

**Selected summaries from the**

# **24<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL EQUINE FORUM**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016**

**The Institution of Mechanical Engineers  
One Birdcage Walk  
Westminster  
London**

**In partnership with the British Equestrian Federation**



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**PLEASE NOTE**

These selected summaries will be updated as and when more become available. Please note, not all presenters wish to include information following their presentation.

Please check the website for the updated versions – details of the date of update will be included on the front page. Information will also be posted on the Forum's Facebook page and Twitter account. [www.nationalequineforum.com](http://www.nationalequineforum.com)

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## THE HORSE INDUSTRY AND GOVERNMENT

### The Defra View

**George Eustice MP**, Minister of State for Farming, Food and the Marine Environment, Defra

Well Tim, thank you very much and it is a real pleasure to be here at my first National Equine Forum meeting and it's a real pleasure to have taken on the responsibility for this from Lord de Mauley, who you no doubt would have heard from before.

I grew up on a farm, and although I myself, didn't have horses, I had a donkey, and I've certainly got a sister who's been passionate about horses all of her life, usually having more horses than she could afford, and doing all sorts of things, including horse racing.

I know that this is an industry that is incredibly important to our country, its worth around 7 billion pounds a year, and got around 2 million people who ride regularly, and 3 ½ million people who ride in this country, and it's an industry that employs around 200,000 people in full time employment, most of these, of course, in rural areas.

We've really tried to emphasise, and recognise, the importance of this industry, for instance, last year, helping to secure a memorandum of understanding, and an agreement with China, for the export of horses. I think this a really important leisure pursuit for millions and millions of people in this country.

We've also got every reason to be proud of this industry, here in the UK, our industry, is absolutely internationally recognised as a centre for excellence, for expertise, and also for equine genetic resources.

Now today, you've asked me to give the view from Defra, and as you'll know, we are working very, very closely with you, and with all the organisations represented here, on a number of pieces of legislation, predominately European legislation that's coming down the track, which I want say a bit about in a minute.

First of all, I want to say, from us in Defra, that it's incredibly important that we have valued partners with expertise in these areas that we can work with as we develop some of these new regulations. In the past year we've obviously have worked closely together on the new Equine ID regulations coming from the European Union.

I think that Jan, in a moment, is going to tell you more about that, but, I just wanted to touch on it first of all. The objective of this particular regulation is to try and improve the horse passport regime throughout Europe, and to try to prevent a repeat, of the 'horse meat' scandal that we experienced a couple of years ago. I recognise there is an important balance to get right here, and we've had some really positive engagement with the passport issuing organisations. As you'll know, one of the things we've had to do is to try to put in place new standards. I'm really pleased that those PIO's all came together, and created a new template for passports, which is now available for everyone.

The other key component of the new Equine ID regulation is that there should be a new central database. Defra has always been clear, that we don't like doing much more than the basic statutory requirements, but I know with representations from a number of organisations, there was some additional functionality that some of you wanted to be added to that central database. Including, being able to register deaths, for instance, and we have added some of that functionality to the procurement exercise, which is currently out.

We hope to be able to have a provider in place, for the spring, and to complete that procurement process by spring, so that we can put in place this new database.

There are I know, some issues and concerns around enforcement, the equine ID regulation only concluded in Europe, last September, and there are a number of other issues that we've got to work towards in the meantime. For instance, decisions about whether in future we should require micro-chipping on the entire herd, including the historic herd, rather than just those horses, as now, that were born after 2009. That requires us to have a consultation, and work with you on this, as I want to get this right.

So, later this year we will be consulting on some of these issues so we can get this consultation completed and the regulation implemented in a way that works for you. In the meantime, I know there are a few concerns, therefore, around enforcement; we won't have in place necessarily the full legal powers necessary to enforce the requirements of the EU regulation which have already taken effect.

We believe we can get around this, we are working closely with local authorities, the regulations are now in force, and they do apply directly, and we believe we can ensure their provisions are enforced although there are some further details that need to be sorted out through that consultation. So on that Equine ID, I would like to thank all of you for being involved with that, in particular the Equine Sector Council, who I know has provided quite a lot of challenge to us all, with the policy areas here.

Over the past year, we have also seen some progress in other important areas; the Control of Horses Act took effect, which was in fact the last bill, actually, I took through, before the general election. I think that this has been a very important step change in the way we approach the problem of fly grazing.

We know there are thousands of ponies and horses that are often tethered and abandoned on local authority ditches, turned out into people's fields, and then moved on as soon as any action was taken under the old 1971 Act. So I think tightening up that Act so that people could intervene far sooner, and so that they have far more options for disposing of the horse rather than having to sell it at auction, it's now possible to give it to re-homing charities, and obviously also the sad end, if it is not possible to re-home those, creating the option for the horse to be euthanised, if that's the only option available.

I think that this new change is working quite well, from the feedback we're getting, is that shortening that time scale, before an intervention can be made, has definitely improved things.

The other thing we have been working on in the last year is updating all of our Animal Welfare Acts. I know that the Equine Sector Council have been doing some very good work, on the Code of Practice on

the welfare of horses, and I would like to thank all of you, for acting so quickly on this, and turning it around quickly.

