Vets are uniquely placed and qualified in Society to support Animal Welfare (well being)

- Oath on graduation to Animal Welfare
- Increasing rhetoric of Animal Welfare in the EU
- And….Ethics
Veterinary ethics: Moral decisions
Last month EC published a reflection paper on harnessing globalisation. In it they say ‘The EU should continue to develop a balanced, rules-based and progressive trade and investment agenda that not only opens markets in a reciprocal way but also enhances global governance on issues like human rights, working conditions, food safety, public health, environmental protection and animal welfare.’
Animal Welfare

- Welfare essential part of FEEVA and FVE

- FEEVA representative on the FVE/UEVP Welfare Group

- Developing POSITION STATEMENTS
FEEVA developing its welfare role:

The FEEVA Equine Welfare Working Group (logo?)

After last GA, call went out for participants
Equine Welfare

The Story so far:


- Transport Guidelines, welfare guidelines, co-authored by FEEVA and WHW published last year
The guidelines:

This was the first research report to fully outline the scope, scale and welfare challenges of the EU’s equine sector. The report identified a number of key welfare concerns – most of which were ultimately due to a basic lack of knowledge among owners.
European parliament resolution on RESPONSIBLE OWNERSHIP AND CARE OF EQUIDAE (J Girling MEP)

Backed by 95% of MEPs and passed in March 2017

1. Allowing for the dissemination of basic information relating to the care of all equines across the EU
2. Empowering consumers to choose horse businesses with high welfare standards, and
3. Providing funding for smaller farms to be rewarded for high standards of equine welfare.
Commenting after the adoption, Julie Girling MEP, said: “I’m very happy that my report has passed through Parliament with such a large majority. Animal welfare has never been higher on our citizens’ agenda, and high standards are a mark of a civilised society. I look forward to close cooperation with the Commission to take these recommendations forward.”
SANCO/2014/G3/006
‘Pilot project on best practices for animal transport’
FEEVA developing its welfare role:

The FEEVA Equine Welfare Working Group (logo?)

- Develop our own position statements
BEVA have WELFARE position statements on their website on:

- Bitless Bridles
- Equine Embryo Transfer
- Equine Tack: Nosebands
- Branding
- Microchipping
- Post Race Endoscopy
- Racing Pregnant Mares
- Racing Two-Year-Old Thoroughbreds
- Ragwort
- Slaughter of Horses For Human Consumption
- Thermocautery
- Transport of Horses
- Use of the Whip

FOR EXAMPLE........
BEVA POSITION STATEMENT ON USE OF THE WHIP

BEVA accepts that a whip, like any other equestrian aid, is not per se, a risk to horse welfare. There are occasions in all equestrian sports when the use of a whip helps to keep horse and rider safe. However excessive or inappropriate use of a whip is always a welfare issue. The public have developed a heightened awareness of animal welfare issues and are becoming increasingly uneasy at the sight of horses being whipped either as a punish mentor as “encouragement” to enhance performance. Whilst the design of whips used in racing has improved immeasurably with the advent of the “air whip” which minimises pain and trauma, the principle of whipping still causes great concern and BEVA supports the ongoing campaign to penalise and eliminate inappropriate use of the whip in order that equestrian sport has maximum public support and continues to flourish.
THE SLAUGHTER OF HORSES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

BEVA recognises the need for a properly regulated, humane horse slaughter trade in the UK and abroad as an appropriate route for the disposal of horses, under some circumstances. Protection of public health, by ensuring the safety and security of the food chain, must demand that only horses suitable for human consumption are disposed of by this route. BEVA believe that such horses should be slaughtered as close to the point of origin as possible, keeping transport to a minimum. Where transportation is necessary, the horses’ welfare must remain paramount at all times, observing all regulation designed to address the needs of these animals. BEVA considers the consumption of horse meat to be a matter of individual choice, and remains neutral on the ethical considerations. Its concern for the welfare of the horse extends throughout the life of the horse, up to, and including, the point of slaughter.
FEEVA developing its welfare role:

The FEEVA Equine Welfare Working Group (logo?)

- Develop our own position statements
FEEVA General Assembly, uniquely positioned to advise the Group on the way forward:

19 member states with different concepts of welfare and priorities and FEEVA represents us all

ETHICS – CODEX (Dr Helen Loughton, last GA)
The FEEVA Equine Welfare Working Group to develop its own Position Statements

Longer Papers vs Short Statements vs Presentations need to be adopted and supported by FVE

- **End of Life**: Geriatric welfare, Euthanasia and disposal, transport for slaughter

- **Use of Horses in Sport**: responsibilities, medicines, firing, abuse, tack
Equine Welfare

The five freedoms

- Freedom from thirst and hunger
- Freedom from discomfort
- Freedom from pain, injury, and disease
- Freedom to express normal behavior
- Freedom from fear and distress
Horse hospitals
SMALL GROUP EXERCISE: YOUR PRIORITIES

©World Horse Welfare
Equine Welfare

- S  Specific
- M  Measurable
- A  Attainable
- R  Realistic
- T  Timely