

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Facilitation of international movement of competition horses



PERSPECTIVES

DOSSIER

AROUND THE WORLD

EDITORIAL

International movement of competition horses

A successful partnership between the IHSC and the OIE



For thousands of years, the history of human kind has been intertwined with that of the horse, and the relationship involves far more than the mere domestication of these animals by humans. Horse riding is no doubt the only activity with an animal that can be practised as an art, for leisure purposes or as a sport, thus illustrating the special bond that has developed between humans and horses, which is a mixture of fascination and love. Nowadays, sport-horse competitions are a popular form of entertainment in many different countries with a wide range of cultures and customs. Horse racing and equestrian sports cover a variety of disciplines: trotting and galloping races, eventing, obstacle and endurance races, dressage and show jumping, etc.

These competitions, some of which are famous worldwide (Olympic Games, *Prix d'Amérique*, *Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe* and Epsom Derby, to name but a few), require the movement of horses around the world. As with any other movement of live animals, there is a potential risk of spreading diseases, especially as it involves animals from countries with different health statuses being temporarily brought together at a given competition venue before returning to their countries of origin. Managing these risks poses a specific problem for the equine sector and it is therefore particularly important to ensure that these sporting activities continue to take place in safety.

The specific nature of high-level equestrian competitions led the OIE and the industry to work together on standards

The application of OIE standards, namely those contained in the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* and the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals*, constitutes the basis for managing these risks. Nonetheless,

the specific nature of high-level sporting competitions and the health checks that competition horses undergo led the OIE and the horse industry to work together on standards better adapted to this specific case. [The OIE-IHSC public-private partnership](#) has been the basis for fruitful collaboration on developing alternative tools, based on existing OIE standards in the OIE *Terrestrial Code* (notably on zoning and compartmentalisation), such as:

- [The establishment of equine disease free zones \(EDFZ\)](#) for countries hosting international equestrian events and to facilitate the return of competition horses to their countries of origin;
- [The 'high health high performance' \(HHP\) framework](#), enabling countries and regions to harmonise their sanitary requirements for the temporary importation of competition horses and their return to their country of origin.

This work is being supplemented by a programme of regional workshops and the development of teaching materials aimed at promoting the effective implementation of these tools.

The OIE-IHSC partnership also provides support for the updating of standards, including financing scientific studies to improve our knowledge of specific diseases such as glanders and relevant diagnostic tools.

| The OIE encourages its Member Countries to develop public-private partnerships with the equine industry

In light of this experience, the OIE encourages its Member Countries to develop public-private partnerships with the equine industry at national and regional levels, given that effective management of risks for the temporary importation of sport horses depends on the efforts made by each party.

This new issue of *Panorama* provides a wealth of personal experiences and useful information to help you build a partnership along these lines. My thanks go to all the authors who have contributed to this issue – their articles are particularly instructive.

I trust that you will find it informative and enjoyable reading.

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PERSPECTIVES

Practical challenges to the international movement of sport horses

KEYWORDS

#animal movement, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership.

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Considerable progress has been made in recent years in facilitating the international movements of sport horses. Activities undertaken jointly at the global and regional levels by the [International Horse Sports Confederation \(IHSC\)](#) and the [World Organisation for Animal Health \(OIE\)](#) have played, and will continue to play, an important role in achieving this goal. However, some practical difficulties remain.

Conditions at border crossings, especially when transporting horses overland, are often not optimal for safeguarding the welfare of the horses. Border inspection posts are rarely adequately equipped for the safe unloading of horses, and their watering and shade, and waiting times can be significant. In addition, official veterinarians often have limited time at border inspection posts. To minimise waiting times at borders, stakeholders in the equine industry are encouraged to liaise closely with staff at these inspection posts to ensure that an official veterinarian will be present when the horse(s) arrives.

Sport horses are international athletes and must consistently undergo high-level training programmes to maintain their level of fitness. Isolation or quarantine stations are not always adequately equipped to allow physical training. Horses that are isolated (before export or post-arrival) can have their performance level significantly affected and even their health jeopardised in facilities that do not allow any such training.

| All international movements of sport horses should be carefully planned

Lastly, all international movements of sport horses should be carefully planned. Those involved in the equine industry, in particular attending veterinarians, should always liaise with the relevant Competent Authorities, shipping agents and laboratories so that everyone is fully informed of the relevant requirements, timeframes and practical tasks, such as obtaining the results of the necessary pre-shipment tests, to prepare for a successful movement.

Strengthened communication, collaboration and mutual awareness between the horse industry, Veterinary Authorities, veterinary laboratories, and Customs Administrations are necessary to overcome these practical challenges. Stakeholders are therefore urged to engage in public-private partnerships at the national level.

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PERSPECTIVES

History of the OIE-IHSC public-private partnership

KEYWORDS

#International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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A public-private partnership between the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) came about thanks to the willingness of the presidents of the relevant professional federations (and the agreement of their members), which

coincided with the readiness of the OIE to address topics of mutual concern.

Background

In 2013, the [International Equestrian Federation \(Fédération équestre internationale - FEI\)](#), the world governing body for equestrian sports, and the [International Federation of Horseracing Authorities \(IFHA\)](#) joined forces to create the **International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC)**, the first formal vehicle for cooperation between the world's governing bodies for equestrian sport. The formal agreement creating the IHSC was signed by HRH Princess Haya of Jordan, President of the FEI, and Mr Louis Romanet, President of the IFHA. The Confederation is the first formal alliance between the racing world (IFHA) and the FEI. Right from the start, [the press release announcing the creation of the IHSC](#) emphasised the importance of working closely with the OIE: *'Both Federations will be fully cooperating to protect the welfare of the horse and to facilitate the international movement of horses **in close liaison with the World Organisation for Animal Health**'*.

OIE-FEI

In 2002, the OIE signed a first [general cooperation agreement with the FEI](#). The two organisations collaborated on various occasions, such as for the organisation of a joint conference (Mexico, 2011) and workshop (Panama, 2012) on the modernisation of the international movement of horses (for the Americas), as well as a brainstorming meeting (OIE, 2012) on facilitating the international movement of horses in the context of their participation in equestrian events and on the constraints associated with the international movements of horses.

