

EU PAW
Voluntary
Initiative on the
Welfare of
Equidae



Dr Joe Collins Chair, Independent Expert and Chair Subgroup on Equidae

WOAH webinar September 2023

Work available at: https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-conclusions_en#equidae

Current members and observers

EU Member States

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

Business and professional organisations

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

Civil society organisations

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

Academia/independent experts

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



Work of the Voluntary Initiative

Guide to good animal welfare practices for the keeping, care, training and use of horses

✓ Available in 10+ languages

- ✓ Feed, accommodation, exercise, health care, handling & training, equipment, end-of-life etc.

✓ 7 factsheets based on the Horse Guide

- ✓ Infectious disease & biosecurity
- ✓ Hoof care
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Turnout – shelter & pasture
- ✓ Stable – indoor housing
- ✓ Social interaction & comfort behaviour
- ✓ Feed

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



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 poidel.
- 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 białek, 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 poidła 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 jedyne prawidłowe rozwiązania.

Donkey Guide and Factsheets

- Guide – keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids – 8 languages

- 8 factsheets in total:

- Accommodation
- End of life
- Feed & water
- Handling & training
- Hoof care
- Welfare assessment
- Transport
- Working & production donkey

- Based on the Donkey Guide + new/updated information
- QR code links to the Donkey Guide

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



The guide for good animal welfare practice for the keeping, care, training and use of donkeys and donkey hybrids - Factsheet

Working and production donkeys

Donkeys/mules are used for a number of practical purposes including: tourism, transport of goods, garbage management and production of milk and meat. Persons without appropriate experience should seek advice from a trusted source prior to taking responsibility for working equids' welfare.

What you need to know

Tourism

- It is essential to ensure the welfare of donkeys used to transport passengers or luggage.
- Tourists can influence animal welfare standards through good decision-making

Milk Production

- There are many donkey dairy farms in EU countries and no specific legislation in place. However, a guide to good practice is available.

How to do it properly

Tourism

- Ensure that working equids do not carry loads that are too heavy or for too long a period.
- Ensure animals have access to appropriate shade, food, water and rest. High quality, appropriate equipment must be used.

Milk Production

- Appropriately manage different animal categories - jacks, foals at foot, weaned foals, milking and dry jennies.
- Pay attention to the additional nutritional needs of pregnant and lactating jennies and their foals, and separation of foals from jennies to allow milking.



Passengers should be conscious of the welfare of taxi- and tourist-donkeys



Dairy donkeys Good animal management practices for donkey milk production



Good management practices are essential to the care of dairy donkeys

Persons caring for working equids must have the necessary knowledge and willingness to ensure donkey welfare.

Photographs used in this factsheet to illustrate some situations should not be considered to illustrate the sole solution to situations described.

Guidelines for Working Equids in Tourism Activities- for the Owners/Keepers of Working Equids and those who license/regulate their activities.



Main welfare issues for working equids in tourism including:

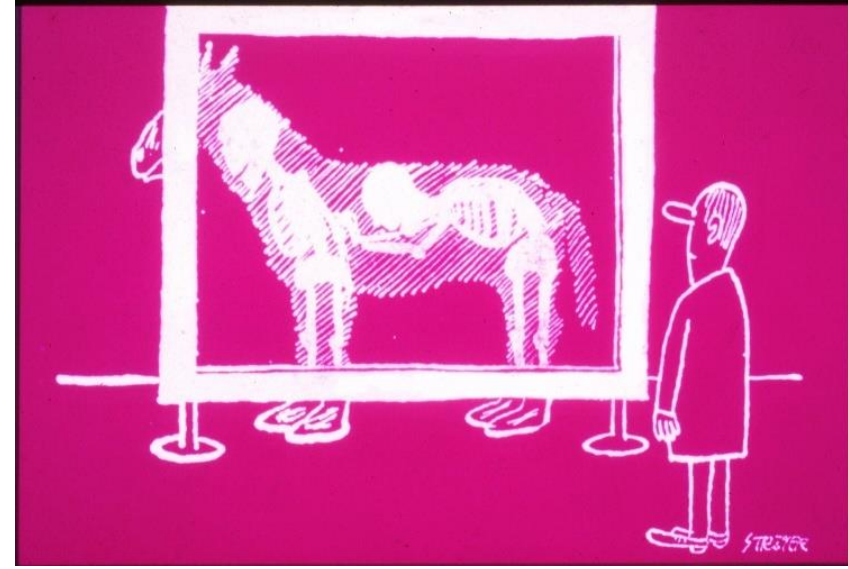
- Insufficient training of handlers
- Inappropriate husbandry & professional care (e.g., hoof care, injuries, unfitness to work)
- Excessive loads
- Extreme weather conditions
- Environmental pollution

Recommendations include:

- Min/max. age and body condition
- Preventative health care e.g., hoof care
- Working hours and breaks
- Feeding and watering
- Weight loads
- Retirement and end-of-life



How to ensure that tools lead to good welfare experiences for equids?



Robust identification of equidae – manage what you measure!
Buy-in to standards – carrots!
Legislation & enforcement – sticks!

Tools available at: https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare/platform-conclusions_en#equidae