



Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

FEEVA GA Arezzo Minutes 31 January 2013

Welcome from Giorgio, new president, thanks to past president (longest serving) and introduction of the new Board.

Introduction Round by attendees:

3 big common issues had been raised at Vienna: Medicines, Equine Vet Jobs, Veterinary Education.

Over-production of vet graduates in Europe is becoming more and more of an issue, for example the Ukraine will likely enter the EU in 2017 with 38,000 vets.

The Netherlands – 1000 students want to study, 200 allowed to study, Bachelor degree then a Master which is species specific, 90% female. Employment is harder. After 5 years they are leaving the profession, lack of support/tutoring/mentoring to new graduates more influential on this than the female demographic. Pressure on new grads is too much in practice. Similar in Portugal, Denmark – have to set up on themselves, lots of one vet practices. Vets and technicians have set minimal wages.

UK have 8 vet schools, 1100 graduates a year qualified to do any species (80% female), 25,000 vets total, approx. 10% equine and a 10% mixed with some equine. 1.2-1.4 million horses, 25,000TBs, native ponies, sports horses, Romany horses etc. Consult 50Euros, castration 250Euros, vaccination 40Euros, Xrays 200Euros+, starting salaries 20-30,000Euros, assistant salaries up to 40,000Euros, partners can be 100,000Euros.

Denmark. 1 vet school, 30-70Euro average consultation. 180 graduates/year (40 equine), general licence. 35,000Euros/yr new graduate, up to 90,000Euros for an experienced practice owner. Assistant contracts are very restrictive.

France. 4 Vet Schools in, plus Liege in Belgium. 500 grads from France and 100 from Liege (going back to France) per year. Increasing by 80/year. Many immigrant vets from Spain and Italy. Legal guidelines on new grad salaries, but private internships avoid this. AVEF looking into the working practices, because salaries and employment causing problems, so becoming a small part-practice owner is a better option legally. Increasing competition. Specialisation is a good thing, but unable to pay the correct salaries to specialists.

Latvia. 10,000 horses. 20 equine vets, less than 10 work exclusively with horses. Older vets sometimes earn less than young vets. 5000-20000 Euros income per year. Castration for 50-100 Euro. Many of country services and drugs are black market, so profession is dying. Most



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of the horse population has not seen a farrier or vet. Young vets go into small animal practice. Many horses are kept for work and tradition.

Sweden. More foreign graduates entering market than Swedish graduates. 2500 vets, 500 equine. 5 big hospitals. 20 bigger clinics, 20 smaller clinics. 300,000 horses, mainly warmbloods and standardbreds, plus Shetlands. Trotting racing is the main racing, little TB racing, very important to the rural economy. Recent reduction in breeding. 50Euro for a clinical exam/vaccination. 400 Euro for a castration. Av earning 30,000 Euro starting, 60,000 Euros top.

Portugal – 6 vet schools (incl 4 private). 6,000 registered vets, 400 new ones/year. 120 equine vets currently, 60 exclusively. 3 private clinics, plus vet schools, rest are ambulatory. Number of horses is unknown (eg when did door to door search for African Horse Sickness in 1989 found 4000 in one village). 12,000Euros/year new graduate if can get a job, many set up on their own. No wage regulation. Charges are very variable. 50Euros clin exam, vaccination 45Euros, 200Euros castration.

Belgium. 2 vet schools, Dutch study in the Flemish one and French in Liege. 400 grads/year, but many go back to Holland/France. 200 active equine vets (100 in each part). 80-90/year new grads have followed an equine track, but only 20% of this remain after a few years. 2 big private hospitals, 10 clinics. 250,000 horses. 50% sports, 50% “food producing”. Flanders: 200,000 employed in the horse business (?). 30,000Euros/yr as a graduate, up to 50/60,000Euros/yr if can get a job. Many self-employed and earning very little. Good top end of the industry. Xrays now being taken by non-vets, eg full set for 180Euros, and then given to vets to read (for 75Euros). 100Euros for a castration for one-vet practices. Discussion about xray regulation (lay personnel with a one day course going around stables xraying horses sent by vets but sometimes independently), safety issues of non-vets (those not employed by vets) taking xrays. Then discussion re dental technicians and their regulation. Impassioned plea from Claire from AVEF re political support of veterinary services.

Finland. 1 vet school which doesn't produce enough students, produces 75/yr. Links with Estonia to try and satisfy the vet jobs demand. 80,000 horses no racehorses and no meat horses, trotters and sports/hobby. Xrays very regulated and no portable machines, but owner/lay stud work has been a recent threat. Castration 500-600 Euros, vaccination 50 Euros, consultation 70Euros, 30,000 Euros starting salary. 60,000 Euros + for experienced vets.

Spain. 11 vet schools, 3 private. 1500 new vets/year. 500 equine vets. One third of new vets in Europe come from Italy and Spain. Very regionalised politics in Spain and every region



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wants a vet school. Massive over-production. 700,000 horses, only 3 racetracks. Many horses exported to Italy for human consumption. Clinical exam 150Euros, 30Euros vaccination, 200Euros castration, 25Euros/plate xrays.

