Update on equine actions carried out by WOAH and activities under the WOAH-IHSC Collaboration agreement to facilitate the international movements of competition horses

Mauro Meske
Disease Status Officer
m.meske@woah.org

Multi-regional Whole Journey Scenario workshop on long-distance transport by land and sea between Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa. Nov 2022
Index - Activities Under the WOAH-IHSC Collaboration Agreement

1. Research Projects
2. Improvement of the WOAH standards of horse-related diseases
3. Tools to facilitate the international movement of horses (EDFZ - HHP framework)
4. Regional Activities in support of temporary international movement of competition horses
5. Advocacy Activities and capacity building activities
1. Research Projects:

- **Glanders, Equine Influenza**: studies conducted in WOAH Reference Labs or Collaboration Centers in support of further development and validation of diagnostic assays (glanders).

- **Equine Influenza**: An assessment study on equine influenza vaccination protocols prior to shipment by a WOAH Reference Laboratory for equine influenza.

- **Equine Herpesvirus EHV-1 - African Horse Sickness (AHS)**: IHSC’s support to develop new vaccines against EHV-1 & AHS and vaccine banks (AHS).
2. Improvement of the WOAH Standards on horse-related diseases

11 Code Chapters on Equidae-related diseases:

- Infection with African horse sickness virus Chapter 12.1. (2014);
- Contagious equine metritis Chapter 12.2. (1982);
- Dourine Chapter 12.3. (1968);
- Equine encephalomyelitis (Eastern and Western) Chapter 12.4. (1968);
- Equine infectious anaemia Chapter 12.5. (2007);
- Infection with equine influenza virus Chapter 12.6. (2012);
- Equine piroplasmosis Chapter 12.7. (2007);
- Infection with equid herpesvirus-1 (Equine rhinopneumonitis) Chapter 12.8. (2014);
- Infection with equine arteritis virus Chapter 12.9. (2014);
- Infection with *Burkholderia mallei* (Glanders) Chapter 12.10. (2018);
- Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis Chapter 12.11. (1998)


3 Chapters newly drafted for potential adoption in May 2023 (WOAH General Session)

6 Chapters proposed for potential review/update

Provisions on temporary importation of competition horses
3. Tools to facilitate the international movement of horses (EDFZ- HHP framework)

Development of risk-based frameworks (HHP, EDFZ)

Equine Disease-Free Zones (EDFZ)

- Defined on the basis of geographic boundaries

High health, high performance (HHP)

- Based on sound management and biosecurity measures

International Competition Horse Movements
3. Tools to facilitate the international movement of horses (EDFZ)

EDFZ: An IHSC-WOAH tool to facilitate international movements of competition horses

- Overall equine population of a country
- Subpopulation horses in a EDFZ = high health status
- Subpopulation of sport horses
- Contains an animal subpopulation with a specific animal health status with respect to multiple specified equine diseases

- A specific area defined on the basis of geographic boundaries
- Defined by and under the control of the Veterinary Authority
3. Publication of EDFZ self-declarations dossiers on WOAH website
4. Follow-up on regional workshops in support of temporary international movement of competition horses

**Middle East and Northern Africa (FEI Group VII):** WOAH-IHSC Joint Workshops in Morocco and Beirut (2019) and a webinar conducted in May 2022 to increase trading opportunities in the region.

**Europe (FEI Groups III and EEF):** WOAH-IHSC Joint Workshops Moscow workshop (2019) and Baku, Azerbaijan (March 2020).

Meetings with European Commissions representatives to harmonize EU regulations with international standards (i.e., the EU Animal Health Law)

---

**6 Regional Joint WOAH (WOAH)-IHSC workshops conducted between 2017 – 2019 to strengthen regional capacities in support of safe international movements of competition horses.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sanitary group</th>
<th>Diseases for which specific requirements are required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis, surra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, African horse sickness, surra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, dourine, African horse sickness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G</td>
<td>equine infectious anaemia, glanders, dourine, surra</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Advocacy and Capacity building Activities

**Summary of AHS free status in Europe:** 37 Members officially recognised by WOAH as AHS free countries (70%)

**More information:**
Standard Operating Procedure for official recognition of animal health status and for the endorsement of official control programmes of Members
Summary of AHS free status in Middle East Region: Members officially recognised by WOAH as AHS free countries, the last one: Bahrain 2022
5. Advocacy and Capacity building Activities

- **Development of Visual educational leaflets** on the High Health High Performance framework (HHP), the equine disease-free zones (EDFZ), and the WOAH-IHSC public-private collaboration in support of international movements of competitions horses were developed.

- **3rd Middle East Regional Webinar (May 2022)** on WOAH international standards and tools to facilitate international movement of horses, procedures supporting the publication of self-declarations of animal health status and the official recognition of AHS free status.

- **FEEVA Disease Surveillance Summit -October 2022**

- **Guidelines on preparedness and implementation of emergency vaccination in the Asian region**

- **Guidelines for the practical control of viral transmission by reducing vector–host contact in the Asian context**
Thank you