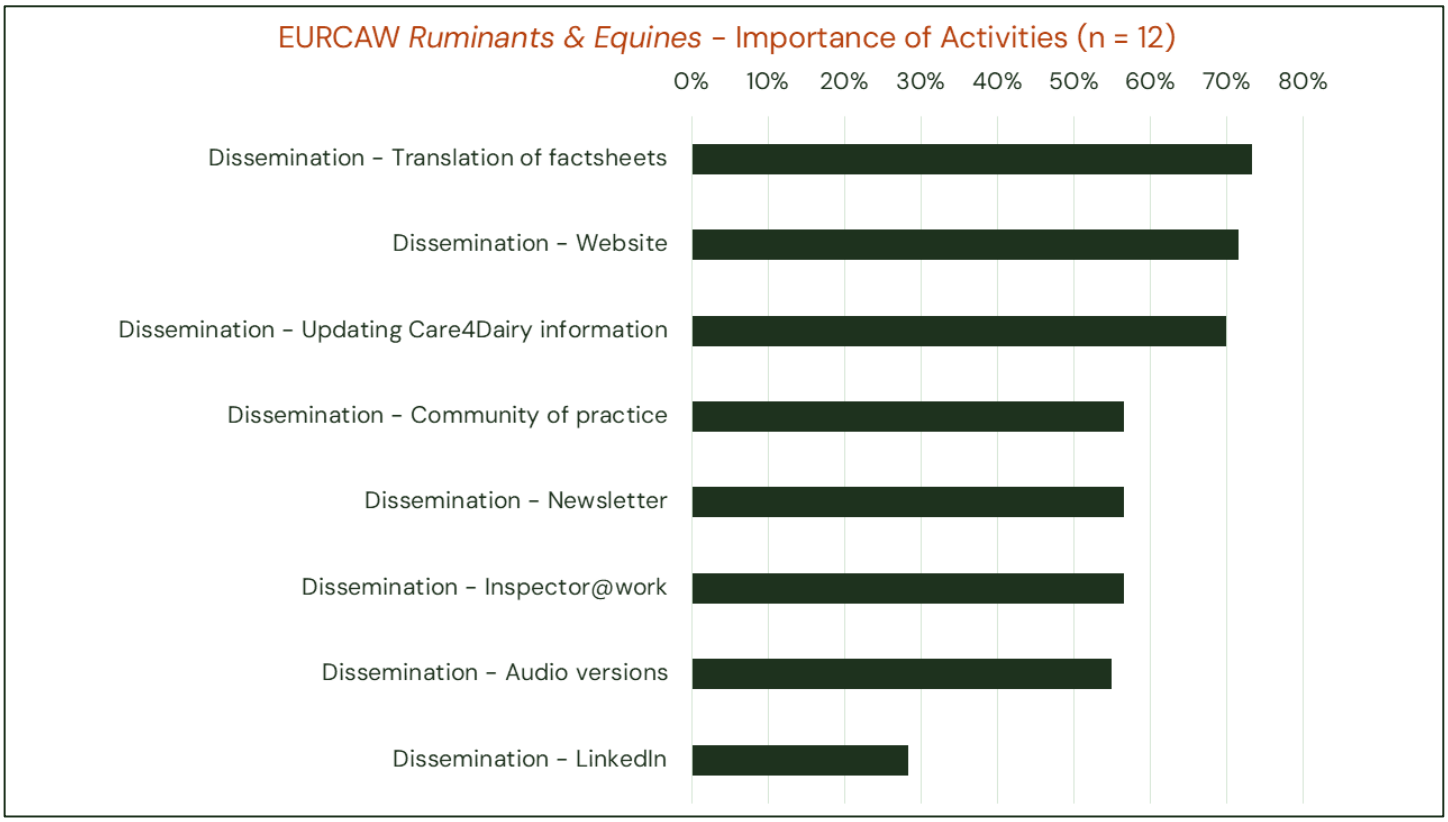
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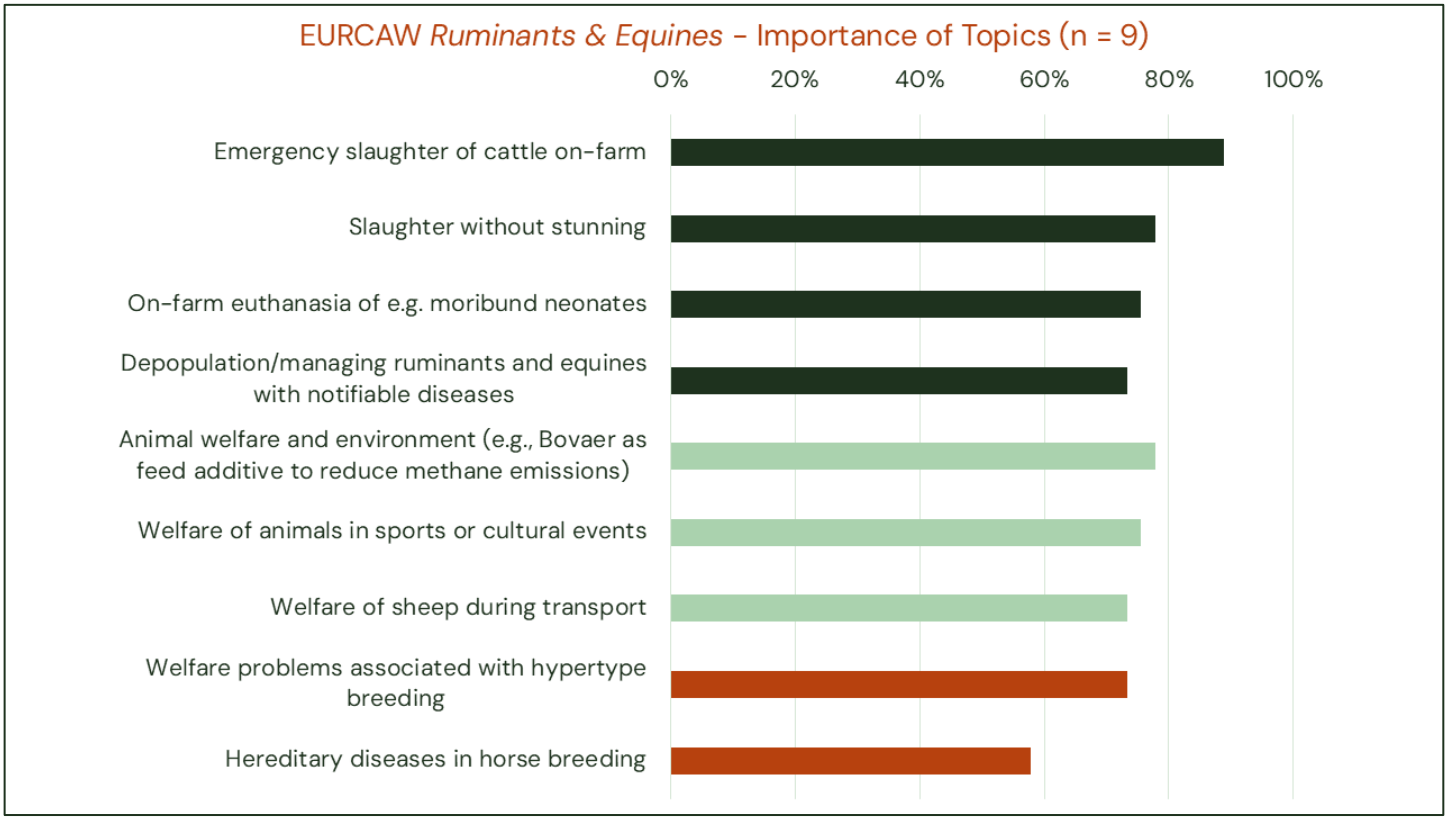
2.2 Group discussions on importance ratings of EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* activities and topics for 2028–2030