I have to say that the first of these welfare codes that we have reviewed took some time, it was the one on poultry, and poultry is a very complicated business with lots of stakeholders and lots of different views, and it actually took a long time to reach a conclusion.

I remember saying, if it takes this long just to get one done, we will be here for decades before we do the rest. So I am really pleased to see that the Equine Sector Council acted very, very quickly and turned it around and revised the code, for those changes you wanted to make.

The new codes are going to be non-statutory, we are not going to put them on a statutory basis, and I know that's caused some concern, particularly with people like the RSPCA, but I hope I managed to reassure them that it does not affect the status of the codes at all, all it means having a statutory code is that it affects the way a court can refer to it. So rather than it being introduced as supporting evidence, as would happen under the new system, via the RSCPA or via the APHA, for the prosecution, in future someone will need to introduce into proceedings as part of their evidence, which I think they would do anyway as a crucial document, to bring any prosecution. As what used to happen technically in the past, the court could take account of the code, even if it wasn't formally introduced into proceedings.

So, it is largely a technical difference, rather than a real difference in the status of the code, I am assured, by our lawyers, that it's the same as if it would be on a statutory footing.

One of the things I have said, very clearly, to the RSCPA, is, if we find in two or 3 years' time, that people are finding these codes can't be relied on in the way, they believe they should be able to, and if it transpires that the legal advice we've got, doesn't hold true, we will absolutely return to putting them on a statutory basis, if that is what is required.

I am confident, that these codes will work on a non-statutory basis. The great advantage of them having a non-statutory footing is that there is greater flexibility, if we need to change them in the future we can revise them quite quickly, without having to find government time and the appetite you need to get, for quite large legislative changes you need for minor tweaks. So I think it gives us the flexibility to make sure they remain up to date.

There's a final area that we are looking at, at the moment, across the Department that is very important piece of consultation work on animal establishments. That is, we have a hotchpotch of legislation out there, mainly dated, from the 1950's and 1960's covering all sorts of animal establishments, from pet shops to people breeding puppies, right through, of course to, liveries and other riding establishments.

This means a lot of concern, in particular, around the pet trade, we've seen increasingly pets sold online on the internet, and people not realising that they should have a pet shop licence, even if they are just trading online, we need to tighten that up, and improve things there.

We've also got a problem with the lack of enforcement of licencing requirements for those breeding puppies. We do have a problem with backstreet breeders, who are not even on the radar of local

authorities, and quite often these are irresponsible people, and there's concern as well around exotic pets.

So the heart of the work we are doing is around these establishments, is undoubtedly around the pets and puppy trade where there is currently a lot of concern.

We are also looking at riding establishments, and I know there are fewer issues of concern, fewer tensions in this area. We are looking for instance, at whether introducing accreditation schemes as an option and an alternative to formal licencing from local authorities.

My approach throughout this, given that we have increasingly limited resources with local authorities, some of them have scaled back their trading standards departments, and some of them often don't have specialists in animal welfare. I think there is a lot to be said for introducing accreditation schemes that reputable people can sign up to, and that if they sign up to a UKAS accredited scheme, that shows they are caring for the welfare of their animals and complying with all the things they would need to comply with to get a local authority licence.

Let's save the local authority the bother of having to go and licence these establishments, let's give them an exemption if they sign up to an accreditation scheme, so I would like to get your feedback and your ideas on that.

The other thing we are looking at is whether we could take a more risk based approach to the term of licencing, rather than having to renew it every single year, and it quite often, probably only ending up a rather bureaucratic process the local authority have to go through, even though they have absolute confidence in a particular riding establishment. If that's the case, why don't we look at longer-term licences of maybe 3 years, or 5 years?

I would very much welcome your feedback on that consultation. I think it's still open, although my officials might correct me, it might be about to close but if you've got any thoughts on that do let me know.

Finally, I would just like to say, closer to home, for me in Cornwall, I know there has been quite a lot of concern around some of the ponies on Bodmin moor and we had a consultation last year with a very strong response to the idea of establishing a commons council on Bodmin moor to help take care of the welfare of those ponies. I am pleased to be able to say, that, that is now happening and the commons council, I think was literally established at the beginning of this week, so that has taken effect.

So in conclusion, I would just say, I think there is a lot that's been done, there's clearly more to do and we've got some challenges ahead of us, in terms of making the equine ID regulation work.

Finally, of course, we have got the 2016 Olympics this year. I cannot believe how quickly this Olympics has come around again, but I know we did incredibly well as Team GB on the equine team, last time getting three out of the six gold medals, and I would like to conclude in wishing our Team GBR in the equine sector the best of luck in Rio this year, thank you very much.

Chairman: Tim Brigstocke



Thank you very much Minister, we've got time for a couple of questions, we've got a couple of people with roaming mikes, please can you say who you are and where you are from. So has anyone got any burning issues? Some of these aspects the Minister has talked about, we will be picking up on later in this session.

Anybody got any burning issues they want to ask the Minister about? Yes, Una there?

Una Harley – Lipizzaner Society of Great Britain

I don't think you're going to be able to answer this in one sentence, but I'm sure that most of us in this room would like to know, if Defra expects the EU referendum that we are all going to be talking about. If, if, and I say if, if we were to be voted out of the EU, does Defra expect this to have any impact on any part of the equine industry that we should all know about?

