

Voluntary
Initiative on
responsible
ownership and
care of equidae

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30th June 2022

Current members and observers

10 Member States

- Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Greece, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and Spain

3 Business and professional organisations

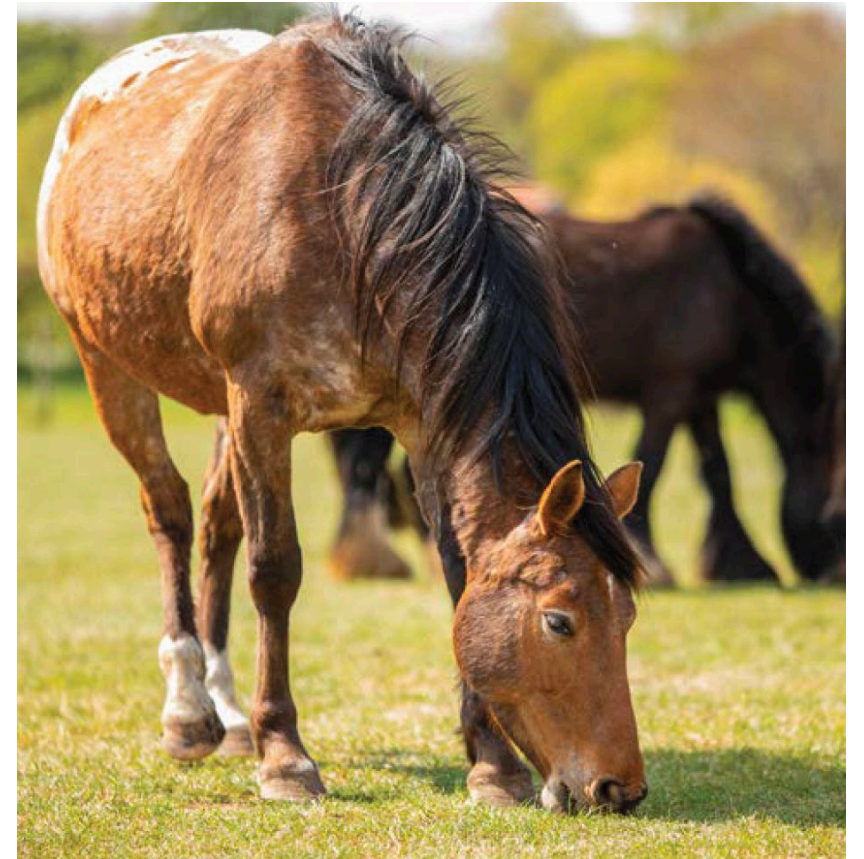
- Copa-Cogeca, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) and the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE)

4 Civil society organisations

- Animal's Angels, Eurogroup for Animals, World Horse Welfare, The Donkey Sanctuary

1 Academia/independent expert

- Joe Collins (Chair, Ireland), Michela Minero (University of Milano, Italy)



World of the Voluntary Initiative

Achievements to date

- Three sets of documents developed by the subgroup and acknowledged by the EU Platform so far:
 - Horse Guide
 - 7 factsheets based on the Horse Guide
 - Donkey Guide
- ✓ Available – together with the translated versions – online on EU Platform's website
- Both guides were translated into 10+ languages, such as Danish, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian and Spanish

Ongoing work

- Donkey factsheets
- Guides on working equids in tourism activities

Buone pratiche per il rispetto del benessere animale nella custodia, cura, addestramento e uso dei cavalli



Guia de boas práticas de bem-estar animal para criar, cuidar, treinar e utilizar burros e híbridos de burros



Przewodnik do zapewnienia dobrostanu w utrzymywaniu, opiece, treningu i użytkowaniu koni – broszura informacyjna

Woda

Konie powinny mieć **swobodny dostęp do wody** i nie powinny pozostawać bez wody dłużej niż 4 godziny.

Jak zapewnić prawidłowe warunki?