Prior to the meeting, a survey on the perceived importance of EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* activities and topics was shared with registered participants. The outcomes are provided in the following slides, which display the percentage of the maximum achievable points per item.




EURCAW Ruminants & Equines - Importance of Activities (n = 12)
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90%
Thematic and Indicator Factsheets
Scientific (mini) reviews
Questions to EURCAW (Q2E)
Annual meeting with Competent Authorities (CA)
Bimonthly CA-briefings
Training - Webinars
Training - Access to e-learning materials
Training - Simulation exercises (table-top exercise)
Training - Roadshows


EURCAW Ruminants & Equines - Importance of Activities (n = 12)
0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80%
Dissemination - Translation of factsheets
Dissemination - Website
Dissemination - Updating Care4Dairy information
Dissemination - Community of practice
Dissemination - Newsletter
Dissemination - Inspector@work
Dissemination - Audio versions
Dissemination - LinkedIn



Group discussions, with approximately 18 participants per group, were based on the above ratings and produced the following results:

2.2.1 EURCAW Ruminants & Equines – Activities for WP28–30

- Factsheets
  - Considered valuable and contain good scientific information
  - Used in teaching/training but maybe less practical during inspections
  - Volume of information probably too much for inspector on the ground
  - Accessibility could be improved
  - Translation into additional languages would be beneficial, since non-native language was considered a barrier
- Apps/inspection tools
  - Handbook for inspectors with checklists; not available digitally due to strict data protection regulations in one Member State
  - There is a national database for cattle/small ruminants/pigs in one Member State where all animals are listed (e.g. date of calving, slaughtered, dead, sold). CA can extract data on e.g. mortality on one single farm, but this is limited to the district where the CA is located.
- Are our services well known to you?
  - Simulation exercise is a new topic
  - Audio versions could work for the younger generation which does not have the language barrier with English

  - Dissemination efforts should be narrowed down (less is more), since target audience (i.e. Competent Authorities, National Reference Centres and Support Bodies) is clearly defined
  - Awareness and accessibility of training materials may be improved (e.g. structure of internet platform)
  - Training materials not reaching inspectors
  - One Member State offers monthly one hour training for inspectors and EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* could be included to present a recent publication of interest
- No comments on LinkedIn//bimonthly briefings
- Maybe introduce a new feature "Inspiring Examples" in dissemination (Alison)
- Recommendations or guidelines for the selection of animals to be assessed during inspection (e.g. sample size calculations as provided by EURCAW *Poultry-SFA;* How to deal with large (1000+ animals) herds? Which animals should be included? How many stables to include? Include sick animals?)
- Animal welfare indicators are collected at several stages e.g. at slaughterhouses but few of them are used in risk assessment protocols.
- Language barrier
  - Care4Dairy outputs are often used but translation programmes needed
  - English is a barrier in one Member State. Native language necessary for inspectors. The CA tries to translate EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* outputs but is short of staff
  - Can EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* meetings/training sessions/webinars be subtitled? It would help a lot to both listen to and read English

2.2.2 EURCAW Ruminants & Equines –Topics for WP28–30

- Protection from sun/insect harassment/wind/cold/rain for animals on pasture in areas where you cannot build shelters or plant trees. Big problem for CA since people report animals without shelter/shade.
- Requirements for lying areas for (pregnant) heifers
- Lameness is affecting 25 % of dairy cows. There doesn't seem to be a solution. Can the Centre dig into this? EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* has published factsheets on lameness in dairy cows
- Fitness for transport of lame animals – EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* has published factsheets on fitness for transport
- Provision of colostrum to calves – EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* has published a Thematic factsheet and an Indicator factsheet on the topic.
- Feeding of calves in fattening units. Farmers say it is expensive and not hygienic to use calf buckets with nipples, so they feed directly from a bucket or trough. This is a welfare problem.
- Weaning of calves and other animals under our remit, different methods and timing
- Health problems that influence animal welfare: mastitis and lameness in small ruminants
- Welfare of lambs in intensive fattening systems
- Quality of pasture, biosecurity, toxic plants, insects, protection from predators such as wolves
- Virtual fencing – use in some countries like Norway, do we need to update our response?

- Early warning systems in precision livestock farming to assess welfare issues for instance by additional ear tag. In the end, the farmer is responsible for the animal and has to react on the warning. Will he/she do it if there are too many warnings/too many animals?
- Validation of invasive vs. non-invasive sensor systems
- Breeding for unusual coat colours in equines is related to hereditary diseases
- Short transport (i.e. < 8 h) of cattle (especially calves) at inappropriate temperatures, since eligible temperature range only provided for long journeys.
- Tail docking of sheep
- On-farm slaughter of cattle (possibly extending to other species)
- Non-stun slaughter
- Transport of sheep
- Sport horse: tack/whip/oral lesion check has been suggested from the authorities.

