

Movement of Horses

Speaker:

Anthony Kettle

Head of Veterinary Department, Dubai Racing Club



THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF HORSES FOR COMPETITION – THE RACING PERSPECTIVE

Dr Anthony Kettle BVSc BSc DipSc MSc MBA MRCVS MACVSc Dubai Racing Club



Introduction

- 1. Historical developments
- 2. The problems
- 3. The sub-population concept



Historical development

- 6000 years ago man domesticated the horse (food, transport, hunting, warfare, and field work)
- 3500 years ago transport by boat recorded
- Transport by vehicle
- Transport by rail
- Transport by air





Historical development changes

- Over time distances traveled and speed of travel have both increased dramatically especially in last 40 years with air transport
- Can now transport a horse almost anywhere within 24-36 hours
- As nations develop the use of the horse has changed with increasing use for sports and leisure and marked socio-economic benefits





Problems

- New entrants to international racing
- Lack of harmonization:
 - Temporary and permanent protocols
 - Residency periods
 - Diseases of concern (43 different diseases identified in regional certificates)
 - Differences in vaccinations and validity
 - CEM and Dourine





The Troika

- There are 3 components in the movement of horses
 - 1. Exporting and importing government veterinary services
 - 2. Equine Industry (owners, trainers, shipping agents)
 - 3. The horse



Government Veterinary Services

Equine Industry

The horse

Effective international horse movement



Government Veterinary Services

- Agree the conditions for import and export
- Monitor the temporarily imported horses
- Certify onward movement



Equine Industry

- These are owners, trainers, shipping agents and organizations involved in the management of the horse
- Ensure compliance with biosecurity requirements
- Administer and monitor medications
- Oversee the health of the horse



The horse

- Is the benefactor of the health program
- Is regularly vaccinated, blood tested and monitored for health
- Undergoes performance evaluation
- Is kept in a biosecurity program



Interdependence

- The three components cannot work in isolation
- Only by working together can a biosecure program be maintained

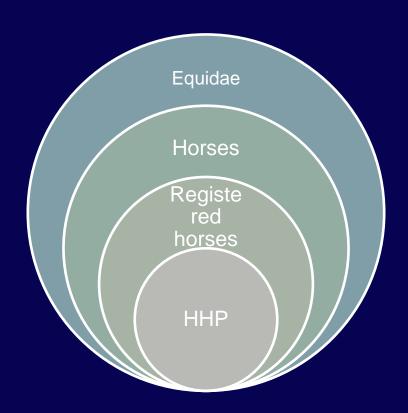


Chengdu - Dubai

- Extensive inter-governmental negotiations
- Pre-entry selection and testing
- Pre-export quarantine
- Further testing
- Twice daily temperature and health records kept
- Daily veterinary supervision
- Overseen by China and UAE Ministeries



The Sub-population Concept





Summary

- Distances traveled by horses and speed of transport has increased dramatically in recent years
- As nations develop there is greater use of the horse for sport and leisure with associated socio-economic benefits
- The world is now a global platform on which people and horses are moving with increasing frequency and rapidity



Summary continued

- There is a lack of harmonization of conditions for temporary import of racehorses for competition
- It is difficult under existing certificates for new entrants to enter international racing
- The sub-population concept of high performance racehorses already exists
- The HHP proposal is simply a means of expanding an existing condition



Summary continued

- The HHP proposal is a vehicle to solve the current problems hampering growth in the horse racing industry.
- By working together governments, horse industry and the horse can all benefit through a win-win-win solution





Thank you