George Eustice MP

Well, nothing like a question to put me in a difficult position. Well, I probably need to separate that the government obviously wants us to stay in the European Union and is arguing a remain vote, but the Prime Minister has given all Ministers, the option, if they want to, to campaign to leave. My own personal view is that we would be better off leaving, I think, the benefits for taking control of our legislation, ending supremacy of EU laws, being able to craft laws that work for us, for our circumstances. I think, is really important, there's a real premium in Government for being able to get things done, decide things, implement change quickly, and that's just very, very difficult, in my experience to achieve in a European level.

So the answer is, from your point of view, probably immensely simpler, we would be able to change things, and do things far more easily than we can now, but as I say that is a minority view. Defra at the moment is not doing any planning for a plan B option, should we leave. That's very much, something that would happen, if we did decide to leave, there would be a period of several years, where those types of issues would be worked out. I've given you my own personal view, and there are many other Ministers that would give a contrary view I'm sure.

Stephanie Evans – British Driving Society

Hello Minister, we are horse and carriage driving society, not motor cars, I assure you, two very quick questions. First of all the consultation you just mentioned on accreditation, if it is about to close, I didn't know about that, please could we have a small extension because I would very much like to respond in the next few days?

Secondly on horse passports, this is a really silly minor point, but it sort of is odd. When we have a deceased horse, we are told we have stamp the passport 'invalid,' which a lot of people are reading as 'invalid.' Which I can assure a dead horse is not an invalid, and also invalid to me, means it was never valid; can we just continue to stamp it deceased?

We are told under EU law, it insists on the word invalid on a deceased passport, people keep them as souvenirs, I know that it's got to be stamped with something, but maybe with something that actually means something?

George Eustice MP

Well that seems to me, on your latter point, seems to make entirely good sense, but I suspect it may, if there's an EU problem, it might be difficult to do that. I haven't come across this before. I'll certainly ask my policy officials sat here on the front row to take that away and think about it. I take your point, it's not that it was never invalid, but no longer valid because it is deceased, I can understand that.

On your former point I will check, if you write to me anyway, with your thoughts, at Defra, I will ensure that even if the consultation has formally closed, that we ensure any representations you've got are picked up on that. As I said, I suspect that the reason that you haven't come across your radar, although there were one or two suggestions for the equine sector, the real focus of this, and it has had quite a lot of attention and media interest, has been around pets and the puppy trade in particular.

Chairman: Tim Brigstocke

Thank you very much Minister. That has been a very useful start and many of the things the Minister has highlighted will be picked up during the rest of this session on the horse industry and government. So Minister, many thanks indeed.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]

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## Central Equine Database and Passports – where are we now?

**Jan Rogers**, Head of Equine Development, British Equestrian Federation

### **A New Database for a New Era**

This presentation contains a resume of and an update to the presentation made to the National Equine Forum in 2013 following on from the industry surveys. These surveys canvassed the views of 3,000 horse owners, 100 local authority enforcement agents, 600 veterinary surgeons, 54 Passport Issuing Organisations (PIOs) and two abattoirs. The responses clearly stated that the UK's horse passport regulations were in urgent need of simplification and strengthening. They revealed a dramatic lack of confidence and worrying shortcomings in most parts of a system meant to safeguard the human food chain.

The respondents called for a simpler system for identifying equines that was easy to understand, comply with and enforce, and which inspired public confidence.

What respondents asked for, in a nutshell, was a more robust set of PIO standards, universal microchipping and a single, central database. Any improved system, they said, would need significant education and communication about their responsibilities to our horses and to the safety of the food chain – and how we must all fulfil them.

Significantly, great inroads have been made in these areas. A new set of PIO minimum operating standards were introduced in 2014 and all PIOs have subsequently been audited in line with those standards. This resulted in a good deal of improvement and the delisting of certain PIOs which were not able to make the grade. On 1 January this year, a further set of PIO minimum standards came into force which raised the bar even further, requiring, amongst other things, a more consistently laid-out tamper resistant equine ID document and more stringent service standards and response times.

We asked for, and got, consigner responsibility at the abattoir, meaning that those delivering horses for slaughter are responsible for any residues those carcasses may contain. We also have the wherewithal for retrospective microchipping, since this provision is included within the new EU equine identification regulation 262/2015. The option for use of Fixed Penalty Notices, much favoured by enforcers for breaches of equine identification regulation, is still on the table but we have some way to go to see this beneficial option through to implementation.

Sadly though, weak enforcement was cited as a key reason why the passport system did not fulfil its purposes. Many local authorities admitted to not enforcing the regulations at all and often they had been given a lower priority in light of restricted resources. This remains a challenge, since regulation 504/2008 was repealed on 1 January, and no replacement domestic regulation is in place for the time being. This is the case in England at least.

With IT companies currently preparing their tenders for the central equine database, which does contain many of the recommendations made by the equine sector in response to the 2013 surveys, we hope

that it will be delivered on time, improve public confidence, increase understanding, simplify transactions and support compliance.

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## EU Animal Health Regulations Update – what do the changes mean for horse owners?