3 Agenda

The agenda of the meeting is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Meeting agenda

Time	Topic/Activity	Speaker
09:00-09:05	Welcome address EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*	Jens Malmkvist EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*
09:05-09:10	Welcome address DG SANTE	Ana Maria Popa DG SANTE
	Keynotes	
09:10-09:20	Phasing-out tie-stalls in ruminants in Lower Saxony, Germany	Kathrin Herzog Lower Saxony State Office for Consumer Protection and Food Safety, Germany
09:20-09:30	Discussion	Plenum
09:30-09:40	Relevance of traceability in equine welfare	Francesco Cerasoli Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale, Italy
09:40-09:50	Discussion	Plenum
09:50-10:00	Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board – Improving equine welfare	Lynn Hillyer Chief Veterinary Officer and Head of Anti-Doping at IHRB, Ireland
10:00-10:10	Discussion	Plenum
10:10-10:20	Break	
	EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* Work Programme 2028-2030	
10:20-10:30	Review of previous work programmes 2021–2027	Josef Schenkenfelder EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*
10:30-11:15	Group discussions on importance ratings of EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* activities and topics for 2028-2030	Jens Malmkvist & Lena Tuominen Siobhan Mullan & Alison Hanlon Christoph Winkler & Josef Schenkenfelder EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*
11:15-11:30	Presentation of group discussions	Sibhan Mullan, Alison Hanlon, Lena Tuominen, Josef Schenkenfelder EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*
	Closing	
11:30-11:45	Wrap-up and closing of the meeting	Jens Malmkvist EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*

4 Participants

Of the 88 registered representatives of Competent Authorities 59 from 19 different Member States participated in the meeting. In addition, one representative from Norway joined the meeting. Table 2 gives an overview.

Table 2: List of participants

Member State	Registered	Participated	Role
Austria	2	1	Competent Authority
Belgium	1	1	Competent Authority
Bulgaria	1	1	Competent Authority
Croatia	0	0	
Cyprus	0	0	
Czechia	0	0	
Denmark	1	1	Competent Authority
Estonia	1	1	Competent Authority
Finland	2	2	Competent Authority
France	2	2	Competent Authority
Germany	55	33	Competent Authority
Greece	1	1	Competent Authority
Hungary	1	0	
Ireland	2	2	Competent Authority
Italy	0	1	Competent Authority
Latvia	1	1	Competent Authority
Lithuania	2	3	Competent Authority
Luxembourg	1	1	Competent Authority
Malta	0	0	
Netherlands	2	1	Competent Authority
Poland	0	0	
Portugal	5	1	Competent Authority
Romania	1	0	
Slovakia	0	0	
Slovenia	2	2	Competent Authority
Spain	3	2	Competent Authority
Sweden	2	2	Competent Authority
	1	1	DG SANTE
	9	9	EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*
Norway	1	1	Competent Authority

5 Final remarks

- Translation of documents into official languages remains an important factor regarding the usability of EURCAW's output
- Awareness of, and easy access to, EURCAW *Ruminants and Equines* publications are crucial to encourage their application
- Invite the CVO of the Member State that is currently holding the Presidency of the Council of the EU to the CA meetings

About EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*

EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* is the third European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare. It focuses on ruminant and equine welfare and legislation, and covers the entire life cycle from birth to the end of life. EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*' main objective is a harmonised compliance with EU legislation regarding welfare in EU Member States. This includes:

- Directive 98/58/EC concerning the protection of animals kept on farms;
- Regulations 1/2005/EC and 1099/2009/EC concerning their protection during transport and slaughter;
- Directive 2010/63/EU concerning the protection of animals used for scientific purposes;
- Directive 2008/119/EC laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* supports:

- Inspectors of Competent Authorities (CAs);
- Ruminant and equine welfare policy workers;
- Bodies supporting CAs with scientific expertise, training, and communication.

Website and contact

EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*' website offers relevant and actual information to support enforcement of ruminant and equine welfare legislation.

We offer a 'Questions to EURCAW' service for official inspectors, policy workers, and other personnel providing advice or support for official controls of ruminant and equine welfare in the EU. For more information go to https://www.eurcaw-ruminants-equines.eu/questions-to-eurcaw/.

Activities of EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines*

- Coordinated Assistance
  Providing support, networking and Questions to EURCAW;
- Welfare indicators, Assessment & Best Practice
  Identifying animal welfare indicators, including animal based, management based and resource-based indicators, that can be used to verify compliance with the EU legislation;
- Scientific and technical studies
  Preparing Scientific Reviews of knowledge on welfare topics and identify research needs;
- Training
  Developing training materials and training standards for official inspectors;
- Communication and Dissemination
  Increasing awareness of our outputs via the website, twitter, and newsletter;

Partners

EURCAW *Ruminants & Equines* receives funding from DG SANTE of the European Commission and represents a collaboration between the following six partner institutions:

- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden
- Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale dell'Abruzzo e del Molise "G. Caporale", Italy
- French National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment, France
- BOKU University, Vienna, Austria
- University College Dublin, Ireland
- Ellinikos Georgikos Organismos-Dimitra/Veterinary Research Institute, Greece