Presentation overview

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About World Horse Welfare

World Horse Welfare is:

• Leading horse charity for 90 years
• Covers full spectrum of horse world
• Works in 5 continents
• Active in policymaking
What we do

• Dedicated to helping horses (equines) in need around the world

• Largest horse rescue and rehoming charity in UK

• Internationally – capacity building & empowering owners with practical knowledge to care for their working horses

• Education, research and campaigns

• Policy engagement

• Welfare of horses in sport – advisor to sport regulators
  (International Equestrian Federation & British Horseracing Authority)
Our involvement in the EU

• Shaping policy for 90 years
• Member of Eurogroup for Animal, European Horse Network and ICFAW (International Coalition for Animal Welfare – OIE)
• Small grants scheme – project in Romania (Asociația pentru Bunăstarea Cailor (ABC))
• Support in natural disasters – earthquake in Abruzzo (Italy)
European landscape

- Fitness and Watering guidelines with FEEVA (2015)
- Removing the Blinkers (2015)
- Horses in Our Hands (2016)
- Own initiative report on responsible ownership of equines (2017)
- Member of EU Platform for Animal Welfare (2017)
Role of Equids in Europe

Leisure
Leisure (assumed)
Working
Working (assumed)
Unknown
Reported Welfare Problems in EU

(Removing the Blinkers 2015)
Euthanasia options in Europe

- Major differences between EU member states
- Limited options for equine owners in many countries
- Possible negative welfare consequences in absence of available euthanasia options
UK welfare – in focus

- 8,000+ calls to our Welfare Hotline
- 16 Field Officers
- Around 1,400 welfare concerns investigated per year
- 300+ horses in our care at any time
- 350-450 horses admitted each year
- 1,700 horses in our rehoming scheme
UK welfare priorities

1. Unresolved stress/pain behaviour
2. Inappropriate nutrition
3. Inappropriate stabling/turnout
4. Delayed death

Horses in our Hands: University of Bristol 2016
What’s causing the problems?

- Overbreeding = large, unhandled groups
- Neglect/Fly-grazing
- Low market value/exclusion from food chain
- Lack of horse care knowledge
- Delayed death
Julie Girling’s MEP Own Initiative Report

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
3. Providing funding for smaller farms to be rewarded for high standards of equine welfare
EU platform on animal welfare

One of the key priorities of the Commission is to promote an enhanced dialogue on animal welfare issues that are relevant at EU level among competent authorities, businesses, civil society and scientists.

To achieve these priorities the Platform will assist the Commission with the development and exchange of coordinated actions on animal welfare with a particular focus on:

1. Better application of EU rules on animal welfare, through exchanges of information and best practices and the direct involvement of stakeholders.
2. The development and use of voluntary commitments by businesses to further improve animal welfare.
3. The promotion of EU animal welfare standards to valorise the market value of the Union’s products at the global level.

The tasks and operations of the ‘Platform on Animal Welfare’ have been set out in Commission Decision of 24 January 2017.

Call for applications

The Commission is calling for contributions from business and professional associations.

World Horse Welfare
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses
International programmes

• Empowering owners – knowledge to care for their working horses, donkeys and mules
• Capacity building – local partners for sustainable approach
• Training of equine care experts, including farriers, saddlers and vets/para-vets
• Partnerships with veterinary universities to help train equine vets
• Collaboration with governments and local organisations
What are the issues?
In conclusion...

• Global organisation improving lives of horses
• Welfare challenges worldwide
• Owners need education and support
• Policy engagement – importance of sector speaking with one voice
• Vital role played by equine vets
Thank you for listening!

@rolyowers

www.worldhorsewelfare.org