**Pamela Thompson**, Head of EU Team, Animal Health Policy and Implementation, Defra

Animal health is a major concern not just for animal keepers, but for the general public across the UK and Europe. It has important links to public health, animal welfare and food safety. When things go wrong, they can have devastating effects: for example, both the BSE crisis of the late 1990s and the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in 2001 caused economic losses of billions of pounds.

At an EU level, common rules and standards for animal health are important in order to allow the single market to operate. A harmonised approach is essential if animals are to be moved and traded freely among EU countries without harming animal, or public, health in any of them. For this reason, the EU began to adopt legislation on animal health soon after its formation, in 1964, and has continued to do so ever since.

On the whole, this legislation is considered to work well. It is, however, highly complex. Much of the legislation was adopted in a piecemeal fashion to respond to the needs of the moment. Some of it dates back fifty years and may now be outdated. For these reasons, a new EU Animal Health Regulation is currently being developed.

On 6 May 2013, the European Commission published a package of legislative proposals ('Smarter Rules for Safer Food') with the aim of strengthening standards along the whole agri-food chain. The package includes a proposed new Regulation on Animal Health. This Regulation will replace more than forty existing regulations and directives, some of which date back as far as 1964, and consolidate provisions on animal health into a single framework. Regulations on animal welfare will be largely unaffected.

The UK is broadly supportive of the EU Animal Health Regulation as a major step towards simplifying animal health legislation and making it easier to use for everyone involved. We think the new Regulation should focus on the outcomes to be achieved rather than the process and should target controls at the highest risks. We continue to remind the European institutions and the other Member States of the importance of these goals.

The Regulation is intended to be a framework setting down the principles of European animal health for the next 20 years. Negotiations on the base text of the Regulation have concluded and once the Regulation is published (expected to be April 2016), a five-year transition period will follow which means the Regulation becomes applicable in April 2021. Many impacts are as yet hard to predict, as they will be

determined by tertiary legislation developed during this transition period and we will continue working closely with the equine and other affected sectors to secure the best results for all.

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## INAUGURAL MEMORIAL LECTURE: ANIMAL HEALTH TRUST

The changing nature of the equine disease threat facing the United Kingdom

**Dr Richard Newton**, Head of Epidemiology and Disease Surveillance, Animal Health Trust

**AHT**

### The changing nature of the equine disease threat facing the United Kingdom

**Richard Newton FRCVS**  
*Animal Health Trust*

**AHT**

### Human diseases in the headlines

#### The Telegraph

Bird flu could be as deadly as the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic **26<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

Scientists must be allowed to work on deadly viruses in labs to ward off future outbreaks, Professor Derek Smith argues

Toddler playing with fruit bat sparked Ebola outbreak **18<sup>th</sup> June 2015**

The first victim of the Ebola epidemic may have contracted the virus after playing with a bat he found in the hollow of a tree

Zika outbreak 'could infect hundreds of thousands of people in Spain' **4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Scientists are concerned that the tiger mosquito, which is rife in Spain, could infect hundreds of thousands of people with the Zika virus

**BBC NEWS** Animal disease threats **AHT**

**Schmallenberg virus: Climate 'raising UK disease risk'** **2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012**

**FARMERS WEEKLY**

**Schmallenberg outbreak as calving begins** **20<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

Friday 20 March 2015 17:32

**Fears grow over bluetongue threat to UK** **20<sup>th</sup> January 2016**

Wednesday 20 January 2016 9:58

**AHT**

### Perhaps even more frightening?

#### The Telegraph

Tuberculosis rates in parts of London higher than Rwanda and Eritrea **27<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Areas of Hounslow, Brent, Harrow, Newham and Ealing found to have rates of TB that exceed World Health Organisation's 'high incidence' threshold

#### Outbreak News Today

Florida reports 5 leprosy cases in first 5 weeks of 2016 **8<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

Posted by Robert Herriman on February 8, 2016 // 1 Comment

**...but aren't TB and Leprosy diseases of old that had been eradicated from civilised society?**

**AHT**

### So what has all of this got to do with UK horses?

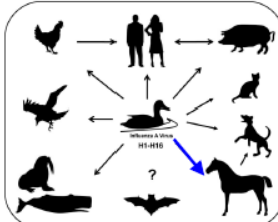
- Illustrate important aspects of *exotic* disease threats currently that apply to UK horses
  - Cross-species transmission of diseases
  - Changing global ecology of insect vector-borne diseases
  - Re-emergence of old and previously presumed conquered diseases

[But don't forget the *endemic* disease threats!]

**AHT**

### Cross-species transmission

- Threat of novel influenza strains in equids



## Cross-species transmission

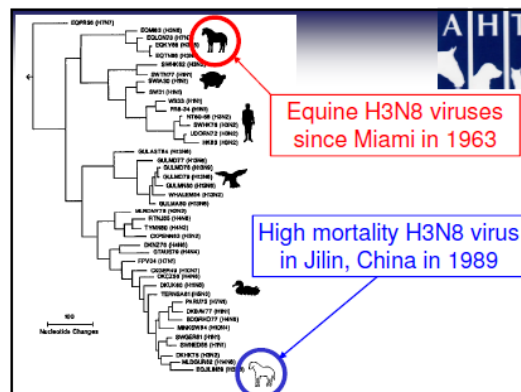
- Threat of novel influenza strains in equids

VIRIOLOGY 188, 245-255 (1992)

Characterization of a New Avian-like Influenza A Virus from Horses in China

YUANJI GUO,\* MIN WANG,\* YOSHIHIRO KAWAOKA,† OWEN GORMAN,† TOSHIHIRO ITO,† TAKEHIKO SAITO,† AND ROBERT G. WEBSTER†<sup>1</sup>

This report characterizes the H3N8 influenza viruses from each outbreak and suggests that the majority of genes are of recent avian origin and questions whether this virus will continue to spread or will disappear.



