



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

Voluntary initiative on equines Responsible ownership and care of equidae

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The voluntary initiative on equines

The work

The voluntary initiative group held its first meeting in April 2018

- A discussion paper on horses was the first basis for the group's work. The inspiration for this paper was mainly
 - ❖ Removing the Blinkers
 - ❖ The Resolution of the European Parliament of 14 March 2017 on responsible ownership and care of equidae (2016/2078(INI))

Removing the blinkers and the Resolution both address equines, therefore it was clear that the group's work should cover both horses and donkeys - this means

- ✓ A guide for horses
- ✓ A guide for donkeys and donkey hybrids



The voluntary initiative on equines Status

June 2020

- ✓ At the meeting of the 6th meeting of Platform in October 2019 the guide on horses was acknowledged by platform members through a conclusion
- ✓ Today the guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids is presented for acknowledgement by Platform members through a conclusion
- ✓ Fact sheets based on the horse guide is under preparation



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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:

- ❖ One experts

Secretariat:

- ❖ Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare



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The guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids

- ✓ The guide address areas where there are no specific EU-legislation
- ✓ Donkeys and donkey hybrids are kept and used in a number of different contexts. The aim has been to design the guide in such a way that no matter in which context these animals are kept and used, most of the recommendations of the guide will apply.
- ✓ The guide does not in detail address working donkeys, as a standard addressing working equines has already been includes in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Chapter 7.12)
- ✓ The guide is not meant to replace, contradict or put in question any existing guide, guideline, charter or legislation
- ✓ The guide is addressed to persons, who owns or in other ways are engaged in the keeping etc. of donkeys and donkey hybrids



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The guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids

The structure of the guide:

- A short introduction and indication of the scope.
- A chapter on biological characteristics and behaviour
 - ✓ The idea behind this chapter on biological characteristics and behaviour is to give a short description of these important topics, and thus a better understanding of the recommendations.
 - ✓ The chapter on biological characteristics and behavior also mentions stoic and abnormal behaviours
- Chapters with the recommendations, which was assessed by the group as important to include.
- An annex with a glossary
- An annex on body condition scoring, as body condition is an important animal based indicator.



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The guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids

The chapters with recommendations cover the following:

- ✓ Contact with other donkeys and other animals
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Turnout
- ✓ Care
- ✓ Handling and training
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Working donkeys
- ✓ Donkeys used for other purposes
- ✓ Mutilations and trimming
- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ Assessment of the welfare of donkeys
- ✓ End of life considerations



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Closing remarks

The guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids was put up for consultation in order to give Platform members a possibility to comment

❖ The consultation did not result in comments.

The aim of the guide is to support responsible keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids, and thus help improve their welfare in the EU and beyond.

- To this end it is my hope that you – the Platform members – will be in a position to acknowledge ‘Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids’ and thereby agree on the dissemination of the guide
- The guide should be a living document that can be updated at some point
- Finally - the possible support from the Commission for the translation and dissemination of the guide would be of great added value





Thank you – questions?