

Voluntary Initiative on the Welfare of Equids (previously 'Responsible Ownership and Care of Equidae')

Engagement with DG SANTE on legislative proposals

'Kept Animals' Regulation
Transport Regulation – 1/2005
Slaughter Regulation – 1099/2009
(Animal welfare labelling)

Dr Joe Collins, PAW Independent Expert, Chair of the Voluntary Initiative

15th June 2023



Current members and observers

Member States

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

Business and professional organisations

- Copa-Cogeca, Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) via FEEVA, International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE), European Horse Network

Civil society organisations

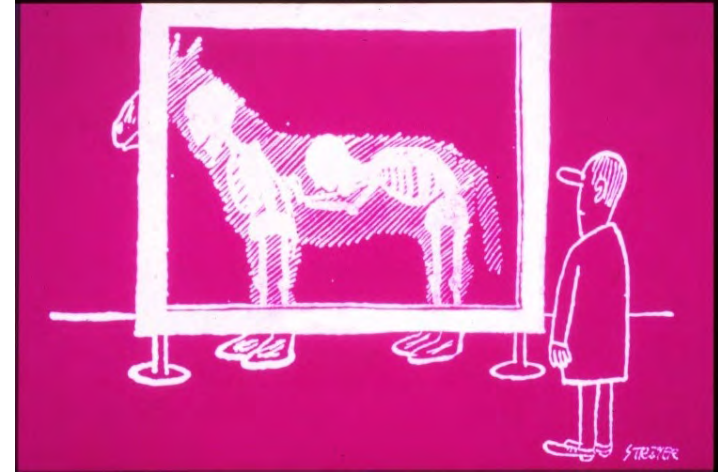
- Animal's Angels, Eurogroup for Animals, World Horse Welfare, The Donkey Sanctuary.