## Cross-species transmission

- Threat of novel influenza strains in equids

Abdel-Moneim et al., Journal of Biomedical Science 2010, 17:25  
http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/17/1/25

NSC  
The Journal of Biomedical Science  
An International Journal of Biomedical Science

RESEARCH Open Access

Isolation and characterization of highly pathogenic avian influenza virus subtype H5N1 from donkeys

Ahmed S Abdel-Moneim<sup>1,2</sup>, Ahmad E Abdel-Ghany<sup>3</sup> and Salama AS Shany<sup>4</sup>

Here we report the isolation of HPAI H5N1 from donkeys living in contact with diseased birds and demonstrate the presence of H5 seropositive ones in the neighbouring areas.

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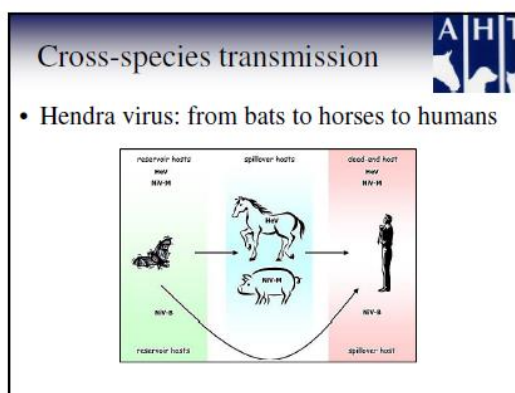
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Effective vaccines NOT immediately available!



## Cross-species transmission

- Hendra virus: from bats to horses to humans

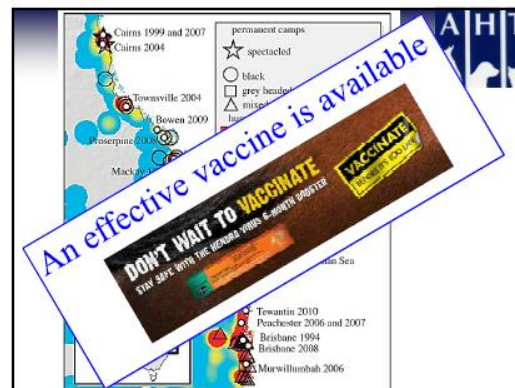
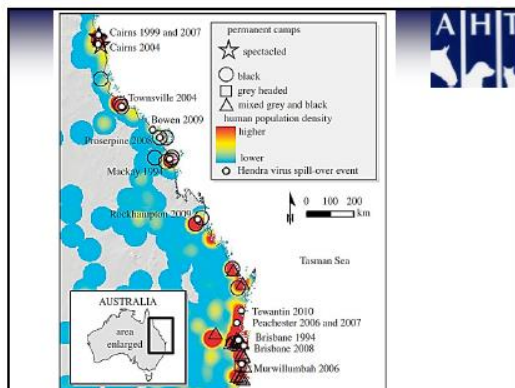
PROCEEDINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY B

Proc. R. Soc. B (2011) 278, 3703-3712  
doi:10.1098/rspb.2011.0822  
Published online 11 May 2011

Urban habituation, ecological connectivity and epidemic dampening: the emergence of Hendra virus from flying foxes (*Pteropus* spp.)

Raina K. Plowright<sup>1,2,3,4,\*</sup>, Patrick Foley<sup>4</sup>, Hume E. Field<sup>4</sup>, Andy P. Dobson<sup>6</sup>, Janet E. Foley<sup>5</sup>, Peggy Eby<sup>7</sup> and Peter Daszak<sup>3,6</sup>





## Vector-borne diseases

- WNV: a mosquito-borne threat

**West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle**

## Vector-borne diseases

Veterinary Record Case Reports

HORSES AND OTHER EQUIDS

**Suspect West Nile encephalitis in a horse imported into the UK from Europe**

A. R. Fooks,<sup>1</sup> D. L. Horton,<sup>1</sup> L. P. Phipps,<sup>1</sup> K. L. Mansfield,<sup>1</sup> F. McCracken,<sup>1</sup> C. L. Jeffries,<sup>1</sup> N. Johnson,<sup>1</sup> S. Wiggley,<sup>2</sup> R. Deuchande,<sup>3</sup> B. Toth,<sup>4</sup> R. Alzola<sup>5</sup>

**Equine Veterinary Education**

EQUINE VETERINARY EDUCATION  
Equine vet. Educ. (2016) 4, 1-4  
doi: 10.1111/evet.12565

**Case Report**

**Suspect West Nile virus encephalomyelitis in an imported horse in the UK**

S. Gonzalez-Medina<sup>1\*</sup>, R. Alzola<sup>2</sup> and J. R. Newlon<sup>3</sup>

## Vector-borne diseases

West Nile virus vector *Culex modestus* established in southern England

**Parasites & Vectors**

February 2012

## Vector-borne diseases

Enhanced West Nile virus surveillance in the North Kent marshes, UK

**Parasites & Vectors**

February 2015

Abundant *Cx. modestus* populations in wetland areas with large avian populations, particularly migratory birds, and co-incident with livestock and horses are ecosystems at increased risk of WNV introduction and maintenance [26].

