



## The high health, high performance horse concept (HHP)

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# Content

- The HHP concept in brief
  - Rationale
  - Importance of the equine industry
  - OIE Standards
- Progress of the HHP framework since its inception
  - Recap of the stepwise approach
- Testing the HHP concept
- Discussion
- Conclusions



## The HHP framework in brief: Rationale

- A certain number of sport horses are under close veterinary supervision, governed by FEI<sup>1</sup> and IFHA<sup>2</sup> rules
- They present a **low health risk**
- They are identified and **traceable**
- Their welfare is essential to their capacity to perform
- They enter countries on a temporary basis for competition purpose only, **not for breeding**





They can be defined as a  
**SUB-POPULATION**  
of the global equine population

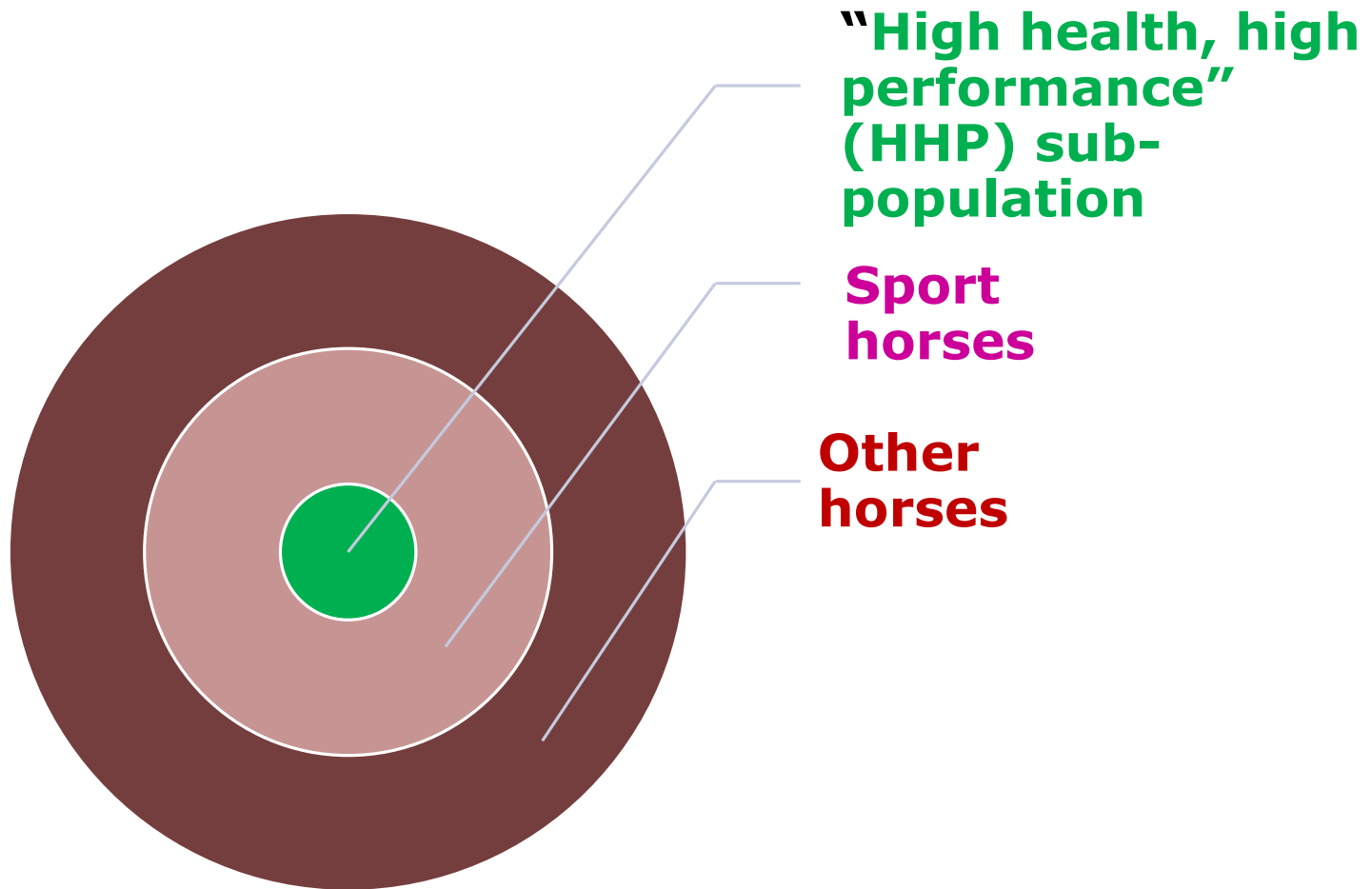
They have been termed and are included in the OIE  
Code chapter 4.16 as

