



Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations

FEEVA GA Berlin MINUTES 27 October 2016

Location:

The FEEVA GA was kindly hosted at the Estrel Hotel in Berlin, in connection with the GPM/GEVA congress.

MINUTES

The meeting started at 9.00.

OPENING

Dr. Stefan Wachtarz warmly welcomed all FEEVA delegates to Berlin.

Medicines

Guest speaker **Rens van Dobbenburgh**, FVE Vice-President and Chair of the FVE/UEVP Medicines Working Group, presented an overview of the review of the medicines legislation in Europe.

His presentation included:

- An introduction to the EU structure
- An introduction to EU decision making process
- The different EU instruments (Regulation, Directives, etc) and institutions
- The structure of FVE and how FEEVA interacts with FVE (FEEVA is UEVP member and also member of the medicines working group and the animal welfare working group)
- An introduction on how the vet medicines legislation is written and the state-of-play
- The main points in the legislation still under discussion important for our profession:
 - Economic incentives prescriber antibiotics forbidden
 - No single market which is a pity for availability
 - Cascade' allowed when 'veterinary need', instead of for unnecessary suffering
 - 'Cascade' human antibiotics only after approval competent authority!
 - Off-label possibility should continue
 - Definition 'veterinary prescription'' by vet or by Suitable Qualified Person
 - Prescription valid European wide
 - Internet trade
 - Importance of diagnostics
 - Improvement of pharmacovigilance system

He especially thanked FEEVA to coordinating the horse answers to the 6 questions asked by the European Medicines Agency and the European Food Safety Agency regarding antimicrobial use in food-producing animals.

Claire Scicluna, FEEVA Vice-President, made a presentation regarding the availability of horse medicines and phenylbutazone. The therapeutic arsenal of medicines for horses is limited. Considering this, the EU has provided specific regulations for the horse industry to derogate from the principle that food animals can only be treated with active substances for which a Maximum Limit of Residues (MLR) has been established. Therefore, Regulation (EC) No 1950/2006 relating to veterinary medicines, establishes a list of essential substances and substances bringing added clinical benefit for the treatment of horses.

The 'essential and clinical benefit list' in Regulation 1950/2006 allows treatment of horses whose meat or products are intended for human consumption with listed substances considered as essential for equine diseases and/or presenting additional clinical benefit, even if these substances don't have a defined MRL. In these cases, a waiting period of six months must be respected before sending treated animals for human consumption. ANSES has analysed the exposition risk for the consumer at 6 months after the use of tenoic acid and phenylbutazone at recommended dosages in horses, and the local ophthalmic use of tetracaine, tetryzoline, rifamycine, synephrine and polymyxine B. ANSES concluded that "The results of the evaluation show that the risk to the consumer is considered as acceptable 6 months after treatment". Therefore, FEEVA would like to request to include tenoic acid, phenylbutazone for systemic use and tetracaine, tetryzoline, synephrine, rifamycine, polymyxine B for ophthalmic use on the list of substances bringing added clinical benefit for treatment in horses.

Rens van Dobbenburgh explained the FVE procedure to adopt position papers. The FVE Board had a long discussion on the horse availability paper and in the end decided that they want to support FEEVA in this and will try to tweak the paper in order to make it a bit stronger and to get it adopted within FVE.

In the following discussion Delegates mentioned that the use of fluorescein eye stain is a problem in the Netherlands and in Germany. When they use it, they have to exclude the horse from the food chain. However, fluorescein is on the essentials list so exclusion is not be needed.

See FEEVA/FVE leaflet:

http://www.fve.org/uploads/publications/docs/fve_bro_cascade_jan2014.pdf

It was mentioned that in Germany they have a problem with foals who can get their passport up to 6 months. Microchips and passport are given by breeding associations or FN in Germany, and german vets are not allowed to store chips. In France, they solved this by having the vet write the medication given in the stud book up until 6 months. This solution seemed not possible in all other countries. Another solution would be to microchip and have the passport earlier, but the problem is that often breeders do not want this. A solution could be the transponder and the digital dossier. In Denmark they have a similar problem and no solution has been found yet. Breeders often do not want to microchip the horse earlier. According to the legislation, vets are not allowed to treat the foal and should offer to euthanise it. Dr. Fussel asked to put up different scenarios which are problematic.

So far, two scenarios were found:

- a) The foal scenario, who legally is not obliged to have a passport issued yet, but still needs a passport to be treated medically by the vet in case of minor or major medical issues (i.e.

simple conjunctivitis). In this situation the vet will either have to wait for the passport to be processed or decline to treat the foal with the proper medications.