## Vector-borne diseases

Enhanced West Nile virus surveillance in the North Kent marshes, UK

Abundant mosquito populations in wetland areas with particularly migratory birds, and stock and horses are ecosystems at high risk of WNV introduction and maintenance [26].

**Effective WNV vaccines are already licensed in the UK!**

Parasites & Pests 2015

## Midge-borne diseases

Are We Prepared for African Horse Sickness?

BTV-1  
BTV-2  
BTV-4  
BTV-8  
BTV-9  
BTV-15  
BTV-16

Environment  
No horses are threatened by deadly African virus

When disease hits sheep and cattle in England, fears that climate change could also bring in equine threat

## Dealing with the threat of AHS

- African Horse Sickness Working Group
  - Successful Defra/industry liaison
  - Legislation and contingency plan published in 2012

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
vsnul.defra.gov.uk

African Horse Sickness Control Strategy for Great Britain  
December 2012

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS  
2012 No. 2429  
ANIMALS, ENGLAND  
ANIMAL HEALTH  
The African Horse Sickness (England) Regulations 2012

Contents  
PART 1  
Introduction  
1. Citation, application and commencement  
2. Interpretation  
3. References to complex and additional obligations  
4. Exemption

## Challenges remain wrt AHS

Summary of the vaccine discussion group at iRESPE seminar on AHS held at OIE, Paris, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2016:

- Horse trade with Africa remains a concern because of AHS
- Current vaccines, although critically useful in the past, have severe limitations to be globally acceptable
- Equine industries in non-endemic countries are highly reluctant to accept live attenuated AHSV vaccines
- Vaccines represent a vital tool to combat outbreaks of AHS and should be used along with **effective diagnostic tests** and **appropriate surveillance strategies**
- The discussion group concluded that **safe, cheap, universal and DIVA AHSV vaccines** are needed, that can be used safely in any ecosystem or region

## Old and conquered – if only!

### Italy Responds to Equine Dourine Outbreak

By Equine Disease Quarterly | Jul 2, 2012 | Topics: Mare Care, Venereal Disease, Stallion Care

### Case of much-feared glanders confirmed in German horse

Horsestat.co.nz | 8 February 2015 10:01 am

### Swamp fever found in Cornish horse


© 3 October 2012 | Cornwall

A horse in Cornwall has been put down after tests confirmed it had the rare and highly contagious disease, swamp fever.



## Old and conquered – if only!

- Re-emergence of old and previously presumed conquered equine diseases
  - Dourine (*Trypanosoma equiperdum*)
    - Italy 2011 and Botswana 2016
  - Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)
    - Brazil and Germany 2015
  - Swamp fever (EIA virus)
    - EU regularly since Ireland in 2006
    - Florida 2016



Old and conquered – if only!

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  - Dourine (*Trypanosoma vivax*)
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  - Glanders (*Aspergillus mallei*)
    - Poland many 2015
  - Equine herpesvirus-1 (EIA virus)
    - Regularly since Ireland in 2006
  - Florida 2016

**Still NO effective vaccines**



Headlines at a year to Rio 2016

**the HORSE**

**Glanders Detected at 2016 Olympic Equestrian Facilities**  
 By Christa Leach-Lessner, MA | Aug 4, 2015 | Topics: Biosecurity, Olympics, International Horse Transport, Horse Industry News, Other Infectious Diseases

**HORSE+HOUND**

**Deadly disease found at Rio Olympic site**  
 Pippa Cuckson | 4 August, 2015 - 17:55 | 3 Comments


**EQUUS**

**Glanders: Rio 2016 Olympic Equestrian Site Latest Hot Spot for World-Stopping Disease**  
 Highly Contagious Zoonotic Disease Still a Threat in Countries like Brazil  
 By Fran Jurga | 9/22/15

Still challenges closer to home...

**HORSE+HOUND**

**National Stud in lockdown after equine herpes discovery**  
 Hannah Lemieux | 3 February, 2016 - 16:17 | 0 Comments



Still challenges closer to home...


**HORSE+HOUND**

**Redwings Horse Sanctuary confirms strangles outbreak**  
 Rachael Hook | 24 February, 2015 - 14:55 | 0 Comments



Concluding remarks

- Nature of the threat of infectious diseases facing humans and animals is not dissimilar
- Emerging and re-emerging infections/zoonoses
  - Cross-species transmission
  - Insects as vectors
  - Changing global distributions
- Recognising & understanding these threats are key to prevention & effective control
- Although impacts from new diseases may be very large, the burden of endemic disease remains high



Acknowledgements

**AHT** Animal Health Trust

**HBLB** HORSE RACE BETTING LEVY BOARD

**EQUINE** infectious disease service

**THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION**

**ROA**

## **BEHAVIOUR IN ALL WORKING EQUIDS**

**Ben Hart**, Donkey Behaviour Training Manager, The Donkey Sanctuary

### **Is understanding the behaviour of all working equids the new frontier of equine welfare?**

Whether they are pulling or carrying heavy loads in poor communities, in the service of police or armed services, used in Equine Assisted Therapy, involved in sport and competition or simply a happy hack, donkeys, horses and mules are all working in some form and they are generally misunderstood.

