Member Services: Example Switzerland

Dominik Burger
Swiss Association of Equine Practitioners/
Swiss national Stud Avenches

Services of Association of Swiss Veterinarians

- Directory with addresses of members
- Website (partially restricted area)
- Journals
- E-mail Newsletter (once a week)
- Individual legal advice (about 250 questions per year, free of charge)
- Insurances for practitioners, for accidents in practice and for employment
- Organisation of veterinary days (“Vets”)
- Project “Intervision”

Services of Swiss Association of Equine Practitioners

- Website (partially restricted area)
- Advice in work related problems (server)
- E-mail Newsletter (once a month)
- Co-Organisation of Continuing Education
- Co-Organisation of seminars/congresses (reduced fees)
- Advice in tax planning
- Advice/guidelines in medication and medicines
- Spontaneous working groups (complementary medicine)
- Collaboration in “Working Group Horse in Switzerland”

Working Group Horse in Switzerland

80'000 equids
- 78 % horses and 22 % ponies, donkeys and mules
- 67'000 adult equids
- 80'000 equids for riding or driving
- 25'000 horses registered in sport/breeding association

8'000 horses with placings in show jumping competitions
- 2.5 – 4.3 placings per horse
- 6 mio winning fee

Working Group Horse in Switzerland

Localisation of horses:

Number of equids / km²:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CH</th>
<th>AT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```


Quelle: Office fédéral de l'agriculture 2005

Quelle: Negri Julien, Impacts sociaux, économiques et environnementaux du cheval en Suisse, Ecole supérieur d'agronomie, Nancy, 2005
85% of horses kept in agriculture:

- 1988: 10’000
- 1993: 20’000
- 2004: 30’000

Education of women and men:

- 4’200 brevets/year
- 500 (12%) licenses/year
- 8’200 license actives
- 87% women
- 10% >35-years-old

The welfare of the vet...

Report published under www.harasnational.ch

Important key figures and conclusions for politics and strategies and

for the welfare of the horse industry and

for the welfare of the equine practitioners…!

Mental problems/ excessive consummation of alcohol/drugs
- 15.1% of vets
  - > psycho-somatic problems
  - employed vets > independent vets
  - small animal vet > others

Burnout
- 20-30% with symptoms
- 46-65 years-old

Suicide rate
- Swiss vets 48% higher rate than normal population

Reasons:
- health risk ↑
- working time (48h/week; 15% of vets with 70h/week)
- stress
- difficult cases (euthanasia…) and clients
- bad income and acceptance of female vets
- bad work-life balance
- vets mostly idealists

Preventive programs:

France:
- non-profit organization since 2002 with 35 voluntary collaborators
- internet/telephone service
  - www.vets-entraide.com

Switzerland:
- first plenary session at “Vets 2007”
- start of project “Intervision”
Exemple « Intervision »

Methods:
• 6 group meetings of min 4 - max 10 vets per group, ideally without direct relation in daily work relation
• structured by moderation by professional coach (psychologist/mediator)
• groups formed by Association of Swiss Vets
• constant group composition after a first meeting
• meetings all 8 weeks ca. 2 hours

Exemple « Intervision »

Objectives of colleagues consulting:
• to develop individual solutions for specific situation of each participant and to profit hereby from experience and creativity of colleagues
• to ameliorate their professional conduct and to increase by that the working quality
• to work on questions concerning practical firm and staff management
• to prevent against burn-out

Exemple « Intervision »

Costs:
• 500 Euro for 6 “Intervision” meetings/ year
• first meeting taken into charge by Association of Swiss Vets

Vielen Dank für Eure Aufmerksamkeit!