On the occasion of the FEI General Assembly, held in November 2012, a financial agreement on collaboration between the OIE and the FEI was negotiated with the President of the FEI. The agreement, signed in January 2013, included among its provisions the participation of an FEI expert in the work of the OIE *ad hoc* Group on International Movement of Horses for Equestrian Sport, the funding of a veterinarian expert at OIE Headquarters (since then, two veterinarians recruited by the OIE have occupied this post successively) and scientific studies and other investigations designed to contribute to the work of the OIE, as well as support for the OIE's PVS (Performance of Veterinary Services) Pathway, information seminars for new OIE Delegates, training for OIE national focal points and various communication activities.

These voluntary contributions from a private sector partner have been collected and managed through the [OIE World Animal Health and Welfare Fund](#), a multiannual mechanism for collecting multi-donor voluntary contributions. The President of the FEI has participated in the meetings of the World Fund Advisory Committee in her capacity as a representative of a donor.

OIE-IFHA

A [cooperation agreement between the OIE and the IFHA](#) was signed in 2013.

Mirroring the collaboration put in place with the FEI, a financial agreement on collaboration between the OIE and the IFHA was negotiated with the President of the IFHA. This agreement, signed in September 2014, included among its provisions complementary co-funding for the veterinarian expert initially provided for under the terms of the agreement with the FEI. The agreement also strengthened support for the implementation of scientific studies

(diseases of horses) and the holding of regular regional thematic meetings. As in the case of the financial agreement with the FEI, these voluntary contributions have been collected and managed through the OIE World Fund, and the President of the IFHA has participated in the meetings of the World Fund Advisory Committee in his capacity as a representative of a donor.

OIE-IHSC

Since July 2016, the financial agreements with FEI and IFHA have been placed under the auspices of the IHSC. The new financial agreement on collaboration places particular emphasis on the concept of HHP (high health, high performance) horses, the implementation of scientific studies (diseases of horses, including validation of diagnostic tests and improvement of vaccines), as well as capacity building through regional workshops. [The implementation of these activities is steered by an OIE-IHSC Technical Committee](#), which meets three times a year.

Discussion

The workshops and regional meetings organised jointly have had an impact on the OIE's publications (standards, guidelines and manuals) in view of the intersection between the needs expressed by the professional federations and the scope of work of the OIE. It is also worth noting the multiannual nature of the partnership and the continuity and coherence of the joint actions planned. The provision of specific funding has also been an important factor, given that the OIE has had no other available resources to finance these activities.

The scientific studies undertaken have helped to provide sound evidence with a view to the revision of international standards. Some of these studies have led to the setting up of supplementary partnerships ([with the private sector to develop a vaccine, without direct OIE involvement](#)).

A veterinarian expert specially recruited by the OIE has played a crucial role in facilitating dialogue between the various parties and monitoring activities, including with OIE Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres, and other research teams called upon for the various studies.

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PERSPECTIVES

OIE-IHSC Public-Private Partnership

Oversight and key achievements

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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In 2017, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) formed the OIE-IHSC Technical Committee, which acts as a steering committee to oversee the joint work programme established through the funding arrangement supporting their partnership.

That programme encompasses aspects of science commissioning, standards development and review, and standards implementation, all under the overarching common objective of effective risk management for the international movement of sport horses for competitions.

The OIE-IHSC Technical Committee has met three times a year throughout the programme to plan, commission, oversee delivery of, and report on all activities. The membership has comprised a consistent team of experienced experts with a clear mandate to represent each partner: the IHSC partners and the OIE. A key achievement at the heart of this successful programme is the trust, confidence and mutual understanding that has been built between partners through the OIE-IHSC Technical Committee. This Committee stimulates very open discussions and strives

to achieve a clear consensus about the challenges at the heart of each issue under discussion, the actions required, and the role of each partner. The partnership has been well served by its Secretariat, which efficiently documents these discussions and tracks actions to completion.

| The OIE-IHSC Technical Committee represents a unique mechanism

Standards are at the very heart of the OIE mandate, and it is a continuing challenge to ensure that OIE standards remain current with risk management technologies and industry practices. The OIE-IHSC Technical Committee represents a unique mechanism to identify ongoing challenges to the international movements of competition horses; the standards that could overcome these constraints; the gaps in the scientific evidence to support the standards; consideration of which scientific studies should be undertaken to obtain the evidence required; and the risk management recommendations that can flow from the new evidence (examples of topics addressed are described in the article [Public-private partnership supporting scientific research to contribute to the OIE standard-setting process](#)).

The effective implementation of risk management for the safe international movements of sport horses has also been an important challenge. This challenge has a particular context in each region; for example:

- the diseases of concern in that area
- the public- and private-sector agencies involved and their capacities and rules
- the types of sporting events that horses travel for.

In many regions, the workshops managed under this OIE-IHSC work programme have been the first meetings amongst these actors, and the action plans that have been developed from these workshops are the first concrete expression of their common objectives in the effective implementation of risk management for sport horse movements. These processes and their outcomes are described in the article [Fostering public-private partnerships at the national and regional levels](#).

Partnerships are most successful when objectives and priorities are aligned; competencies and skills are complementary; roles and responsibilities are clear; processes are compatible; engagement is approached with integrity and commitment; and activities are conducted efficiently and effectively. This takes commitment from all partners, and the achievements of the OIE-IHSC partnership reflect that commitment.

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PERSPECTIVES

The role of the veterinary community in ensuring the high health status of competition horses

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #veterinarian.

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Recent outbreaks of equine influenza in several countries have prompted many stakeholders to review the role of the veterinary community in protecting the high health status of competition horses at all levels, from the weekend amateur competitor to the top-end World Cup and Championship riders.