Often incorrectly labelled as stubborn, naughty, dominant, aggressive or just stupid, horses, donkeys and mules suffer the consequences of these labels. The new frontier of equine welfare is getting users of donkeys, horses and mules worldwide to understand the truth about their animal's true nature and behaviour. From this understanding grows changes in human behaviour that significantly impact the welfare of equines in all their areas of activity, as well as increasing the impact of other welfare encouraging programs such as harnessing, veterinary work, handling, health, nutrition and education programs.

This presentation will identify the four biggest obstacles to behavioural education everywhere in the world and what happens if you overcome them. We'll discover what happens if you interpret donkey behaviour on the horse scale and highlight the one thing that everyone can do right now to start the change process.

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## **GENETIC MANIPULATION IN HORSES**

**Dr Peter Webbon**, Chair, UK Equine Sector Council for Health and Welfare; Veterinary Advisor, International Studbook Committee

For hundreds of years, horses have been selectively bred to enhance and fix various performance criteria, so that they can run faster, jump higher or move more extravagantly than previous generations. However, less emphasis has been placed on selecting for non-performance criteria, such as durability, temperament or resistance to disease and injury.

The technology now exists, and is widely used in other domesticated animal species, to use genetic criteria to make decisions about breeding, purchasing or managing animals. In performance horses, athletic ability has been maximised by years of selective breeding, so the greatest potential of these new techniques lies in producing animals that are less susceptible to disease and injury and they are, therefore, more likely to realise their genetic, athletic potential. The benefits for equine sport and equine welfare could be substantial.

Inevitably, with any new technology, there will be those who attempt to exploit it for the wrong reasons and gene doping has been a concern in both human and equine sports for over a decade. Currently, it is thought unlikely that gene doping could be used to produce a predictable performance enhancing effect in horses, although both racing and breeding authorities have put in place Rules to deal with potential transgressions if they occur. In particular, any horse that has any modification to its heritable genome will no longer be eligible for registration as a Thoroughbred.

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**ALWAYS CONSULT THE PROFESSIONAL**

**Prof Derek Knottenbelt**, Consultant in Equine Internal Medicine, University of Glasgow

**No summary submitted**

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**Topical slot: GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES**

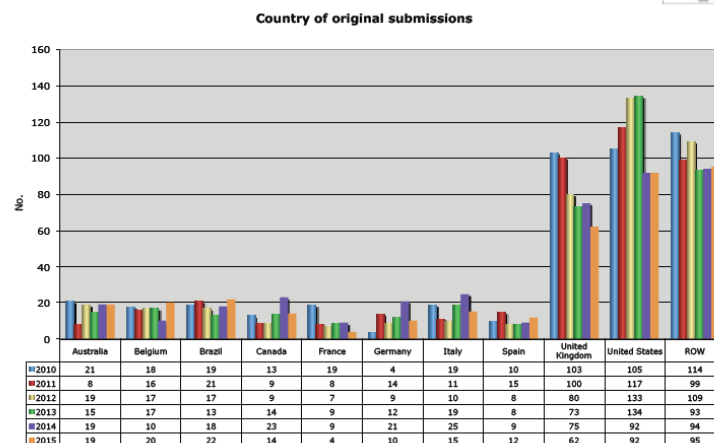
**Prof Celia Marr**, Editor, Equine Veterinary Journal; Chairman, Veterinary Advisory Committee, Horserace Betting Levy Board

# God helps those who help themselves

Celia M Marr



Where does equine veterinary research occur?





## Which horses are targeted?

Papers published 2015 and 2016 to date

	All papers	UK only	non-UK	UK's %
Not horse-use specific	27	7	20	26
Breeding and production	28		28	0
Endurance	2		2	0
General/pleasure	31	20	11	65
Geriatric	4	1	3	25
Polo	1	1	0	100
Racing	28	7	19	25
Sportshorse	12	1	11	8
Working Equid	5	1	4	20
Sub-totals	138	38	100	28



## What drives researchers' choice of topic?

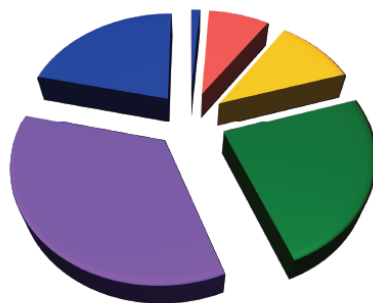
Follow the money!



