



**Ministry of Environment
and Food of Denmark**
Danish Veterinary and
Food Administration

Responsible ownership and care of equidae: outcome of the Platform's Members own initiative

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The voluntary initiative equine subgroup

Background

At the second meeting of the Platform one session focussed on horses

- Some members requested the formation of a subgroup on horses. The Danish member supported this and referred to the discussion paper, which was forwarded to the chairman of the Platform by the Dutch, German, Swedish, Belgian and Danish members

- The chairman of the Platform stressed
 - ✓ that it is possible for Platform members to establish informal subgroups,
 - ✓ that sharing of good practice is one of the priorities of the Platform, and
 - ✓ that the results can be reported to the Platform provided that they remain within the mandate of the Platform

- On this basis terms of reference for the voluntary initiative equine subgroup were drawn up, and Platform members were invited to indicate interest in becoming a member or nominate a candidate. At the same time Platform members were invited to comment on the discussion paper



The voluntary initiative equine subgroup

The members

Member States:

- ❖ Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, and the Netherlands

Business and professional organisations:

- ❖ ISAE, FVE, and Copa-Cogeca

Civil society organisations:

- ❖ World Horse Welfare, Eurogroup for Animals, and Animal's Angels

Independent experts:

- ❖ Two experts

Secretariat:

- ❖ Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare



The voluntary initiative equine subgroup

The work

The subgroup has taken reports on the EU equine sector into account, particularly

- Removing the Blinkers
- The Resolution of the European Parliament of 14 March 2017 on responsible ownership and care of equidae (2016/2078(INI))

Key areas of work include

- Discuss and amend the discussion paper 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses'
- Taking forward the Resolution of the European Parliament on responsible ownership and care of equidae

Meetings

- Two meetings have been held, and two more are planned



The voluntary initiative equine subgroup

The guides

Two guides

- one for horses
- one for donkeys, mules and hinnies

The guides present recommendations to good animal welfare practice

- ✓ They are not meant to replace any existing guide, guidelines or legislation
- ✓ They are in no way meant to be proposals / models for legislation
- ✓ They address areas where there is no specific EU-legislation
- ✓ They are addressed to persons, who owns or in other ways are engaged in the keeping etc. of horses, donkeys, mules or hinnies



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The guides – the (present) content

As an introductory part the guides describe the biological characteristics and behaviour

Horses, donkeys, mules and hinnies are kept and used in a number of different contexts - the aim is to design the guides in such a way that no matter in which context these animals are kept and used, most of the recommendations of the guides will apply. This means recommendations including (not a full list):

- ✓ Accommodation and outdoor keeping
- ✓ Care, including inspection, disease prevention, hoof and dental care, feed and water
- ✓ Handling and training
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Use – sport, leisure, tourism etc.
- ✓ Mutilations
- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ End of life considerations





Thank you – questions?