This role involves many different aspects and a range of expertise. Nonetheless, the one thing that all these roles have in common is the need to raise awareness among the competition community of the benefits of high health status to protect their horses; animals whose value is, in many cases, incalculable, both financially and emotionally. Regulations and advice, which may seem unimportant and a burden to their competition lives, are in reality crucial

to their horse's well-being and future career.

The role of the veterinary community includes the following tasks:



Veterinary inspection at the Olympics Games, Rio 2016. © FEI

- to accurately monitor and report disease outbreaks and future challenges through a specific body that collates such information
- to ensure that every form of disease prevention is in place, from simple good hygiene to the use of the most suitable vaccines, in compliance with OIE standards
- to ensure that, during competition, all regulations, especially those concerning animal welfare and biosecurity, are effectively enforced, and that explanations of the value of these regulations are always provided
- to ensure that entry-to-venue inspections and post-entry monitoring are performed with the support of grooms
- to have a planned approach to any suspected disease outbreak at the competition venue
- to continue research to improve diagnostic methods and disease prevention measures.



Packaging samples for transport

The veterinary community is continually striving to improve the health status of competition horses and to increase awareness and build capacity in the equine world.

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DOSSIER

The HHP framework, for certified high-health-status equine athletes

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #guidelines, #high health high performance (HHP) horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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To address the increasing demand from emerging countries to take part in international equestrian events, the OIE, in partnership with the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), has developed a harmonised framework for the safe temporary importation of horses competing in high-level events: the High Health, High Performance (HHP)

framework.

This risk-based framework is built on established OIE standards and principles, such as compartmentalisation and zoning, certification, traceability, identification, and stringent biosecurity, to establish **a subpopulation of horses with a high health status** (as defined in [Chapter 4.17. of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#)). Such a high-health subpopulation is established by the application of documented health management practices and biosecurity measures to create and maintain a functional separation between horses within the subpopulation and all other equids – at all times and places. HHP horses are international athletes that have a high health status certified by the Veterinary Authority.

■ The OIE HHP Handbook includes detailed recommendations and model certificates

Detailed recommendations for the management of high-health-status horse subpopulations are defined in the [OIE Handbook for the Management of High Health, High Performance Horses](#). The OIE HHP Handbook also includes model HHP Veterinary Certificates, which provide harmonised requirements for the temporary importation of HHP horses to take part in international sports events and return to their usual countries of residence.

The HHP framework is not meant to override existing import agreements. This harmonised, risk-based framework is primarily intended to assist countries that have not yet established bilateral and regional import agreements. It enables them to provide assurance to their trading partners of the very low health risk posed by horses that are temporarily moved internationally to compete in international sporting events.



[OIE HHP Handbook](#)

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DOSSIER

Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ)

to host an international horse sports competition

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ), #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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Establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) is a risk-based approach which can be considered when international horse sports competitions are planned in countries which have not yet been able to control or eradicate specific equine diseases in their entire territory, but which can establish the health status of a smaller zone with a limited equine population.

By establishing an EDFZ, disease risks are mitigated for horses that have been imported to compete and they are able to return safely to their countries of origin or other destinations.

Examples of EDFZs recently established to host international equine sports competitions:

- [In Japan in 2019](#)
- [In Indonesia in 2018](#)
- [In Turkmenistan in 2017](#)

An EDFZ consists of part of a country defined by, and under the control of, the Veterinary Authority. The EDFZ contains an equine population or subpopulation with a specific animal health status for specified equine diseases; i.e. the Veterinary Authority of the country concerned has declared that zone and that subpopulation free from that particular disease.

The list of diseases from which the EDFZ has been declared free should be based on a risk analysis. Such a list is usually based on the equine diseases [listed by the OIE](#) but may include other diseases of relevance to international horse movements. It is worth noting that an EDFZ cannot be self-declared free from **African horse sickness**, as [freedom from this disease is based on official recognition by the OIE](#).

The EDFZ usually comprises a **core zone** separated from surrounding areas by a physical or geographical barrier. Around this core zone, there is usually a **surveillance zone** in which the health status of all animals, and especially equines, should be monitored and documented. All equines should be registered and traceable within the EDFZ.

The establishment of an EDFZ is a complex process that requires a thorough risk assessment, sound planning and dedicated resources. The OIE has recently published **guidelines** to support Member Countries to establish an EDFZ.

[OIE guidelines on EDFZ](#)

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DOSSIER

Public-private partnership supporting scientific research to contribute to the OIE standard-setting process

KEYWORDS

#International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #public-private partnership, #research, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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Sampling horses in South Africa. © John Grewar

OIE standards are based on science. Scientific studies can provide the necessary evidence to support the creation, revision or updating of OIE standards for the benefit of the global community. In consultation with the [FEI](#) and the [IFHA](#), the OIE has identified priority areas to be addressed through scientific studies.

After an international call for tenders launched by the OIE in 2015, the FEI and IFHA funded the following studies:

- validation studies of diagnostic assays for African horse sickness (AHS) [1] (a serological assay); glanders [2] (serological assays); and equine influenza (a molecular assay)
- a study on the vaccination protocols against equine influenza
- a review of AHS vaccine technologies and economic assessment of a new AHS vaccine.

The outcomes of these validation studies and of the study on equine influenza vaccination protocols were taken into account by the relevant OIE Specialist Commissions when they revised the recommendations of the *Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Terrestrial Animals* and the *Terrestrial Animal Health Code*. The results of the studies on AHS vaccines were also recognised by the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) in supporting [the development of a safer AHS vaccine](#).

Reliable diagnostic assays and effective vaccines are instrumental in disease prevention and control and for the safe movement and importation of animals. Through its network of Reference Laboratories, Collaborating Centres and other organisations, the OIE strives to engage in successful partnerships to support the development of science-based standards.

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DOSSIER

Development of a safer vaccine against African horse sickness

KEYWORDS

#African horse sickness (AHS), #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #vaccine, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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Vaccination and microchipping. © John Grewar

African horse sickness (AHS) is a vector-borne disease caused by any of the nine serotypes of the AHS virus (AHSV), resulting in severe morbidity and high mortality in susceptible horse populations, and less severe to non-pathogenic infection in other equids. Vaccination is a very effective control measure in enzootic and also epizootic regions.