- b) The situation where the passport is sent to the issuing authority for updates (i.e. castration, intention for slaughter, additional microchip no. etc) and the horse needs medical care due to acute or non-acute illness during the period of time where the passport is not available for the treating vet.

Delegates were asked to report any other scenarios in respect to implications of EU regulation 262/2015 – the horse passport and identification in relation to veterinary treatment- to the FEEVA office (info@feeva.org).

ACTION POINT: FEEVA members to forward problematic scenarios in respect to the horse passport and the use of veterinary medicines.

Corporative companies

Ben Jacklin, UK, works for **CVS Group Plc**. After graduation he worked in Australia and in the UK, most of the time in non-corporate practices. He now works for Oaklands Veterinary Centre, which was bought by CVS a year ago after which they greatly renovated it.

CVS is a listed company, having more than 4000 employees of which more than 1000 vets. They have 369 vet practices with their own labs, their own distribution warehouse, their own online pharmacy, and will start their own insurance.

The first equine practice were only acquired recently. Now CVS has 16 equine practices, some purely equine and some mixed practice. Ben Jacklin is the equine director for CVS.

He sees as the advantages: employee benefits and terms, clinical governance, clinical research, health and safety, diverse career opportunities, formal new graduate training, support for undergraduates and capital expenditure.

Challenges are clinical freedom, consumer choice and private equity.

He explained the difference between private equity (purchasing business and turning them round to sell them with a profit over a couple of years) and corporate practices.

Heidi Kiiskinen, Finland, presented the Scandinavian practitioner perspective. It started in 2012. Evidensia is the biggest veterinary chain in North-Europe. The owner is an capital investment corporation, EQT. Evidensia has veterinary practices in Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands and Norway. In total they have about 170 vet practices. Evidensia bought Animagi and Univet in 2015. In Sweden, 70 to 80 % are now chain owned.

Some effects seen: no more interns, poorer education opportunities, stiff and heavy administration/organisation, available of different know-how (e.g. IT), strict policy with supply of drugs (contracts with certain pharmaceutical wholesalers) and strict policy with investments on equipment.

The effect on clients are that there is an uniform database, you have expertise within the same 'house' but they also saw an increase in price (Swedish insurance company Folksam estimated a 40% increase).

The effect on veterinarians is that it is good to have a uniform database, expertise is always available in 'house', the effects on wages (going down), smaller possibilities to be involved, they use young vets as nurses, none of the executives are veterinarians, daily turnover is closely followed and is unsure whether the employee of the month is a good thing.

In Evidensia you see that some key vets are leaving and that the firm has a 'branding problem'. The company had a lot of criticism on Facebook, such as on the high prices. Yesterday Evidensia in Finland just announced they will do a restructuration. It is unsure what this will mean.

Some debate followed:

- Some questions were asked about the salaries. In UK is around 50 000 to 150 000 Eur/year, in Finland average salaries is about 5000 Eur/month but they see the salaries decreasing.
- Worry is private equity, what will happen in the end?
- One benefit is that the hours are better with corporate practices, in Sweden they have a 24-hour out of hour's provision by the state, and the UK also has that in the companion animal field.
- In Equine practice CVS so far did not raise the fees, in companion animals they increased slightly the bills.
- Some delegates expressed concern that vets cannot serve two masters; either you serve animal health and welfare or you serve the company making money. Vets need to keep the independence to make professional decisions. It was argued that the same can apply to a private practice.
- It was suggested not to look so much at individual chains (Evidensia versus CVS) but to look more on the concept of corporate practices and their benefits and challenges. Corporate practices are here to stay. In the future, probably a more balanced situation will exist between corporate practices and privately owned practices, giving vets an opportunity to choose where they want to work.
- One of the most important points of veterinary association is to keep in close contact with corporate practices. This is already established in Denmark, where the corporate practices are member of the Danish Veterinary Association.
- It was also mentioned that we need more factual data rather than anecdotal data, to know what the difference in salaries is and vet and client satisfaction.

Impact of 'Brexit' vote on FEEVA and equine medicine

Mark Bowen immediate Past President of BEVA, presented the impact of the 'Brexit vote on equine medicine. It is very unclear yet what Brexit will mean, whether it will be a hard Brexit or a soft Brexit and what the implications will be for the veterinary profession. However, for BEVA it is very important or will become even more important to remain part of FEEVA. Same applies for RCVS and BVA, in FVE.

