

General Introduction on the Welfare of Equids

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INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR WORKING EQUIDS

International Coalition for Working Equids

- Brooke
- The Donkey Sanctuary
- SPANA
- World Horse Welfare



Awareness Day on the Welfare of Working Equids

- Equid Welfare
- Understanding the country situation (survey)
- The new OIE Chapter 7.12 on the welfare of working equids
- Outcomes-based measurement of working equids: practical tools
- Working group sessions





Equid Welfare



Valuable roles around the world



Valuable but not valued?

- Non-food producing
- The link between good welfare and good productivity
- End of life value
- Industry vs individual
- Association with financial status
- Expertise amongst professionals



The Five Freedoms

(Brambell Committee, 1965; FAWC, 1992)

- Freedom from **hunger and thirst**
- Freedom from **discomfort**
- Freedom from **pain, injury and disease**
- Freedom to **express normal behaviour**
- Freedom from **fear and distress**



Nutrition

- Clean, fresh water
- Diet based on bodyweight and condition, workload, age, type and health
- Good-quality forage as the basis
- 75% of time eating
- Importance of chewing and grazing



Hunger and thirst

- Drought conditions/ extreme climates
- Long working hours
- Availability of good quality forage
- Affordability of good quality forage
- Tethering
- Unsuitable foodstuffs



Common nutritional issues

- Poor dentistry
- Internal parasites
- Colic
- Choke
- Laminitis
- Poor body condition



Comfort and safety

- Shelter during all seasons
- Somewhere dry to lie down
- Safe environment
- Good general hygiene
- Regular checks
- Adapting to changes in environment



Discomfort

- Unsuitable working conditions
- Unsuitable living conditions
- Predators
- Lack of hygiene
- Lack of owner awareness on basic husbandry techniques



Pain, injury and disease - prevention

- Breeding for purpose
- Safe working practices
- Fitness for work
- Appropriate ages for working life
- Routine vaccinations and healthcare
- Suitable diet
- Well-fitted equipment
- Clean, safe environment



Pain, injury and disease – working practices

- Indiscriminate breeding
- Unsuitability for work
- Poor conformation
- Working from a young age
- Long working hours
- Lack of rest periods



Pain, injury and disease - health

- Lack of vaccination programmes
- Poor awareness of disease amongst owners/users
- Lack of equine-focused training for veterinary and extension services
- Housing with other species
- Discrete signs of pain ignored/unrecognised



Pain, injury and disease – common issues

- Lameness
- Disease
- Parasitic burdens
- Lack of owner awareness
- Poor biosecurity
- Long-distance transportation
- Road traffic incidents



Farriery

- Access to good-quality, affordable services
- Owner awareness
- Professionals – trimming and shoeing
- Owners – daily care
- Conformation issues
- Type of work
- Working surfaces



Saddlery/harness-making

- Properly designed
- Well fitted
- Selection of materials
- Routine repairs
- Balancing of carts
- Loading of carts



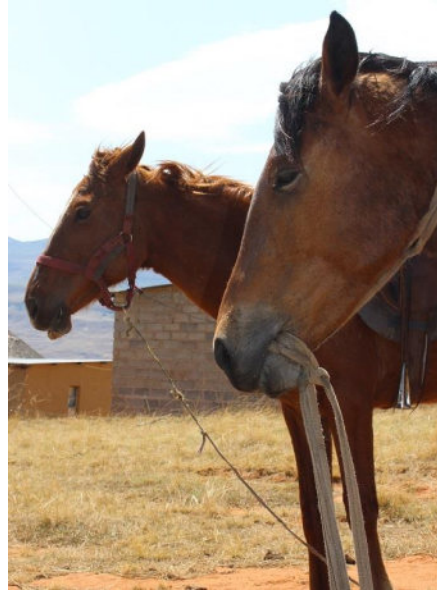
Normal behaviours

- Prey animals
- Herd behaviours
- Social interactions
- Observation



Demeanour

- Severely depressed
- Apathetic
- Calm
- Alert
- Restless/distressed
- Stereotypies
- Response to an observer



Freedom from fear and distress

- Freedom to flee
- Selection of tasks
- Management of the environment
- Routines vs sudden changes
- Correct handling



The equid-human partnership

- Interaction between equids and humans
- Fear and anxiety
- Working practices
- Methods of restraint
- Branding/ID systems
- Misuse of whips/sticks



End of life

- Based on quality of life
- Responsible ownership
- Avoidance of suffering
- Considerations at end of working life
- Humane euthanasia



End of life issues

- Financial cost/value
- Cultural considerations
- Slaughter
- Suffering during transportation
- Abandonment
- Lack of responsibility
- 'Unwanted' equines



Conclusions

- Understanding country context
- Considerations for engaging stakeholders and raising awareness
- Utilising the OIE Working Equid Chapter
- Further support



Thank You!
Спасибо!

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