African horse sickness (AHS), one of the [OIE-listed diseases](#), is endemic in sub-Saharan Africa, but outbreaks have also been recorded in Spain, North Africa and the Middle East. AHS is considered a growing threat to non-endemic regions, due to climatic change and the international movement of equids. For this reason, movements of horses between endemic and non-endemic regions must comply with the OIE standards (in particular, [Chapter 12.1. of the](#)

Terrestrial Animal Health Code).

Current AHS vaccines: safety concerns

The currently used attenuated live vaccine (ALV) contains attenuated strains of different combinations of the nine serotypes. South Africa remains the major producer and user of the AHS ALV, while Senegal and Ethiopia produce and use different combinations of the vaccine.

Safety concerns associated with AHS ALV, including the risk of reassortment with wild-type AHSV and persistence in the environment, have often complicated the control of the disease in endemic regions and impeded the movement of horses from endemic countries, thus excluding them from international trade and sports events. As a result, non-endemic countries are not keen to consider the use of AHS ALV in the event of an epidemic. Monovalent inactivated AHS vaccines have been used in limited cases, but are no longer commercially available. Although several safer technologies have been developed or tried, no alternative to the AHS ALV is currently commercially available.

Towards the development of a safer AHS vaccine

The International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) and the OIE have embarked on a public-private partnership to support the development of better measures for the safe international movement of sport horses for competition. AHS vaccine technologies are one of the areas reviewed by the scientific studies supported through this partnership.

Based on the outcome of this review, the IHSC, through a consultative process involving various stakeholders, has proposed inactivated AHS vaccine technology as the best option in the medium term to be supported for further development, as it could address the current shortcomings of the AHS ALV, and meet the identified key characteristics of a suitable AHS vaccine. Work towards a multivalent inactivated AHS vaccine has been initiated in South Africa.

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AROUND THE WORLD

▶ OIE ACTIONS

Fostering public-private partnerships at the national and regional levels

A key step in building capacity for safe temporary importations of competition horses

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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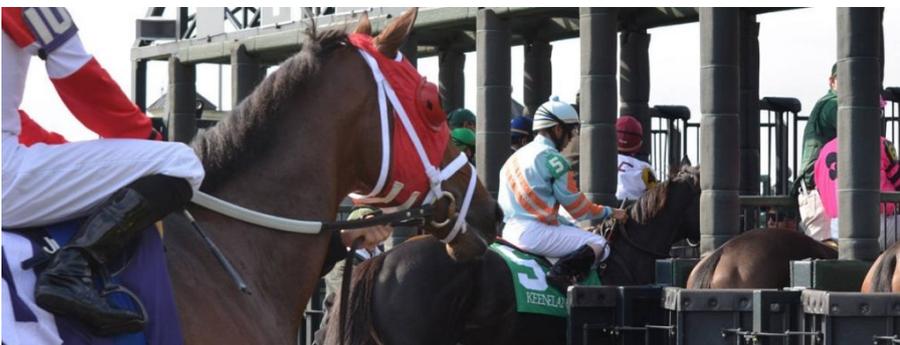
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The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) support sub-regional workshops to facilitate temporary importations of competition

horses at the regional level. These workshops target countries engaged in international equestrian sports and racing, and bring together representatives of Veterinary Authorities, National Equestrian Federations, National Horseracing Authorities and Customs Administrations.

Workshops are a key opportunity for these stakeholders to discuss and agree upon priority actions in developing their capacity to allow safe temporary importations of competition horses from throughout their region. Since 2017, such workshops have been held in southern Africa, Central America, South America, Asia and the Pacific, North Africa and the Middle East.

Successfully developing the capacity to support safe temporary importations of competition horses can only come from close collaboration between the public sector and the equine industry. These workshops foster collaboration and practical action and the impetus gained during these meetings must then be sustained at both the national and regional levels.



Group work at the OIE-IHSC workshop, Montevideo, Uruguay, 2017. © Göran Akerström

AROUND THE WORLD

► OIE ACTIONS

Regional seminar on the OIE standards and procedure to facilitate international movements of competition horses

Beirut, Lebanon, 13–15 June 2019

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #international standard, #Middle East, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

AUTHORS

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An OIE regional training seminar on 'The OIE standards and procedure to facilitate international movements of competition horses' was held in Beirut from 13 to 15 June 2019. This workshop was attended by representatives of Veterinary Authorities and the National Equestrian Federations of Middle-Eastern and North African countries.



© OIE/M. Meske

Through interactive activities (quizzes, case studies, question-and-answer sessions with international experts), the participants received detailed guidance on preparing applications for official recognition of freedom from African horse sickness (AHS) by the OIE, as well as on establishing and publishing a self-declaration to the OIE of an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) and the implementation of the high health, high performance (HHP) framework.

The importance of the equine sector in the Middle East is rooted in history and still growing today, and this seminar was the first of its kind. Official recognition of AHS-free status, the establishment and submission for publication on the OIE website of an EDFZ, and the implementation of the HHP framework are important tools in supporting the development of the equine sector and equestrian sports.

[OIE portal on the facilitation of international competition horse movement](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA)

KEYWORDS

#competition horse, #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA).

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© Hong Kong Jockey Club

The International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA) brings together some 60 horseracing authorities ('jockey clubs') from 55 countries.

The primary aim of this association is to develop model rules to assist the harmonisation of international races through the [International Agreement on Breeding, Racing and Wagering](#). When a horseracing authority signs an article of this Agreement, it means that it commits itself to incorporating this article into its national regulations.

[IFHA website](#)

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

International Equestrian Federation (FEI)

KEYWORDS

#competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI).

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© FEI

The International Equestrian Federation (Fédération Équestre Internationale - FEI) is the international governing body of equestrian sport, with 134 Member States divided into regional groups, and headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Seven disciplines are administered by the FEI. Dressage, eventing and showjumping are Olympic disciplines. Para-

dressage is a Paralympic sport. The other four disciplines are endurance, vaulting, reining and driving.