Now half of the new registrations with RCVS are coming from European – non-UK- vets. The RCVS has no mechanism to revoke authorisations given. However, in respect to visa issues, the status of EU nationals currently working in the UK will likely be an important negotiation point. The UK government is talking about allowing only a maximum number of people to come work in the UK.

What will happen to the provision of temporary services, such as for PPE's, is unsure.

What will happen to the tripartite agreement, horses freely moving between UK, FR and Ireland, is unsure.

What will happen to medicines centrally authorised through EMA, is unsure.

He suggested to have a deeper look in to why people voted 'Brexit'. Our society is changing. He also suggested for FEEVA to change such as to provide more services like education, IT platform, buying power and enable the equine profession to embrace change.

Giorgio Ricardi, thanked Mark Bowen for his presentation. He noted that there is no need to change the statutes as FEEVA can have members outside the European Union.

FEI activities

Dr. Mette Uldahl gave an oral update on FEI issues.

Animal Welfare activities

Helen Louton made a presentation on the welfare and ethics in relation to equine veterinary medicine. This presentation was co-authored with Prof. Thomas Blaha, from the Veterinary Association for Animal Welfare of Germany (TVT).

She presented the Germany 'ethic codex' in respect to horses. Through this code, German vets want to show that they act ethically correct in many areas of the profession and that they see themselves as a responding to a changing society.

A lot of discussion took place on the euthanasia of horses. In some countries, a veterinarian is only allowed to euthanize a horse if there is a strong justification and for welfare reasons. Not just when the owner demands for it. In other countries, euthanasia is also possible for other reasons. FEEVA members disagreed amongst what is ethically superior.

Ben Mayes, FEEVA Vice-President and part of the FVE/UEVP Animal Welfare Working Group (AW WG), reported on the activities done. The AW WG just has been renewed and will meet in two weeks for the first time. The old group adopted several statements such as on circus animals, stray dogs, welfare component of CPD and sustainability. The new AW WG now needs to make a new work plan, for horses it could include e.g. end of life and equine welfare in sports.

He also suggested FEEVA to set up an FEEVA Animal Welfare Working Group.

Update on Pre-Purchase Examinations: report third meeting and outcome

Update by Mette Uldahl/Ben Mayes

Mette Uldahl, presented orally the work done on in respect to Pre-Purchase Examinations (PPE's). The group held 3 symposiums in 3 years. The last one took place in Birmingham a couple of weeks ago. The aim is to exchange information, not really to reach for European harmonisation. Speakers from the FEEVA PPE working group, namely Mette Uldahl and Malcolm Morley have been invited to talk at the AVEF meeting on PPE, March 2017 in Roissy, France. The fourth FEEVA PPE symposium is scheduled in Bergen, Norway in February 2018.

Update on disease surveillance network

Miguel Llorca reported on the latest meeting held on disease surveillance in Warsaw, Poland, kindly hosted by the Veterinary Faculty. Sixteen people attended the network meeting. All the different systems were presented briefly. The meeting also included presentations on the disease surveillance for equine influenza, piroplasmiasis, equine herpesvirus and strangles.

The next meeting of the FEEVA Disease Surveillance Meeting is planned in Cluj Napoca, Romania in 2017.

European Horse Network

Claire Scicluna reported on the latest European Horse Network (EHN) activities. EHN is an MEP lobbying group for the equine industry. FEEVA an important contributor. EHN had a Board meeting in Brugge, Belgium early September which was attended by Jesper Moller Nielsen. EHN also held already 2 lunches in the European Parliament this year. The first one was in February and was about responsible equine ownership, the second one took place last week with a focus on the role of the place in society.

In the European Parliament, MEP Julie Girling also proposed an Own Initiative Report on Responsible Ownership. It is open for comments until 14 November. N. De Briyne will circulate it to all and invited all FEEVA members to forward comments to her before 7 November.

For more information about EHN: <http://www.europeanhorsenetwork.eu/>

ACTION: N. De Briyne to forward Own Initiative Report MEP Girling to all FEEVA delegates for commenting (deadline 7 November).

Digitalisation and equine medicines: study on microchip transponders measuring temperature

By Claire Scicluna and Aurelie Van Heyghen, Allflex (aurelievanheyghen@allflex-europe.com)

Aurelie Van Heyghen and Claire Scicluna presented a new ISO-compliant transponder with a temperature biosensor in equine medicine. A fully integrated system including an adapted microchip reader and an Application enables to monitor the individual temperature of the horse. Monitoring temperature can be an important tool to detect rapidly diseases, assess the Animal Welfare, but also to support the training of sport horses.