Norway. 1 vet school, 80% female, 70 grads/yr plus about 70 educated in Eastern Europe (Hungary). Riding increasing, one TB racetrack, 10 trotting tracks, cold blooded trotting. Vaccination 45Euros, Castration 200-400Euros. Xrays 200Euros+. Salary 50,000Euros - 130,000Euros/yr. No unemployment, but changing expectations. Is economics driving male applicants away from vet profession?

Italy. 13 vet schools, 30,000 vets (500-600 equine), TB racing dying. Routine for new grad to work for free for 2 years. 2000 new grads/yr. Big employment / over-production.

Hungary. 1 vet school. 80 grads, foreign stream of 50. Set of xrays 200 Euros, vaccination 30Euros, castration 200Euros, 1 big clinic, 5 smaller clinics, 60 vets doing horses (20 exclusively), average profit is 6000-10000/yr.

Austria. 1 vet school. 25 equine streamed graduates, but many go back to Germany. Low paid graduates. 250 equine vets, 60Eurs vaccination, 350Euros castration, xrays 200Euros+. 200,000 horses.

Germany. 5 vet schools. 900 graduates, 600 jobs. 4 yrs in an equine practice and an exam to be an equine vet. 550 equine specialists, 900 mixed vets doing equine (apprx). 120 licensed equine clinics. 1 million horses. No central database. 150,000 registered sports horses, 300,000 equine jobs. 9 million riders. 50 Euros vaccine/consult, castration 200-600 Euros, 23-30Euros/xray. 25,000Euro starting salary, up to 50,000Euros (not regulated). 10yr qualification 80,000Euros+, government price list.

Switzerland. 90,000 horses (80,000 registered). 400 students at Berne and Zurich (linked) -> 80 students/yr. 270 members of equine association. 15,000Euros/horse industry. Prices cannot be published and no guidelines, but dearer than any previous quoted prices. Equine Specialist exams. 42,000Euros new grad, after 4yrs 70,000Euros, up to 140,000Euros.

Josh Slater did a powerpoint presentation summary. The FEEVA Board should take these messages to the FVE and EAEVE.

→ FEEVA Board to take key messages from delegates round to FVE and EAEVE



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Welcome to the WEVA Board representative

Ulrika Grönlund Andersson presentation on antimicrobial resistance.

Ulrika works for Infectious Diseases Institute in Uppsala. Produces an annual Swedish AMR Monitoring report.

Extended-spectrum betalactamases cause resistance to 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins such as ceftriaxone and ceftazidime.

E Coli and Klebsiella. Their mobile genetic elements, ESBL and pAmpC, are spreading around the world quickly due to human travel, often in urinary tract infections. Still treatable with carbapenems. Maddox et al (UK) in 65 equine practices using faecal swabs and questionnaires showed 6.3% of horses were ESBL producing. Any antimicrobial treatment increase the risk of TMS resistance but penicillin was not a risk factor. 3 papers showing admission to hospital increases the ESBL shedding and spreading on return to own yard. During antimicrobial treatment, resistance bacteria are favoured, and not only the target bacteria are affected. Also highly contaminated farms encourages the resistant bugs. Wounds and female genito-urinary tract favours ESBL E. coli (studies in the Netherlands and Swedish data). Klebsiella pneumonia carbapenemase is now endemic in southern Europe. New Delhi beta lactamase is emerging from the subcontinent. These are susceptible to colistin, variably to fosfomycin and tigecycline. No other treatments in the pipeline.

MRSA harbours the gene *mecA* and does not allow betalactam antibiotics to bind (amoxicillin . etc.) Gene transfer is rare, so it is a contagious bug, not existing Staph acquiring resistance. MRSA is susceptible to clindamycin, erythromycin, chloramphenicol and fusidic acid. Paper shows a MRSA nosocomial outbreak in an equine hospital was eliminated without antimicrobial treatment. Incidence of 0.6% in UK (Maddox), 0% in Sweden. Therefore MRSA is not a real problem in horses currently.

MRSP (*Staph pseudintermedius*) is common in dogs, has been found in horses but not a problem. Fusidic Acid only effective veterinary drug.

MRCoNS MR coag –ve Staph have recently found in a vet hospital, but only 22% multi-resistance.

Staph hemolyticus pure growth from a horse catheter with complete resistance.



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Four Take Home Messages:

1. Increasing reports of ESBLs.
2. Challenge of treating multi-resistance bugs
3. Risk factors for resistance: hospitalisation and AB use.
4. Zoonotic potential.

Multidrug resistance will lead to some infectious disease becoming untreatable and it will disrupt modern medicine such as cancer treatment, prosthesis, neonatal and intensive care. To minimise AMR improve hygiene and use ABs prudently (culture and sensitivity). If Penicillin is not a resistance driver, it should not be banned from competition horses. Message for FEEVA to take to the FEI/competition authorities?