The FEI is a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and a signatory to the World Anti-Doping Code, overseen by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

The FEI registers around 85,000 horses and holds more than 4,500 events per year.

[FEI website](#)



FEI, World Equestrian Games, Tryon, United States of Americas, 2018. © Sportfot

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

FEI multipurpose electronic system for real-time traceability

KEYWORDS

#competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #traceability.

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© Susanne Münstermann

The [International Equestrian Federation \(FEI\)](#) is developing a system that enables real-time traceability of horses. Based on a combination of a microchip, microchip reader and smartphone app, this system will send information on registered users, horses, times and locations to the FEI database. Animal health information will also be recorded and, as a first step, a procedure for registering vaccinations against equine influenza vaccination will be developed. The system is also intended to register the movements of [high health, high performance horses](#). The launch of this system is planned for 2020.

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

IFHA International Movement of Horses Committee

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #public-private partnership.

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© Hong Kong Jockey Club

The International Movement of Horses Committee is the permanent liaison committee of the [International Federation of Horseracing Authorities \(IFHA\)](#), tasked with improving communication between countries that hold international races and making recommendations about equine health issues that restrict trade.

Membership of the Committee is open to veterinarians nominated by horseracing authorities and other specialists. Government Veterinary Officers are also invited to attend. The Committee meets annually in Hong Kong, an event which provides the opportunity for discussions on infectious disease issues and networking, as well as the formation

of task forces to address issues that constrain international horse movements.

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

International movements of horses for the Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #Gran Premio Latinoamericano, #public-private partnership, #South American Organization for the Promotion of Thoroughbreds (OSAF).

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© OSAF

The Longines Gran Premio Latinoamericano is the only horserace in the world which changes its venue from year to year, being held at a host track in a Member Country of the Latin American Association of Jockey Clubs and Racecourses. In 2020, the Longines Gran Premio

Latinoamericano will be hosted in Argentina, and, in 2021, in the United States of America.

The logistics of international horse movements for this race are complex. Competing horses have to arrive at the staging country at least seven days before the day of the race. Movements should preferably take place through direct freight flights, and any delay at Customs should be avoided, so as not to interfere with the pre-race training of competing horses and also to limit unnecessary stress (see the article [Practical challenges to the international movement of sport horses](#)). Within two or three days of the race's completion, competing horses return to their country of origin. However, flights on the necessary routes that are adequately equipped to transport horses can be scarce and the costs of air transport are extremely high.

The South American Organization for the Promotion of Thoroughbreds (OSAF) has successfully developed [various approaches to facilitate the movement of racehorses](#).

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2986>

AROUND THE WORLD

► SUCCESS STORIES

Temporary equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) in Indonesia in 2018

for the 18th Asian Games

KEYWORDS

#biosecurity, #competition horse, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ), #Indonesia.

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Preparing for the prize-giving ceremony, Asian Games, Indonesia, 2018. © Susanne Münstermann

A temporary equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) was created in the Pulomas Equestrian Centre in

Jakarta, to host the 18th Asian Games' equestrian competitions in August 2018. This EDFZ was established to encourage the participation of horses from throughout the world.

Indonesia declared this EDFZ free from equine infectious anaemia, glanders, equine influenza, surra, equine piroplasmiasis and Japanese encephalitis in accordance with the relevant requirements of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#).

To establish the equine health status around the EDFZ, a surveillance zone, composed of Jakarta DKI, the Special Capital Region (630 km²), and a protection zone, comprising Greater Jakarta (6,300 km²), were created and three disease surveys were carried out in these zones over 18 months. Antibodies to the following diseases were identified around the EDFZ: surra, piroplasmiasis, West Nile fever, equine influenza, equine herpesvirus, strangles and Japanese encephalitis. No clinical cases were seen during the survey period.

To mitigate the risk of disease introduction into the EDFZ, a depopulated buffer zone of 1 km, free of animals of any domestic species, was created around the EDFZ and the core zone was kept free of horses for 1.5 years.

Strict control of movements into the surveillance zone was implemented six months before the games, and horses in 'hot spots', where antibodies against multiple diseases had been identified, were removed from the surveillance zone. Furthermore, a vector control programme, based on the results of a vector survey carried out during the rainy and dry seasons of 2017/2018 in and around the core zone, was conducted before and during the games.



Biosecurity and control of movements of horses, Asian Games, Indonesia, 2018. © Susanne Münstermann

Non-European horses, after quarantine in their home country, were taken to a quarantine station outside the surveillance zone for two weeks while European horses were taken directly from the airport via a biosecure highway corridor to the core zone.

Twenty-one nations and 133 horses participated in the games and no cases of disease were reported. All horses returned healthy to their home destinations.



*Self-declaration of an EDFZ in Indonesia
(15 February - 30 September 2018)*

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2980>

AROUND THE WORLD

► SUCCESS STORIES

Long-term, equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) in Guangzhou, the People's Republic of China

KEYWORDS

#biosecurity, #China (People's Rep. of), #competition horse, #Conghua, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ).

