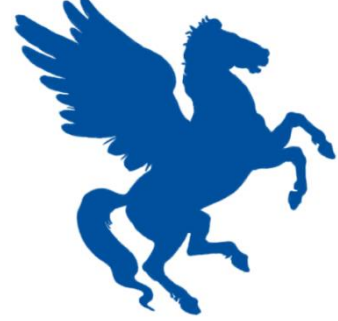


# Pegasus 2017

**An 'African Horse Sickness' Simulation Exercise  
in the Nordic and Baltic Countries  
on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

04 December 2017

# Introduction to the African Horse Sickness joint simulation exercise (1)



## Objectives

- To test the African Horse Sickness (AHS) contingency plan in the Nordic-Baltic countries
- To further develop the communication system established between the veterinary administrations of the Nordic-Baltic countries
- To improve the knowledge about AHS and disease control measures
- To improve the crisis communication between the Nordic-Baltic countries, and when to communicate with the public then to do it correctly, clear, relevant and consistently

## Participants

- The principal participants were Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Norway and Sweden. Iceland and Lithuania also took part in the exercise

## Resources

- The international exercise took place at 09:00 – 15:00 (GMT+2) on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017
- Some countries implemented a national simulation exercise – simultaneously or during 2 or more days
- The number of persons involved in the national and international exercise varied between the countries – from a few and up to 300 participants

# Introduction to the African Horse Sickness joint simulation exercise (2)



## Scenario and Injects

- On 6<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2017, AHS was confirmed in a stallion in SE that had taken part in the FEI EC in Gothenburg, SE on 21<sup>st</sup> -27<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- Horses from southern Europe had also attended the FEI EC, and 5 cases of AHS had been confirmed in the Mediterranean area.
- Suspect disease in a horse in SE near a premises which has recently imported zebra from DK
- Several horses in the Nordic-Baltic countries had participated in the FEI EC in SE
- Equine semen distributed from stallion located within 20 km from a premises with confirmed AHS
- According to national injects, AHS was confirmed in some countries

# Pegasus 2017: Maps illustrating movements scenario

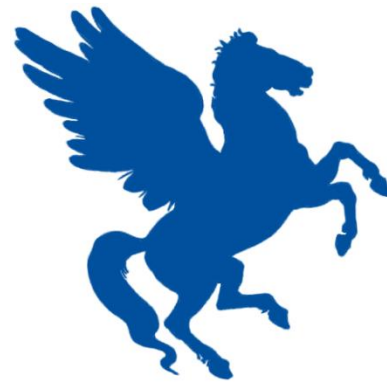
## A Horses



## B Semen and zebra



# Evaluation of the AHS joint simulation exercise



## Communications

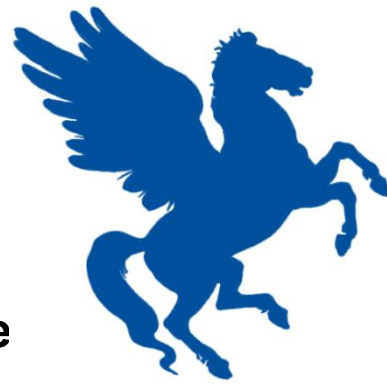
- Injects were communicated by Email
- Two Skype conferences were organised during the exercise
  - Information was shared on
    - The disease situation (outbreaks, suspected cases)
    - Communication to the public, control measures, including emergency vaccination

## Evaluation methodology

- An independent evaluator was appointed for the international aspects of the exercise
- Each participating country appointed a national evaluator
- A participant's questionnaire was provided for each participant (a number of part. in each country)
- A national evaluator questionnaire for each country was completed based on this information
- The independent evaluator
  - Attended the exercise in SE and was present for the Skype conferences
  - Produced an evaluation report based on an analysis of the national evaluator questionnaires and information collected during the implementation of the exercise

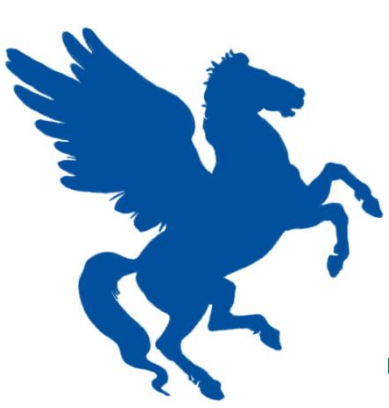


# Evaluation of the AHS joint simulation exercise



## Lessons learned and main Recommendations

- **Development of a communication strategy – e.g. information to horse owners and ve practitioners – is recommended to be included in the contingency plan**
- **Invitation of stakeholders to attend exercises and as members of expert groups is recommended**
- **With equine registers required by community law, it is not possible for the Competent Authorities to know where horses are resident**
- **Within the very large protection and surveillance zones, all premises where horses are resident should have a veterinary visit by the Competent Authorities – the current legislation should be reviewed with the aim to obtain an optimal surveillance using modern technology**
- **An update of Directive 92/35/EEC should be facilitated within the framework of AHL (2016/429)**
- **Skype conferences are very effective at sharing information, reaching a common understanding, e.g. on vaccination and the provision of information to the public**



**Thank you for your attention!**

