Review of Transport Regulations.

Keith Meldrum
Veterinary and Political Advisor
Summary of revised Regulation for equidae 1/2005

- Improved vehicle standards and training of handlers (drinking water, ventilation temperature monitoring etc)
- Fitness to travel rules tightened
- GPS introduced as aid to monitoring journeys
- Single stalling on journeys over 8 hours and on RO/RO ferries
- Can only transport unbroken horses in groups of 4 or less
- Journey limits and stocking densities unchanged
- Registered horses still exempt from journey limits and logs
Revision Timetable

• In regulation

• Report to EP and Council within 4 years of January 2007

• May include proposals on journey times, resting periods and space allowances

• Commissioner intended to make proposals in 2009 to amend Regulation 1/2005

• Delay now until have new Commission
Proposals for Revision should include

- Revision of journey specifications
- Introduction of finite journey limits
- New space allowances
- New powers on GPS standards
- Many areas of tidying up
Where are we now!!

• Informal proposal in March didn’t proceed- included 9 hr limit to slaughter
• Informal proposal in August didn’t proceed- included 10 hr limit
• Key cabinets cannot agree because would restrict trade; also legal problems
• Now await new Commission as so contentious
• World Horse Welfare now lobbying new European Parliament
• Watch this space!
World Horse Welfare’s campaign goals

- An end to long distance transport to slaughter
- Slaughter in source country
- Horses to be recognised as having different needs from farm animals
- Improved welfare provisions during transport
Welfare abuse - unnecessary suffering is occurring
The story of one horse

• Endured a minimum of 18 to 24 hours on the lorry

• His journey was not over

• Up to 40 degrees heat

• Serious injuries- note legs

• Withdrawn and depressed

• No reaction to agitated horses tethered nearby

• Not interested in food / water.
Fear, suffering, injury
Exhaustion and dehydration
The disease time-bomb!

WorldHorseWelfare
the new name for the IIPHI

100,000 Horses. One Voice.
A threat to all horses

• A worrying proportion of slaughter horses display signs of disease: Our Scientific Research Team recorded in 2008 that on arrival in Italy, 9 out of 10 horses considered unfit for transport had more than one clinical sign of disease.

• The spread of infectious disease is a very real threat to our own horse population (Equine Infectious Anaemia, West Nile Virus).

• More and more competitive and leisure horses (not just high-value competition horses) are going to the continent to take part in events.
Equine Movements Into and Out of UK

• No information available on numbers as under Tripartite Agreement there are no veterinary certificates

• No entry on TRACES

• Do not export horses for slaughter

• Defra are commissioning some studies on horse movements
So why does this needless trade continue when a carcase trade is possible?

EU slaughterhouses registered for horses
Consumer demand or trade’s profit?
Economics

Lack of enforcement

= greater profit
Lack of consumer awareness

Labelling at slaughter…

...not source.
Our Dossier of Evidence

• Includes evidence from over eight years of desk and field research and a Scientific Research Study conducted in 2008 on 2790 animals transported into Italy for slaughter

• Study showed:-

• 14% of horses not fit to be transported

• In Italy 37% were unfit to travel

• Only 5% shipments in Romania were in compliance with the Regulations

• 28% animals in each shipment in Italy had one or more acute injuries
What has been achieved so far...

• Significant reduction in the number of transported long-distances to slaughter in Europe

• The introduction of tangible measures to improve the welfare of horses transported for slaughter – Regulation (EC) No 1/2005

• The re-examination of legislation to tackle the issue of journey times and space allowance

• Our findings have gone down well with the European Commission
Support so far...

Political Support:

• 70 signatures from MEPS on a Written Declaration supporting our aims

• 28 Parliamentary Questions in London on long-distance transportation of horses to slaughter since 2008

• Cross Party support, and support from many Member States

Public support:

• Over 107,000 petition signatures and still counting. Many supporters have also sent letters to the European Commission.
Written Declaration

• Notes the petition collected by World Horse Welfare on the long-distance transportation of horses to slaughter in Europe;

• Calls on the Commission and Member States effectively to scrutinise World Horse Welfare’s dossier of evidence in the context of the Commission’s review of Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005;

• Urges the Member States and the European Commission to robustly enforce Council Regulation (EC) 1/2005;

• Instructs its President to forward this declaration, together with the names of the signatories, to the Council, the Commission, and the parliaments and government of the Member States
Campaigning to end Europe’s biggest abuse of horses

- Short finite journey limits
- Adequate space allowance
- A definition for partition design
- Improved definition for unbroken horses
- Compulsory rest on entry to EU
- Rigorous enforcement of the current Regulation
- Review definition registered horses
Now seeking support for the Written Declaration in the European Parliament for the Commission to note our dossier and bring forward proposals to amend 1/2005
Thank you for listening