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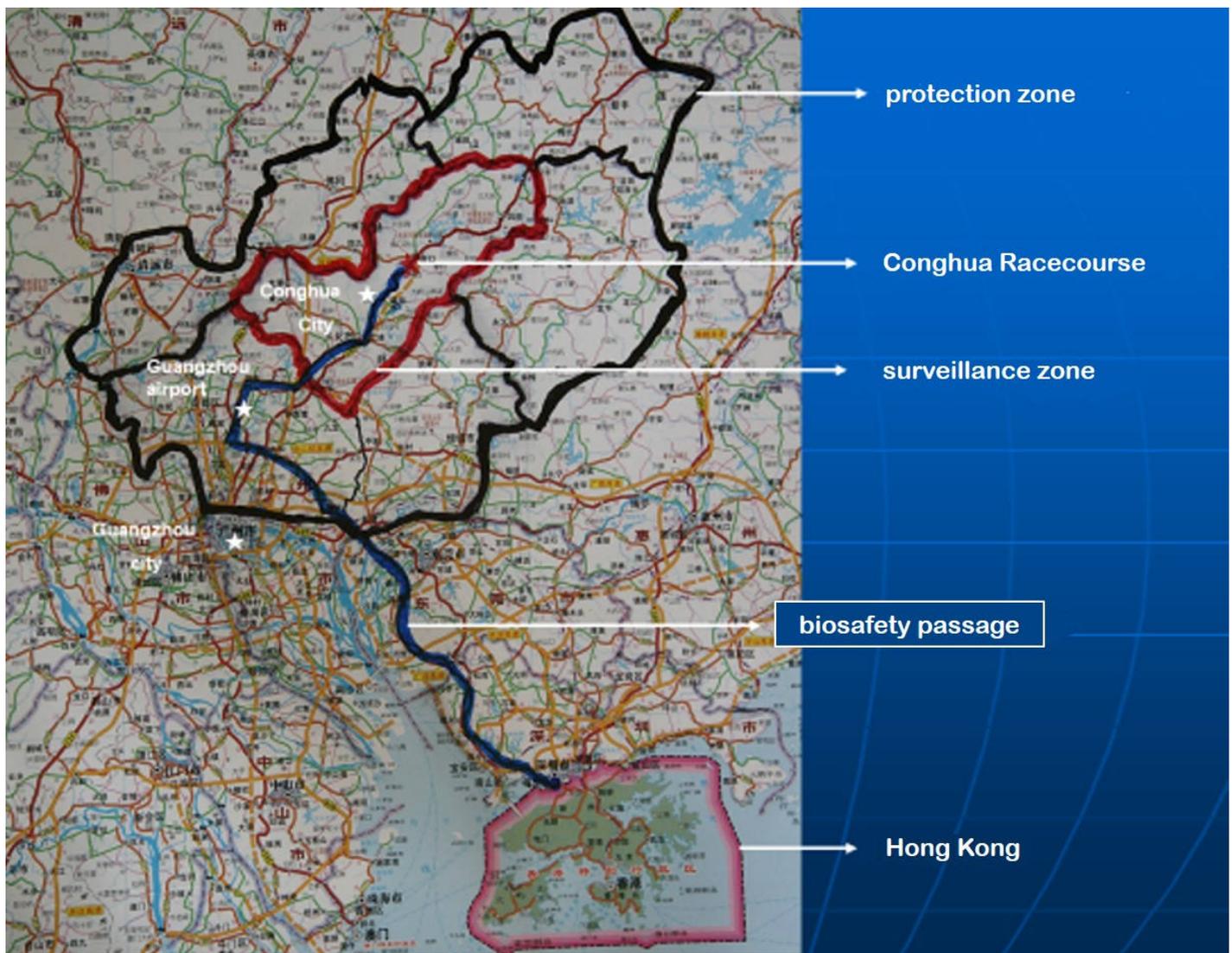
Conghua's EDFZ, partial view. © Hong Kong Jockey Club

An equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) was first established in the People's Republic of China (PRC) to host the 16th Asian Equestrian Games in Guangzhou in November 2010. Since then, the Hong Kong Jockey Club has invested in converting the equestrian venue used during the 16th Asian Equestrian Games into a new Conghua racecourse, to facilitate the frequent movement of racehorses between Hong Kong and the EDFZ. The 16th Asian Games of 2010 were extremely

successful, with 95 horses from 16 countries of equivalent health status taking part. The conversion of the equestrian venue into a new racecourse in Conghua has created a valuable long-term EDFZ as part of the games legacy, also strengthening cooperation in the Pan-Pearl River Delta (Greater Bay Area) and serving as a platform for longer-term sustainable development.

The long-term EDFZ has been in place since August 2018. In 2018, the European Commission included this EDFZ in its list of 'third countries'.

To support effective biosecurity, and based on the geographical and functional densities of human and animal populations (equines, pigs and ruminants) in the area, the EDFZ comprises a core zone with a radius of 5 km and a surveillance zone. The core zone consists of the enclosed Conghua Racecourse site. The surveillance zone comprises all the administrative divisions of Conghua City, except the core zone. Surrounding the EDFZ is a protection zone that includes the 18 surrounding districts of Guangzhou City.



Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, People's Republic of China

Conghua Racecourse inside the core zone is fully fenced off to prevent unauthorised entry or wildlife intrusions. Natural geographical features, including mountains, a river and hilly terrain, provide a high level of isolation. No horses are allowed into the core zone (except Conghua Racecourse).

The surveillance zone occupies an area of 2,009 km², and no equids are allowed in this zone. The protection zone has a limited number of horses, whose locations are known and registered. In the surveillance and protection zones, holdings that have pigs and ruminants are registered by the local Veterinary Authorities.



Conghua's EDFZ. © Hong Kong Jockey Club

Understanding the movements of animals and animal products and being able to control them efficiently are essential to effective biosecurity. The movements of domestic equids, other animals and biological materials are only allowed into the EDFZ by permit and are subject to quarantine requirements. Quarantine requirements for Hong Kong racehorses travelling across the border have been jointly defined by the Hong Kong Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and mainland authorities, including the PRC Customs Department and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs. Signage, three quarantine checkpoint controls and random monitoring to prevent unauthorised entry into the core zone support these requirements.

The long-term implementation of the EDFZ includes continuing to carry out biosecurity measures and close population management at Conghua Racecourse, in addition to compliance with the relevant quarantine requirements. Strict regulations and the monitoring of equine transportation are also enforced. Under this arrangement, horses do not need to be isolated in quarantine and can go directly to races or exercise upon arriving in Hong Kong from the EDFZ.

In addition, Hong Kong and mainland PRC have set up a strong collaboration mechanism and shared information system to record equine inspections and quarantine. The information system, in particular, facilitates the exchange of information on horse registration, entry and exit records, disease control, health certification, and more. A liaison mechanism has also been established to notify the other partner of the occurrence of equine disease and provide the quarantine records of racehorses transported to other countries.

