

# WORKING EQUIDS IN THE EU

**WOAH, PAW for Europe**  
**September 2023**

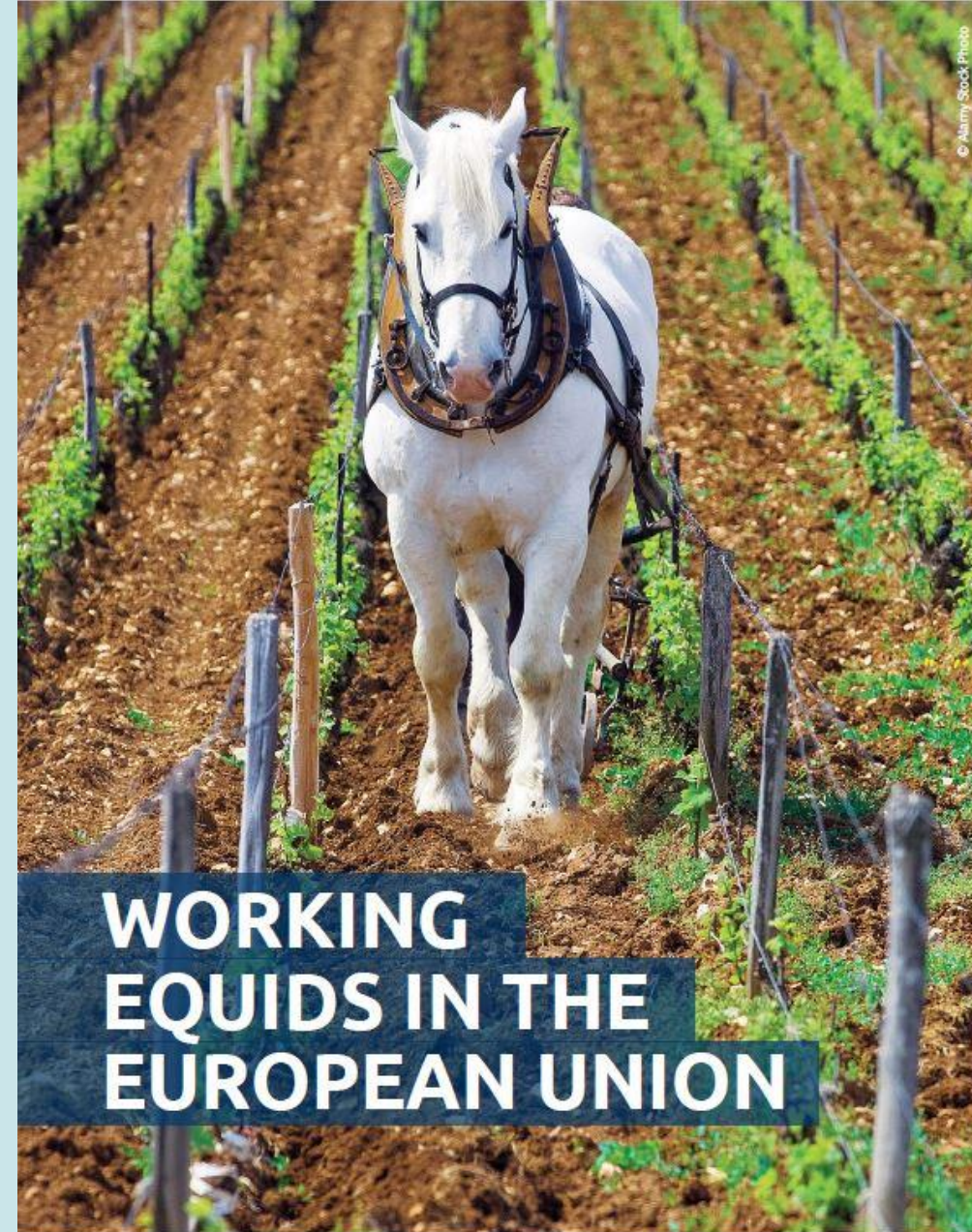
**EUROGROUP  
FOR ANIMALS**



**THE DONKEY  
SANCTUARY**



**WorldHorseWelfare**



**WORKING  
EQUIDS IN THE  
EUROPEAN UNION**

**EUROGROUP  
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# Member Spotlight



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## Have you met The Donkey Sanctuary?

26 January 2023 [🔊 The Donkey Sanctuary](#) [📄 News](#)

Every month, we interview one of our member organisations about their work, main battles and achievements for animals. This month we are pleased to interview Dr Joe Collins, Chief Veterinary Advisor (Europe) at The Donkey Sanctuary.



## Tell us about your organisation?

Founded over 50 years ago by Dr Elisabeth Svendsen, [The Donkey Sanctuary](#) (TDS) works across broad themes and with a global scope. Our work includes rescue and rehoming, donkey assisted activities, academic research (including a wealth of veterinary expertise) and global action through operational partnerships and programmes,

### Latest news

- One year on since historic United Nations animal welfare resolution
- European citizens made it clear: it's time for a Fur Free Europe
- 9 out of 10 animals rescued from EU circuses suffer from trauma
- Horizon Europe: unlocking the full potential of non-animal technologies to tackle human diseases





*Collecting Turf from the Bog, Connemara, Co. Galway, Ireland.*

*Colour Photo by John Hindle, F.R.P.S.*

# WORKING EQUIDS AS ASSETS

- Green Assets
  - Agricultural and horticultural draught power
  - Forestry and environmental management
- Complementary Assets
  - Urban management – waste, natural spaces, transport, policing
- Recreational Assets
  - Trekking and agri-tourism
  - Transport



# WORKING EQUID WELFARE AND SUSTAINABILITY

- ***Sustainability – the persistence of activity over time, continuing to provide benefit for individuals, groups or systems***
- ***‘Enough for All, For-Ever!’***
- Health and welfare affect the working equid experience, as well as the contribution they make to lives and livelihoods - productivity and longevity
- Factors influencing equine welfare
  - Working practices – duration & intensity, load & equipment
  - Environment – working space, housing, Temp & humidity
  - Husbandry – nutrition, healthcare, handling
  - Transport – to and from the place of work
  - Owner / worker knowledge
  - Access to resources and services





# LEGISLATION AND WORKING EQUIDS: GAPS AND GREY AREAS

- Definition of Equidae
  - Current categories
  - Risk of generalisation across equine species
- Discrepancies in implementation and enforcement
  - Recognition of working equids
  - Resource availability and application



Currently working equids, as ‘equidae’, may fall into legislative gaps, moving in and out of scope through their lifetime – breeding, sports, pleasure, commercial, food, by-products?



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- **RECOGNISE** the role of working equids within sustainable practice and integrated development
- **RECOGNISE** the relevance and importance of appropriate welfare safeguards –
  - Working equids deserve them, but also
  - These benefit livelihoods

## A Win-Win!

See: <https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/news/working-equids-eu-need-recognition-and-adequate-protection>

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