Academia/independent expert

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



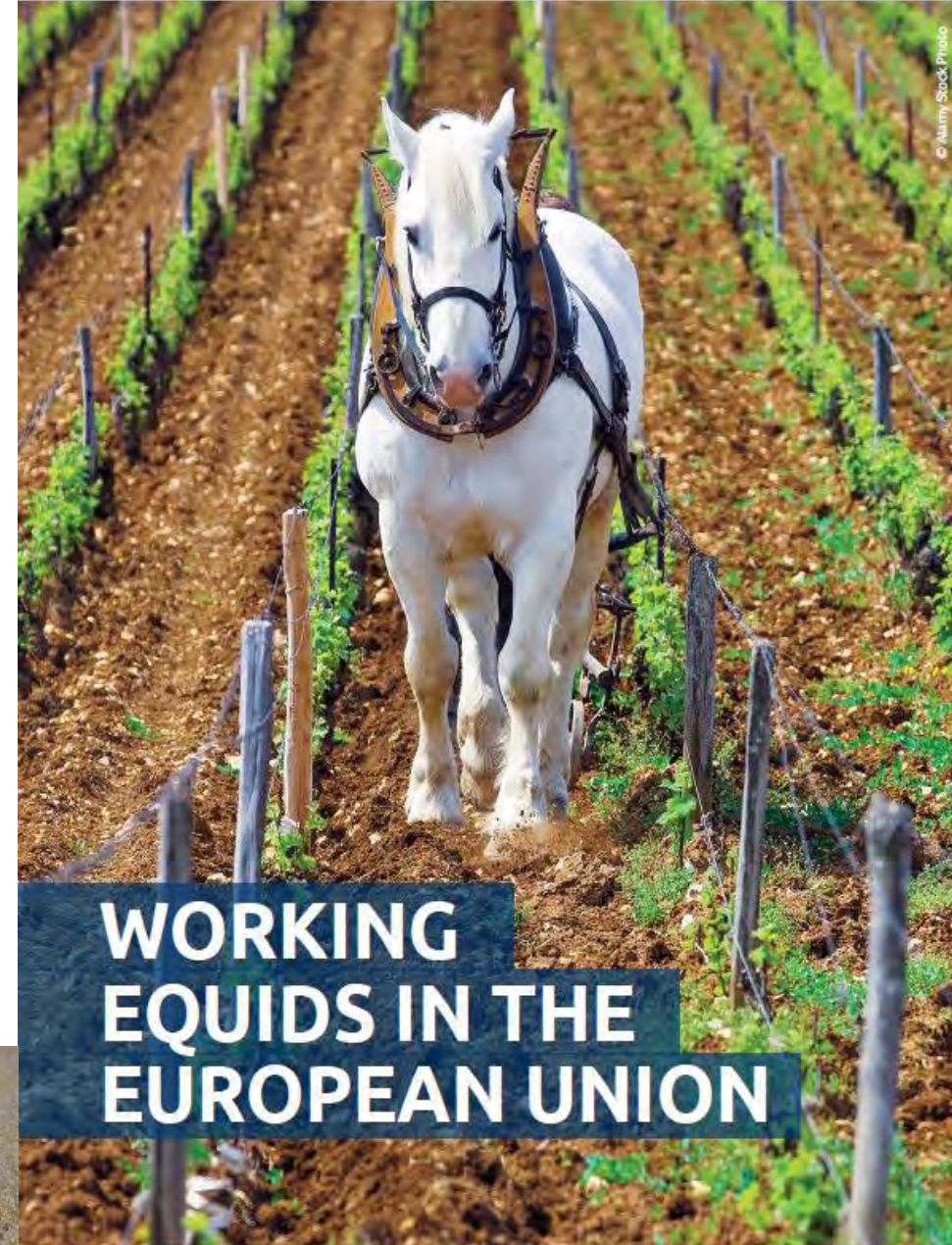
General principles of engagement



- As per ToR, ‘provide support and expertise to the EC’
- Use ‘should’ or ‘ought’ and not ‘must’ or ‘shall’ in our submissions
- However, regardless of the use or purpose there must be minimum acceptable standards for all domesticated equids; higher is then optional – an additional extra.
- All ‘kept’ equids have essential/base-line welfare needs that must be provided for: remove distinctions such as ‘Registered’ vs. ‘Non-registered’ equidae
- Legislation to be enforced must be enforceable: without ‘loopholes’.
- Future proofing – science & technology evolve.
- Species-specific details in new legislation must await secondary law but are founded on principles established earlier (primary).
- The VI formulated advice over many weeks of engagement, then incorporated PAW views ‘as best as possible’.
- ***‘It is amazing what you can accomplish IF you do not care who gets the credit’!*** Harry Truman

'Kept Animals' Regulation replacing 'Kept for farming purposes' Dir. 98/58

- Scope – commercial/economic purposes
 - Working (traction) and Production (milk, meat, blood?)
 - Sporting/competition/racing, leisure, cultural – traded!
 - Not 'wild'; what about 'feral'?
- 5-Domains as foundation – more focus on
 - 'Well-being' and 'A good life'
 - The animals' experience of living
- Referenced VI Guides already acknowledged



WORKING EQUIDS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION



EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS



Standards and the needs of equids

- Water & feed – dietary quality, quantity
- Lived environment – housing and pasture
- Exercise, movement, company of conspecifics, (enrichment)
- Disease prevention & treatment, biosecurity
- Routine husbandry – feet ‘n’ teeth!
- Fitness and suitability for purpose
- Training
 - of owners/keepers & educators – licensing, certification?
 - of equids – methods, equipment
- Breeding; mutilations; research/commercial purposes
- End-of-Life



Welfare of Animals during Transport (1/2005)

- Scope – Remove ‘Registered v. Non-registered equidae’
- Journey limits, times, resting stops, feed/water provision – ‘Clarity!’
- Standards – vehicles, drivers, handlers – training
- Fitness – before and continued during transport
- Temperature, humidity, ventilation; ‘habituation’
- Space allowances
 - Floor and height
 - Detail included (revision)
- Grouping, tethering
- Monitoring
- Future proofing
 - Technology - telemetry



Welfare at time of slaughter Regulation

- CCTV – lairage; stunning/killing?
- Equine-specific facilities
 - Lairage
 - Race/chute/stun-box
 - Equipment
- Training
 - Equine-specific
- Slaughter and loss-of-consciousness
 - Equine-specific research needed



‘Thank you!’, joe collins