On implementation side, FEI has a standard to implant the transponder in the ligaments and the EU legislation transponder shall be implanted parenterally under aseptic conditions between the poll and withers in the middle of the neck in the area of the nuchal ligament.

ISO is setting up a standard for implementation of horses as annex to the standard they did on dogs and cats.

Some questions were asked that the implementation place of the chip, the life duration of the chip (as long as a normal chip), and sterility (same as normal chip), about horses that have already a chip (the possibility of issuing chips with similar numbers as existing chips is being discussed).

All participants were given a horse with a transponder with a temperature sensor and a reader.

FEEVA AGM MINUTES

Treasurer's report

2015 final rolling statement and balance

Miguel Llorca presented the FEEVA finances. He presented the final rolling statement and balance of 2015. FEEVA ended 2015 with a deficit of 2,857 Eur and a reserve left of 9,803 Eur. The losses are now levelling off but we still need to increase the income.

The **AGM discharged the 2015 FEEVA final rolling statement and balance.**

2016 rolling statement and 2017 budget

Miguel Llorca presented the 2016 rolling statement of income and expenditure and the 2017 budget. Both years are expected to end with a deficit between 1000 and 3000 Eur.

Elections

Giorgio Ricardi thanked very much Board members Miguel Llorca (FEEVA treasurer for 6 years!) and Juris Tolpeznikovs, FEEVA Vice-President.

The Board welcomed two new Board members namely Mette Uldahl (Denmark) and Stefan Wachtarz (Germany).

Membership Czech Republic

The Czech hippiatric association was unanimously accepted as a member after passionate speech by Jana Mezerova. The Czech hippiatric association has 83 active members. In October 2016 they had 86500 horses in the Czech Republic.

Website: www.cehis.cz

Next FEEVA GA and EMY's

Juan Antonio De Luque Ibañez, Spain, invited and welcomes all to next year's GA in Malaga on 25 May 2017 followed by the annual congress of AVEE on 26 and 27 May.

Mark Bowen offered to host the 2018 Annual Meetings in connection with the BEVA GA.

Next FEEVA GA and EMY's

A video message was received from the Portuguese Equine Veterinary Association. Unfortunately they could not attend the FEEVA GA this time, but are planning to join in Spain.

DRAFT

Annex II: List of participants: FEEVA Attendance list GA Lisbon 2015

Last Name	First Name	University/Company	Country
Collins	Donald	Veterinary Ireland	IRL
Bowen	Mark	BEVA	UK
Brignolo	Andrea M.	SIVE	IT
De Briyne	Nancy	FVE	BE
De Luque Ibañez	Juan Antonio	AVEE	ES
Gundel	Martin	GEVA	DE
Eskonen	Tiina	Evidensia equine clinic Laukaa	FIN
Hinterhofer	Christine	FEEVA	AU
Jacklin	Ben	Guest speaker	UK
Jandova	Vendula	Czech hippiatric association	CZ
Kiiskinen	Heidi	Guest speaker	FI
Kranenburg	Lieuwke	Utrecht Faculty/NEVA	NL
Lagerquist	Ulrika	Swedish Equine Veterinary Association	SE
Lassen	Kenneth Englund	DEVA	DK
Llorca	Miguel C	FEEVA	ES
Lucjan	Witkowski	Polish Equine Veterinary Association	PL
Malmgren	Lena	Swedish Equine Veterinary Ass	SE
Mayes	Ben	M & S EVP Ltd	UK
Meister	Daniel	SVPM-ASME	DE
Mezerova	Jana	Czech hippiatric association	CZ
Morar	Iancu	Romanian Equine Veterinary Association	RO
Paar	Michael	Klinik für Pferde Sottrum	DE
Peters	Julius	NEVA	NL
Pira	Kristine	FEEVA Latvian Equine vet. delegate	LV
Ricardi	Giorgio	FEEVA	UK
Scicluna	Claire	AVEF	FR
Soos	Istvan	Hungarian Equine Veterinary Association	HU
Tolpeznikovs	Juris	FEEVA	LV
Uldahl	Mette	Danish Veterinary Association	DK
Wachtarz	Stefan	GEVA/GPM	DE
Louton	Helen	Guest speaker	DE
Aurelie	Van Heyghen	Guest speaker	BE
Rens	Van Dobbenburgh	Guest speaker	FVE