**HHP horse**  
(High health, high performance horse)





# Sub-population





## Perceived challenges to travel internationally

- Application of excessive, inconsistent sanitary regulations
- Differing approaches to quarantine, laboratory testing, certification requirements
- Lack of knowledge/skills/interest/low priority for Veterinary Services
- Few countries with national regulations for **temporary** importation





# Collaboration with the industry

## Key partners:

➔ International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC)

(formed by FEI and IFHA in 2013)

- MoU between IHSC and OIE
- Engagement in Public-Private-Partnership to address movement constraints at **global** level





**HHP framework for the  
facilitation of International  
Competition Horse Movements**  
*Based on*

**OIE Standards and approaches**







## OIE standards and principles

- The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code lists 11 equine diseases and 6 multiple species diseases
- **Members have reporting obligations!**
- Zoning, Disease Free Zones, and Compartmentalisation are defined in the Code
- Animal identification and traceability described in the Code
- Global Model Health Certificates
- Quality of Veterinary Services and the PVS Framework



## Compartmentalisation

- Compartmentalisation - the establishment and maintenance of a **sub-population** of animals with a specified disease free status

➔ Based on sound management and biosecurity measures

- Conceptually could be applied to **HHP horse** movements

➔ If ID, traceability, management, biosecurity in place

- If public-private partnership is in place



## HHP sub-population complies with these principles

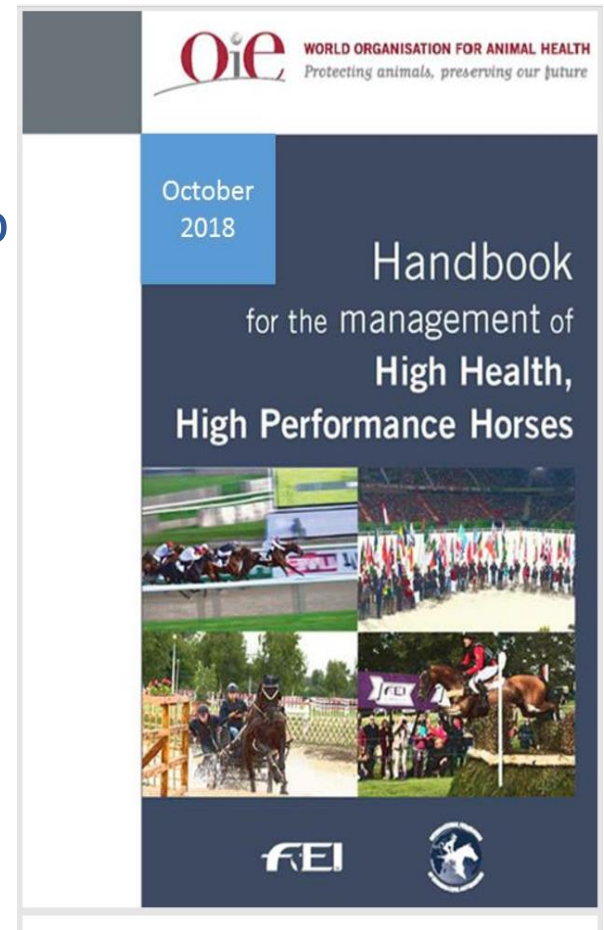
Based on 4 pillars:

1. High Health status: vaccinations, tests, quarantine, global HHP health certification
2. Performance
3. Identification and **traceability**
4. Biosecurity



