



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

Voluntary initiative on equidae

Responsible ownership and care of equidae

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The voluntary initiative on equidae

Background

May 2014

- ✓ Commission meeting to explore welfare issues affecting equidae and the multifaceted equine sector in the European Union

May 2015

- ✓ The report 'Removing the Blinkers' was published

March 2017

- ✓ The European Parliament adopted a resolution on responsible ownership and care of equidae

November 2017

- ✓ The discussion paper 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses was forwarded to the chairman of the Platform by the Dutch, German, Swedish, Belgian and Danish members



The voluntary initiative on equidae Established

November 2017

- ✓ The second meeting of the EU Platform on animal welfare - one session focused on equidae

February 2018:

- ✓ 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

April 2018:

- ✓ The voluntary initiative group held its first meeting – up to now four meetings have been held



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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:

- ❖ Two experts

Secretariat:

- ❖ Eurogroup for Animals and World Horse Welfare



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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

- The discussion paper 'Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses'
- As both Removing the Blinkers and the Resolution of the European Parliament cover equidae, it was clear that the group should address both horses and donkeys
 - ✓ A guide for horses and a guide for donkeys and their hybrids
 - ✓ Fact sheets



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The work

The subgroup has now a restricted area in the Digital Tool of the Platform



Voluntary Initiative on Equines

The aim of the voluntary initiative on equines is to produce guides to good animal welfare practice and other material, e.g. fact sheets, which could support responsible care, training and use of equines, and thus improve equine welfare in the EU and beyond. One guide will address horses and another guide will address donkeys and donkey hybrids. The members of the voluntary initiative group found it appropriate to produce two guides, as horses and donkeys may have behaviours and needs different from one another.

The basis for discussions has been the discussion paper on horses, which was produced by Platform members from Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium and Denmark. Platform members were asked to comment on the paper in the initial phase.

The guides, when produced, are not meant to replace, contradict or put in question any existing legislation, charter, guide or guideline.

The voluntary initiative group is composed of 16 members either Platform members or persons appointed by Platform members.

[Participate >](#)