→ FEEVA Board to consider taking message about penicillin not being a resistance driver to FEI/competition authorities?

Launch of the FEEVA AMR survey Dr Claire Scicluna

Claire presented on the antimicrobial use survey. 9/15 countries have responded. About to launch it to our member associations, so if there are any suggestions for changes then let the Board now asap

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?fromEmail=true&formkey=dFlwT05Cb1BMNm8zbEJlcGZPSk5qQXc6MQ>

→ All FEEVA members to promote and spread the FEEVA AMR survey

Disease Surveillance:

- Presentation regarding RESPE

RESPE - epidemiological observation, report and alert and to encourage good practice. Abortion, atypical myopathy etc. Online declaration, RESPE associated vets, samples sent to the lab (no lab fees), results sent to RESPE who also use other sources such as government and OIE, who can then send out alerts and/or activate the crisis unit. Vigirespe is a coded texting information system, available to equine professionals as well as vets, for rapid field informing. 2012 figures showed outbreaks of EHV myeloencephalopathy, influenza and EIA.



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Alerts do not show the precise location just the district. Input from several European countries now.

- Presentation regarding EQUINELLA by Daniel Meister

EQUINELLA set up in 1990. 42 reporting institutions, reporting on 20% of the equine population. Current report form, demarcates whether it is confirmed or not. Weekly report sent. Reporting has been decreasing each year since set up. In 2012 only 6 Pioplasmosis, 1 Anaplasmosis and 1 Strangles, from 6 institutions. Did an online survey with 90 respondents to try and move it forward and have a relaunch. There is a need for infectious disease monitoring relaunch, to include syndromic surveillance, with a government hosted meeting next month.

Update on the EUROPEAN HORSE NETWORK by Jesper Nielsen

EHN meetings with MEPs in Brussels, organise conferences, eg at Dublin this year. Meeting with MEPs at Brussels. Julia from UK, Kent from Sweden and Sean from Ireland plus a morning meeting with Vicky Ford (UK). Presentations on research given over lunch. The significance of the equine trade and movement was emphasised, the lack of disease surveillance and research, the need for medicine development. The importance of the horse industry in rural economic development, sustainability, and the benefits of riding to human well-being. Vicky Ford pointed out the complexities of vets doing PPEs in other EU countries. FEEVA needs to put a Keypoint document forward to the forthcoming Horizon 2020 EU research funds programme, stating the importance of equine research and to give examples.

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FEEVA PPE Project by Ben Mayes

PPE SURVEY/WORKING GROUP differences between countries, most countries have PPE panels. Germany has scoring system, giving of opinions, responsibility of vet to point out limitations, vulnerability to litigation. Plan to make documentation to protect the veterinary surgeon. Lively floor debate on this.



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Update FEEVA Transport Working Group

FEEVA TRANSPORT WORKING GROUP to draft a Code of Practice for equine transport by the end of 2013 for consultation in Spring 2014 and publication in June 2014. Partnered by World Horse Welfare.

→ FEEVE/WHW to take lead on developing guidelines for fitness of transport of horses

Update CALLISTO

CALLISTO zoonosis project headed by FVE. FEEVA to be represented by Juris.

→ Juris to represent FEEVA in CALLISTO project

Update VETCEE

VetCEE Equine acknowledged veterinarian development. Claire Scicluna to head up.

→ Claire to lead the Equine acknowledged veterinarian WG.

FEEVA AGM

Treasurer's Report. The just new treasure explained figures related to the 2012 year, which was influenced by several factors:

- Registering FEEVA officially and changing the accountancy from former German administrator to the FVE accountant
- Decision taken to pay travel and accommodation reimbursements for FEEVA Board members
- Some outstanding payments of 2011 membership fees
- Increased activity of FEEVA such as developing a medicine working group and expenses related to attending the EHN meetings.

All of them give us a loss result of more than 5000 €.



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The fact that FEEVA wants to continue its activities in 2013 such as by the new FEEVA working groups (medicines, diseases, transport, vetCEE, pre-purchase) will significantly increase the amount of losses for 2013. A discussion about how to face it from the passive hold without using the minimum reserves was established. As conclusions, the GA accepted not to increase the annual membership fee and was conscious of the future decrease on reserves, although each working group should try search some financial help by their own organisation. Regarding Art. 11, the Treasure asked to form a committee to audit the 2012 accountancy, and the Belgium delegate Filip Vandenberghe very kindly accepted to do it.

Secretary's Report. Access to the FEEVA pages of the FVE website was demonstrated. It is plan to establish a FEEVA dropbox.

Elections. Istvan Soos and Christine Hinterhofer stood for election to the Board. There was a vote. Christine was duly voted to the Board.

President's Report. Giorgio outlined programs for the year to come, thanked everyone for attending, the Speakers, and the retiring Board members Josh and Jesper.

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