- Konie wolą pić wodę z **otwartej powierzchni**, ale łatwo uczą się korzystania z poideł.
- Sprzęt używany do pojenia powinien być utrzymany w czystości i ustawiony tak, aby minimalizować **zanieczyszczenie**.
- Kontrola systemów pojenia powinna mieć miejsce **codziennie**, a przepływ wody należy uregulować na poziomie ok. 8 litrów/minutę w celu umożliwienia odpowiedniego picia.
- Gdy temperatura spada poniżej zera musimy podjąć dodatkowe środki, np. zapewniając sprzęt do podgrzewania wody lub regularnie donosząc niezamrożoną wodę.
- W przypadku biegalni, padoków i pastwisk powinno się zadbać o zapewnienie **wystarczającej przestrzeni przy wodopoju**, dzięki czemu unikniemy konkurencji i agresji

wśród koni.



Konie wolą pić wodę z otwartej powierzchni. Zdjęcie poidea znajduje się w Przewodniku.

Ile wody wypija koń?
Zwykle konie wypijają od 5 do 10 % swojej masy ciała dziennie. Ilość wody, której potrzebują zależy od ich stopnia aktywności, temperatury otoczenia i zawartości wody w paszy. Kłaczki w trakcie laktacji, czy konie używane do wyczynowego sportu (np. wyścigów) mogą pić więcej.

Zdjęcia zamieszczone w broszurze służą zilustrowaniu niektórych z opisywanych warunków. Nie stanowią jedynego prawidłowego rozwiązania.

End-Of-Life decision making

Donkeys are generally longer-lived than horses: owners are very likely to face end-of-life decisions

How to make appropriate decisions for donkeys...

- Be prepared to act decisively and consult a veterinarian if a donkey is:
 - in severe suffering,
 - has a chronic or incurable condition that compromises welfare,
 - is non-responsive to treatment.
- Always ensure that the method of killing used is humane and causes the animal to lose consciousness irreversibly before death.
- If the donkey is 'pair-bonded' to others, ensure that these animals remain together at the time of killing and for a period afterwards – stress can be life-threatening for any donkey companion(s).
- If considering transport for slaughter, is the donkey fit for transport and is the journey as short as possible?



Allow donkeys sufficient time to accept the loss of a pair-bonded companion.



Hyperlipaemia is a common reason for euthanasia and also a frequent cause of death afterwards in bonded-donkey companions

How to perform humane killing?

- Consult a veterinarian about the methods available where your donkey lives.
- Be aware of the need for accurate placement of a free bullet or captive bolt and the need for rapid exsanguination after the latter.
- Discuss the options around chemical euthanasia using anaesthetic agents.
- Consider local regulations around the disposal of carcasses particular to the method employed.

Donkey factsheets

- 8 factsheets in total:
 - Accommodation
 - End of life
 - Feed & water
 - Handling & training
 - Hoof care
 - Welfare assessment
 - Working & production donkeys
 - Transport
- Based on the Donkey Guide + new/updated information
- Final stages, almost ready to be shared with the Platform members

Guidelines for Working Equids in Tourism Activities

- Under development – initial stage
- We will firstly focus on developing guidelines for business operators and authorities.
- We will then develop visual materials as guidance for tourists/users of activities involving equines

Working equids in tourism guidelines

Introduction	1
Issues faced by working equids in tourism	1
Guidance for business operators and authorities to ensure the welfare of working equids	3
Animal welfare requirements	3
Health condition	3
Hoof care	3
Weight (for carriages and others)	3
Equipment	3
Working hours	3
Feeding and watering	4
Environmental/climate conditions	4
Care during resting periods / incl. Accomodation	4
Knowledge of handlers, veterinarians, ferris and other people involved	4
Training	5
Transportation	5
Additional considerations	5
Licence/enforcement	5
Prices	5
Labels	6
Stakeholder engagement	6
Guidance for tourists/users to ensure responsible tourism respecting welfare of working equids	6
What are the appropriate living and working conditions of an equid	6
What to check and what to do when engaging with working equids	7
Health and state of the animal	7
Riding, weight and conditions	7
Where and to whom should you report something wrong	7





Next steps

- Having identified the real need in the field:
- We intend to present the Donkey Factsheets and the final guidance for business operators and authorities for Working Equids in Tourism to the next Platform meeting for acknowledgement.

Thank you