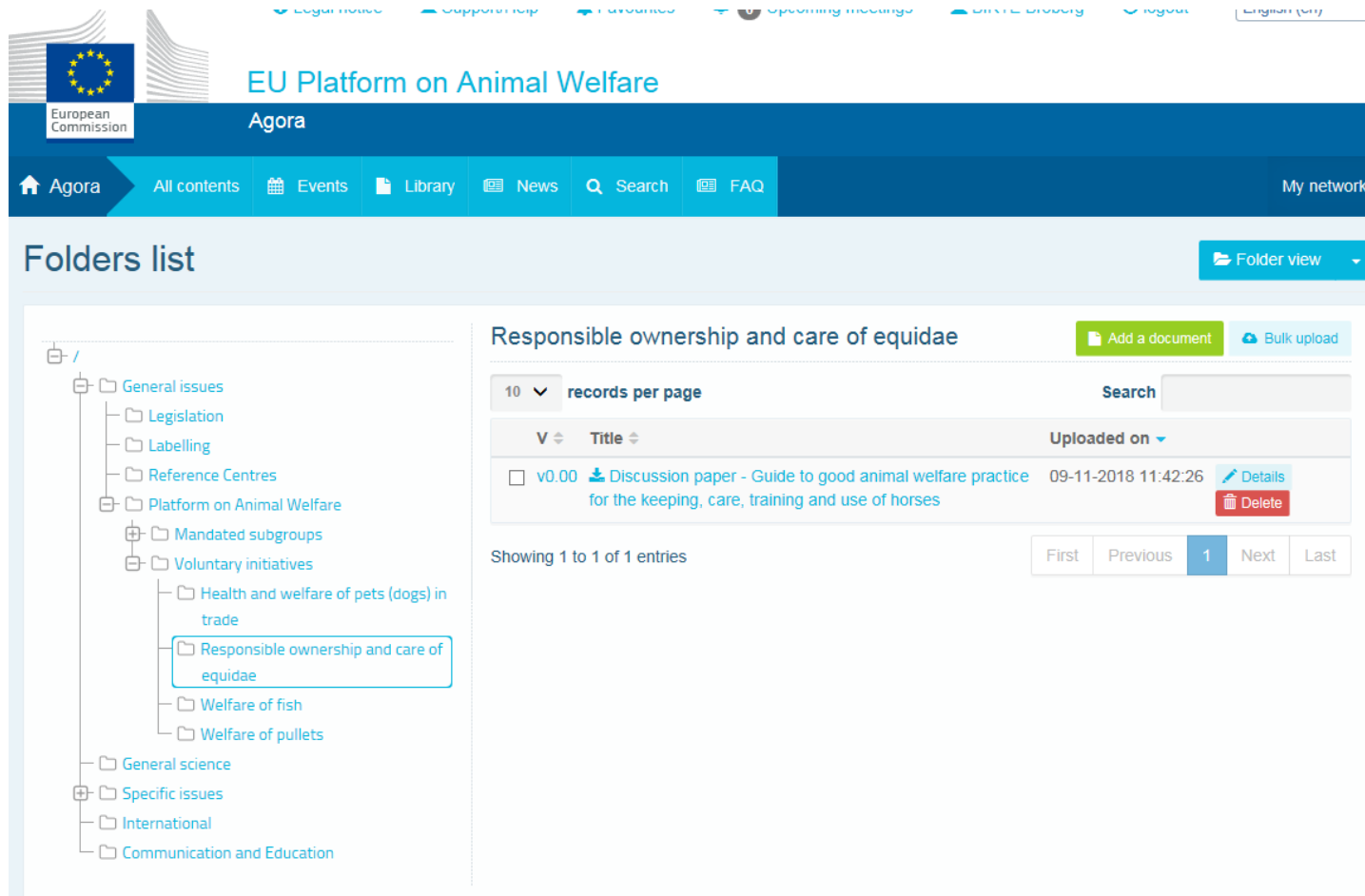
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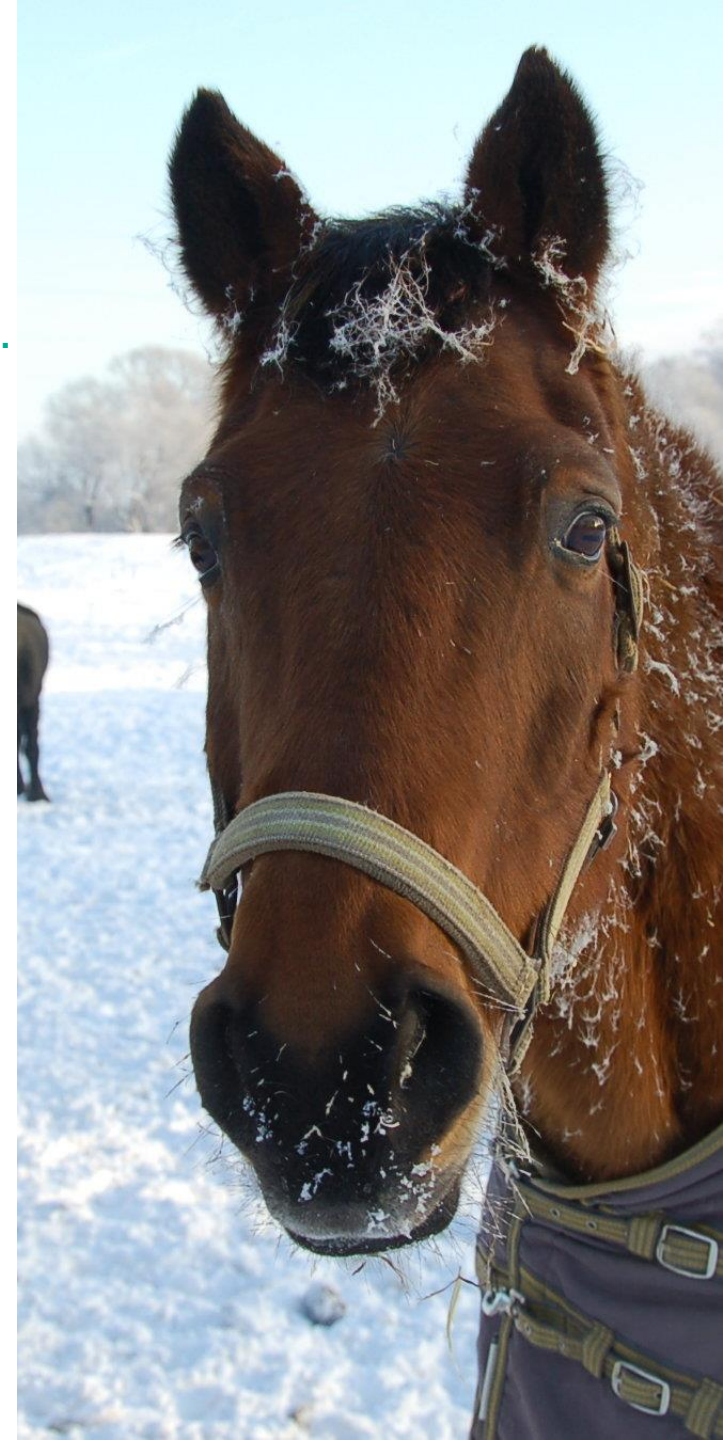
The voluntary initiative on equidae