- Externally funded research: Racing, Welfare and General horse topics
- Clinic-based research: General horse topics, Racing



**Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding's contribution to  
monitoring and preventing equine disease 2005-2014**  
**£17,290,185**



- Codes for breeders
- Disease surveillance at AHT's EIDS
- Influenza Programme at AHT
- Infectious disease research
- Research on prevention and treatment of other injuries and disease
- Education



EquiBioSafe



A "Thoroughbred" contribution to the  
nation's equine health



- Continual improvements to be made to a wide range of modern equine diagnostic tests
- Access to specialist pathology services & laboratory capacity to deal with high sample throughputs large disease outbreaks
- A proactive and prompt approach to be taken to investigate & control important endemic diseases e.g. neurological EHV1
- Provision of some subsidised laboratory testing to maintain
- Compliance with disease control measures & submission of samples during the clearance phase of an outbreak
- Access to expert epidemiological and disease control advice

# Sportshorse disease surveillance and research

- Sports and general horse populations currently benefit from Racehorse Owners/HBLB/TBA-funded disease surveillance
  - UK's equine veterinary research is declining
  - There is minimal sportshorse-targeted research in UK
  - Urgent action - and fund-raising - is needed to reverse and address this problem
-

***Topical slot: JUST A MATTER OF PROPORTION?***

**Tony Tyler**, Deputy Chief Executive, World Horse Welfare

**No summary submitted**

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***Topical slot: TWEETING FOR TOKYO***




**Natasha Adkinson**, International Para-Dressage Athlete, BEF World Class Podium Potential Programme



**No summary submitted**

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## THE CHALLENGES OF THE RIO OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES 2016

Dan Hughes, Equestrian Performance Director, British Equestrian Federation





# The Challenges of Rio 2016

Dan Hughes, BEF Performance Director

- Following London 2012 expectations of Team GB are high, as are the medal targets.
- For most staff and athletes this will be their first Away Games; it will be different.
- Rio is a very complex and interesting Olympic city, but can also be very distracting.
- Most venues are nearly ready, but there are ongoing concerns about the critical logistic and transport infrastructure, and of course disquiet about the zika virus;
- Distance from the UK, and a tight and overlapping competition schedule, mean we will have 3 teams and 120 people (athletes, grooms, owners, partners and staff etc.) in Rio at the same time during the Olympics; it is complex logistically;
- Managing the extant security, transport, logistic & health concerns is paramount;

**Key message:** Despite these challenges Rio will also present great opportunities. I expect the 2016 Olympics and Paralympics to be wonderful in every way. The Brazilian people are warm and welcoming and are determined to put on the best sporting show on earth. Expectations of Team GB are high and it is now up to us to fulfil those expectations, bring home the medals, and inspire the next generation of equestrian athletes, owners, breeders, organisers and supporters.

## THE PONY CLUB IN 2016

Pip Kirkby, Chief Executive, The Pony Club

### The Pony Club in 2016

- The Pony Club has been in existence for 86 years
- We are responding to wider social and demographic changes
- We can't stand still
- We are working with technology to upgrade our database and reviewing the website
- And we have conducted an extensive Brand Review
- Working with Harrison:Fraser

### The Pony Club in 2016

- It's how we speak to people, and how we represent ourselves
- Underpins membership recruitment drive
- In the context of a declining membership
- We must not, and cannot be paralysed by our fear of change
- There are great opportunities out there – with over 750,000 young people under 25 who ride regularly
- We must focus on attracting them – and we are putting the plans in place!
- Celebration

## **THE HORSE COMES FIRST**

**Dr Jenny Hall**, Chief Veterinary Officer, British Horseracing Authority

**No summary submitted**

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**The National Equine Forum is grateful for support from the following**

**SPONSORS 2016**

Bedmax  
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British Equestrian Trade Association  
British Equine Veterinary Association  
British Horse Society  
British Horseracing Authority  
Bulley Davey  
Craig Payne Photography  
Dodson & Horrell  
Donkey Sanctuary  
Hadlow College  
Horse Trust (The)  
Horserace Betting Levy Board  
Jeffress Scholarship Trust  
Knights Solicitors  
NFU Mutual  
South Essex Insurance Brokers  
Weatherbys  
World Horse Welfare



## **The National Equine Forum is grateful for support from the following**

### **FRIENDS of the FORUM 2016**

Anglo European Studbook  
Association of Fellows & Instructors of the British Horse Society  
Bransby Horses, Rescue & Welfare  
Stephanie Evans, British Driving Association  
John Parker, British Driving Association  
British Grooms Association  
British Horseracing Education and Standards Trust  
The Brooke  
Burghley Horse Trials  
Central Prefix Register  
Dartmoor Pony Society  
Exmoor Pony Society  
Walter & Jenifer Gilbey on behalf of The Sir Walter Gilbey Memorial Company Ltd  
International Miniature Horse and Pony Society and Toyhorse International  
Lipizzaner Society GB  
The Elise Pilkington Charitable Trust  
Ponies Association UK  
The Pony Club  
Lisa Randle  
Redwings Horse Sanctuary  
Riding for the Disabled Association  
Royal Agricultural University  
Side Saddle Association  
Sports Pony Studbook Society  
Stallion AI Services  
The Thoroughbred Breeders' Association  
Antony Wakeham MBE  
Warwickshire College  
Welsh Pony and Cob Society  
West Kington Stud  
Miles Williamson-Noble  
The Worshipful Company of Farriers  
The Worshipful Company of Saddlers

If you would like to suggest topics for consideration for a future Forum please e-mail:

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See you on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2017