## Progress in implementation of HHP since its inception

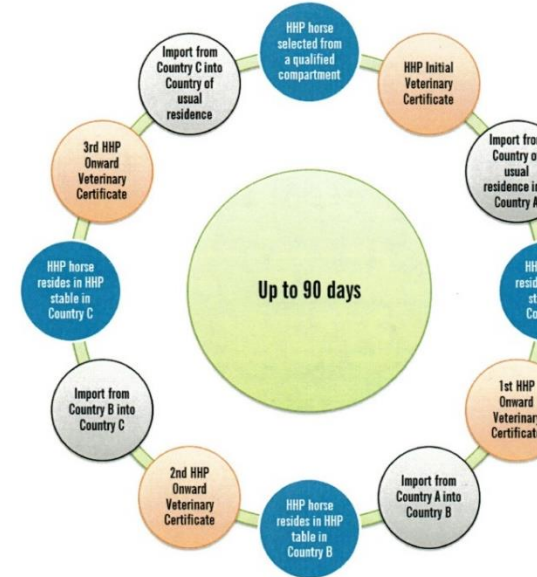
- Update of the “HHP Handbook” in December 2018 – containing all elements of step-wise approach to establish HHP framework at
  - Stable
  - Horse
  - Travel
  - Event





## Recap of stepwise approach

1. Stable: qualification as compartment  
(= establishment in EU terminology)
2. Horse(s): qualification as HHP horse
3. Travel and venue(s)
  - HHP certificate(s)
  - Travel up to 90 days with multiple destinations and multiple certificates
4. Return to home base



Single use strategy:  
Compartment not  
maintained

Multiple use strategy:  
Compartment was maintained



# 1. Qualification of stable (compartment)

- Health status of the country
  - AHS must be notifiable (for EU: rabies, anthrax, VEE, glanders, surra, dourine, EIA also)
  - Good reporting record of equine diseases to OIE
- Establishment
  - Must be registered with national Federation
  - Qualification period of 90 days under RV supervision
  - Special regulations for introduction of new horses (during qualification and maintenance of compartment)
  - Approval by official veterinarian
  - Once qualified – register in FEI database



## 2. Horse qualification as HHP

- Under regular supervision during stable qualification by RV
- Depending on country health status, required tests and vaccinations
- Once qualified, registered as HHP on FEI database



### 3. Travel and venues

- Issue of the initial HHP Health Certificate
- Observe biosecurity during lay-overs, travel and venue(s)
  - Must be registered on FEI HHP database
  - Must have HHP biosecurity standards
  - EDFZ if not EU approved third country
- Issue of multiple HHP Health Certificates after each event





## 4. Return to home base

- Return after maximum 90 days continuous travel
- If new cycle of travel is desired and compartment was maintained:
  - 14 days residence in compartment if:
    - Country has known health status, no glanders for 3 yrs, no VEE for 2 years
  - 21 days residence in compartment if:
    - Country not known to be free of VEE for 2 yrs
  - 30 days residence in compartment if:
    - Country not know to be free of glanders for 3 yrs



## Testing the HHP concept

- Development of the HHP database, housed at FEI\*
  - Multipurpose database has been designed to register premises, horses, veterinarians, sport officials
  - Access rights also to Competent Authority
  - Test: HHP **horses** and **premises** were registered for the World Cup Finals in Goteborg, jumping and dressage, April 2019
  - App developed that links the microchip with this database – user can get all info on database depending on his access rights

➔ Current status: premises and horses can be registered

\* Racing will be invited to use the FEI database if wishing to apply HHP



## Next steps

1. Registration of veterinarians and vaccines
  - Global role-out
  - Veterinarians will have to register with the application in order to be able to use it
  - Need to use it to register EI vaccinations of FEI horses
  - FEI rules on EI vaccinations will also become rule in the new EU Animal Health Law
2. Registration of medication before and during the event



## Discussion

- HHP framework fully established
- Bottleneck was database, now made major progress
- Good time for testing the framework at regional level because
  - ➔ at international level the requirement for non-approved countries to apply for recognition as “third approved country”\* will remain under the new EU animal health law (EU 2018/659 ex 2004/211/EC)
- Is this a proposal worth considering by this region?

\* Also known as “regionalization”



## Conclusions

- HHP framework has since its inception been further developed continuously
- Is in line with OIE standards and largely fulfils the requirements of the new EU Animal health law for the “conditions of entry into the Union”
- The database, a necessity for HHP to work, has made major progress
- Regions are encouraged to trial the HHP framework for intra-regional movement