The work

In the Agora Network of the Digital Tool a folder has been created, in which documents in relation to the work of the voluntary initiative group can be uploaded.



The screenshot shows the 'EU Platform on Animal Welfare' website. The navigation bar includes 'Agora', 'All contents', 'Events', 'Library', 'News', 'Search', and 'FAQ'. The main content area is titled 'Folders list' and shows a tree view of folders. The folder 'Responsible ownership and care of equidae' is selected and highlighted. Below the folder name, there are buttons for 'Add a document' and 'Bulk upload'. A table shows one document uploaded: 'v0.00 Discussion paper - Guide to good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of horses' on 09-11-2018 11:42:26. The table has columns for 'Title' and 'Uploaded on'. Navigation buttons for 'First', 'Previous', '1', 'Next', and 'Last' are visible at the bottom of the table.



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The guides

The guides present recommendations to good animal welfare practice

- ✓ Horses, donkeys and donkey hybrids 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.
- ✓ The guides does not in detail address working equines, as a standard addressing these equidae has already been included in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code (Chapter 7.12)
- ✓ The guides are not meant to replace, contradict or put in question any existing guide, guideline, charter or legislation
- ✓ The guides address areas where there are no specific EU-legislation



The voluntary initiative on equidae

The guides

As an introductory part the guide describes the biological characteristics and behaviour

Recommendations taking this into account include:

- ✓ Accommodation and outdoor keeping
- ✓ Care
 - including inspection, infectious diseases and biosecurity, veterinary care, routine health care, including vaccination, endoparasite monitoring, hoof and dental care, feed and water
- ✓ Handling and training
- ✓ Doping
- ✓ Equipment
- ✓ Use – sport, leisure, tourism etc.
- ✓ Mutilations
- ✓ Breeding
- ✓ End of life considerations
- ✓ Annex – Glossary
- ✓ Annex – Body condition scoring



The voluntary initiative on equidae

What's next?

The guide on horses will be finalised soon

The guide on donkeys and donkey hybrids is expected to be finalised during the first half of 2019

The aim of the guides is to support responsible keeping, care, training and use of equidae, and thus help improve equine welfare in the EU and beyond

..... but for this to be a success we will explore the possibilities to

- ✓ have the guides adopted according to Article 7 (6) of the Commission Decision of 24 January 2017 establishing the Commission Expert Group 'Platform on Animal Welfare'
- ✓ Have the guides translated





Thank you – questions?