Racehorses are moved between Hong Kong and the EDFZ by direct transfer, via a biosafety highway that connects the Hong Kong border with an equine exclusion zone corridor of 1 km on either side.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2981>

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ SUCCESS STORIES

Temporary equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) in Turkmenistan in 2017

for the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games

KEYWORDS

#biosecurity, #competition horse, #equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ), #Turkmenistan.

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Arrival of international horses, Asian Games, Turkmenistan, 2017. © Karen Coumbe

A temporary equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ) was created in Turkmenistan to host the equestrian competitions of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG) in September

2017.

Hosting an international equestrian event in a country with an undetermined health status for some equine diseases is undoubtedly a challenge. However, this challenge can be overcome by creating an EDFZ, an approach which was applied in Turkmenistan. A temporary EDFZ was self-declared for equine infectious anaemia, equine influenza and glanders in accordance with the relevant requirements of the [Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#).

Before establishing the zone, 16 months of surveillance took place over an area of 4,000 km² for African horse sickness, equine influenza, equine infectious anaemia, glanders, surra and piroplasmosis.

The core zone of the EDFZ, Ashgabat Racecourse, did not house any horses for six months before the event and was thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. There were strict movement controls in the EDFZ during this period. The diseases identified in the surveillance zone of the EDFZ were piroplasmosis in horses and donkeys, and surra in camels.

Separation of the equine subpopulation inside the EDFZ from the general equine population outside was achieved through sound biosecurity management, horse identification, controlling horse movements and certification procedures. The separation ensured that horses within the EDFZ were protected from diseases that might have been occurring in other parts of the country and vice versa. Vector control was carried out by disinfecting and disinsecting the stables before horses could enter. Electric traps and pour-on repellents on the horses were also used to mitigate the risk of introducing vector-borne diseases, which had been identified in the surveillance zone, into the core zone during the games.

Participating non-European horses underwent a three-week observation period in the international quarantine centre just outside the surveillance zone. Horses from Europe were transferred directly from the airport via a biosecure corridor to the event venue. Horses were grouped and accommodated in different stable blocks, according to their country/region of origin, and a strict biosecurity protocol was applied.

Eight nations and 42 horses participated in the games and not a single case of disease was reported. All horses returned home in full health.



*Self-declaration of an EDFZ in
Turkmenistan (15 March - 10 October
2017)*

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2982>

AROUND THE WORLD

▶ NETWORK INITIATIVES

Initiatives to facilitate the international movement of sport horses in South America

KEYWORDS

#animal movement, #biosecurity, #capacity building, #competition horse, #public-private partnership, #South America, #South American Organization for the Promotion of Thoroughbreds (OSAF).

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A high-health-status programme and agreements with Customs Administrations are being developed with the support of the [South American Organization for the Promotion of Thoroughbreds \(OSAF\)](#) to facilitate international movement of sport horses in the region.

High-health-status programme

The OSAF has successfully taken part in various approaches to facilitate the movement of racehorses. It collaborates with the **South American Technical Committee** to develop a South American programme for racehorses, based on the principles of a high-health-status horse subpopulation, as defined in [Chapter 4.17. of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code](#).

This programme will be launched in 2019–2020. It is based on specific measures to establish high health status, as well as continuous veterinary supervision and traceability – including during training. The programme aims to facilitate temporary importations of racehorses to participate in international races; in particular, by exempting them from pre-export or post-import quarantine.

The development and implementation of this programme require the close collaboration of various stakeholders (veterinarians, analysts, handicappers and those who keep the stud books) to introduce and implement new tools to ensure the high health status and traceability of horses included in the programme.

Agreement between Customs Administrations

An agreement is being prepared between the Customs Administrations of Uruguay and Argentina, thanks to the assistance of the Deputy Secretary of the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries in Argentina, and with the support of the OSAF. This agreement is intended to allow the free movement of pure-bred horses, with official documentation, between these two countries, for temporary export and for non-reproductive purposes. This agreement will cover thoroughbreds, quarter horses and polo horses.

<https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2019.2.2983>

AROUND THE WORLD

THEMATIC EVENTS

Pan American Games

Lima, Peru, July–August 2019

KEYWORDS

#Americas, #biosecurity, #competition horse, #Pan American Games.

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Peru hosted the Pan American Games in Lima from 26 July to 11 August 2019.

About 150 horses from 14 countries participated in the equestrian competitions. These games were qualifiers for

the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

The Peru National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) established animal health requirements for horses taking part in the games and needing temporary entry into Peru. These requirements were established in accordance with the standards and recommendations of the OIE, and in compliance with biosecurity standards, to mitigate risk of the introduction and spread of equine diseases.

[Pan American Games website](#)



AROUND THE WORLD

THEMATIC EVENTS

OIE/IHSC sub-regional workshop in support of temporary importations of competition horses at the regional level

Russia, November 2019

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #International Federation of Horseracing Authorities (IFHA), #International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC), #public-private partnership, #World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).

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© Karen Coumbe

The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the International Horse Sports Confederation (IHSC) support sub-regional workshops for countries participating in international equestrian sports or races.

The next OIE/IHSC workshop will target countries in Group III of the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), Central Asia, and will be held in Moscow on 21 November 2019.

RESOURCES

▶ OIE PUBLICATIONS

Guidelines on the establishment, management, and self-declaration to the OIE of an equine-disease-free zone



Author: Anthony Kettle, Equine International Consulting, Darwin, Australia.

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
2019

These guidelines have been developed [thanks to the support of the International Horse Sports Confederation \(IHSC\)](#). They aim at providing a structured approach to support Members Countries of the OIE in:

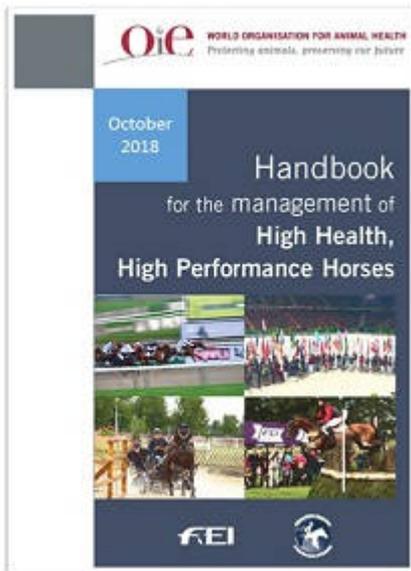
- establishing an equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ)
- applying for the publication of a self-declaration of an EDFZ by the OIE
- implementing control of horse movement through specific veterinary certificates.

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RESOURCES

▶ OIE PUBLICATIONS

Handbook for the management of high health, high performance horses



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
October 2018

[The HHP framework](#) and associated HHP Veterinary Certificates provide a standard for the temporary movement of horses to engage in international equestrian events and Group or Grade races, and to return to their countries of origin.

This OIE HHP Handbook provides guidelines for the implementation of the HHP framework:

- Part 1 - Steps and responsibilities for the application of the HHP framework
- Part 2 - Guidelines for the implementation of the HHP framework, especially with regard to biosecurity requirements
- Part 3 - Provisions for the temporary importation of HHP horses with reference to the model HHP Veterinary Certificates
- Part 4 - Model HHP Veterinary Certificates.

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RESOURCES

► OIE PUBLICATIONS

High health, high performance (HHP) horses: risk mitigation strategies and establishment of specific health requirements



World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
2015

This document demonstrates how the continuous observance of the [HHP health and biosecurity practices](#) allow for simplification of the list of diseases for which HHP horses should be certified with respect to their temporary importation for competition purposes.

The HHP risk mitigation strategies rely on four pillars:

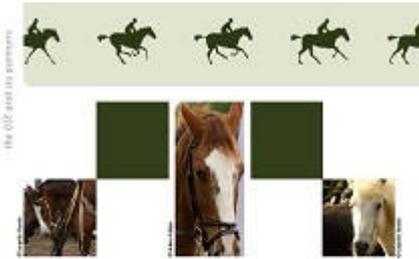
- Biosecurity measures
- Health management practices
- Specific health requirements
- Contingency planning.

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RESOURCES

▶ OIE PUBLICATIONS

OIE Bulletin, 2016-1 issue



Advances in African horse sickness vaccine research

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The objectives and methodologies employed and the importance of the material in this article do not imply the acceptance or non-acceptance of the content of the OIE (including the legal aspects of the scientific, technical, other areas or its activities, or concerning the registration of its findings and transactions).
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KEYWORDS
African horse sickness (AHS) virus – attenuating selected live
vaccines against AHS – DNA vaccine – recombinant vaccine.
African horse sickness (AHS) is a vector-borne disease
of Equidae transmitted by biting insects of the genus
Culiseta. It has been identified and remains a serious
zoonotic disease.
AHS of horses occurs in most countries of
Europe and sub-Saharan Africa, although it periodically
occurs worldwide in some endemic regions. Several
North African countries, the Arabian Peninsula, the Middle

Issue no. 2016-1 of the *OIE Bulletin* contains the following articles, among others:

- The HHP concept as an option to improve global access to equestrian sport ([doi:10.20506/bull.2016.1.2496](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2016.1.2496))
- Equine-disease-free zones (EDFZ) ([doi:10.20506/bull.2016.1.2497](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2016.1.2497))
- Korea's experience with the EDFZ concept at the 17th Asian Games, 2014 ([doi:10.20506/bull.2016.1.2498](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2016.1.2498))
- Towards the implementation of the HHP concept in the Americas ([doi:10.20506/bull.2016.1.2499](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2016.1.2499))
- The EU perspective on the implementation of the HHP concept ([doi:10.20506/bull.2016.1.2500](https://doi.org/10.20506/bull.2016.1.2500))

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RESOURCES

► OIE PUBLICATIONS

Pictorial guide to the diagnosis of glanders



Edited by U. Wernery, D. Altemann, J. Kinne & R. Wernery

World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)

2012

ISBN 978-92-9044-890-7

21 x 29.7 cm, 45 pp.

Price: EUR 25

Glanders is a contagious and life-threatening disease of horses, donkeys and mules caused by *Burkholderia mallei* which can be transmitted to humans. Susceptibility to glanders has been demonstrated in wild felines, camels, bears, wolves and dogs.

This brochure on glanders shows valuable images of clinical signs, post mortem lesions as well as histology and microbiological pictures. These images will serve as a useful tool to veterinarians and other interested people in understanding and diagnosing this zoonosis. It may also help to eradicate the disease from our globe.

[[Order the book](#)]

RESOURCES

EXTERNAL PUBLICATIONS

Equine disease events resulting from international horse movements

Systematic review and lessons learned



M. Dominguez, S. Münstermann, I. de Guindos & P. Timoney

Equine Veterinary Journal, **48**, 641-653

September 2016

DOI: 10.1111/evj.12523

The global increase in international horse movements, if not appropriately regulated and supervised by competent veterinary authorities and respective equine industry partners, could potentially lead to increased global spread of infectious equine diseases. Appropriate mitigation measures and compliance with OIE import recommendations for specific diseases can significantly reduce this risk.

The recommendations proposed under the HHP approach take into account the mitigation measures identified by this review as important factors in preventing pathogen introduction and spread.

[[Download the article](#)]

RESOURCES

▶ OTHER RESOURCES

FEI Campus



[FEI Campus](#) is a free of charge e-learning platform and is set to become the virtual reference point for education around the horse.

The content and courses have the seal of approval of the [International Equestrian Federation \(FEI\)](#).

RESOURCES

▶ OTHER RESOURCES

Self-declarations of equine-disease-free zone (EDFZ)

published by the OIE



- [Self-declaration of EDFZ in Japan in 2019](#)
- [Self-declaration of EDFZ in Indonesia in 2018](#)
- [Self-declaration of EDFZ in Turkmenistan in 2017](#)
- [Self-declaration of EDFZ in Brazil in 2016](#)
- [Self-declaration of EDFZ in the Republic of Korea in 2014](#)

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