

Breeding Committee – 2011 Minutes

- 2011 Meetings:** Thursday, Aug. 4, 2011 – 15:00-16:00
Friday, Aug. 5, 2011 – 15:00-16:00
Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011 – 15:00-16:00
- Meeting Room:** Palisades I&II
- Chairman:** Andrew Kelly (Australia)
- Members:** Dean Cooper (Australia), Mick Lombardo (Australia), Michael Taranto (Australia), Patrick De Ryckere (Belgium), Pat Kennedy (Canada), Tammy McNiven (Canada), Klaus Storm (Denmark), Pekka Soini (Finland), Guillaume Maupas (France), Heinz Tell (Germany), Brian Peachey (Great Britain and Ireland), Claudio Lorenzini (Italy), Ailsa Smaill (New Zealand), Øystein Dale (Norway), Britt Helene Villand Lindheim (Norway), Dr. Ekaterina Zabegina (Russia), Dean Latimer (South Africa), Christina Olsson (Sweden), Phil Langley (USA), Janet Terhune (USA)
- Secretary:** Ryan Avenatti

Agenda Items

1. Election of a Chairperson

Andrew Kelly nominated and elected unanimously.

2. Review and Approval of the 2009 Committee Report

The minutes from the 2009 meeting were read by all members and no remarks were put forward.

3. Formulation of Additional Agenda Items

A motion was put forward to discuss UET Regulations from 2012 and their implementation. The motion was seconded and placed on the agenda under item 10.

4. Consideration of the World Statistical Data

Members were given a moment to consider the data and the chairman opened the floor to discussion. There appeared to be a trend in most countries that there is a decline in stallions, number of matings, and registered foals per year. The challenge stems from economic pressures placing the production of young horses at a disadvantage. Strategies to reverse this trend focus on attracting new owners/investors, purse incentives for owners and breeders, and the possibility of limiting stallion books. Notable exceptions are discussed below.

- South Africa – focused on breed development. Trying to grow the population through importing semen and mares. Efforts are inhibited by logistical costs.
- Russia – Numbers of foals and mares experiencing some growth due to focus on breed revival of Orlov Trotter and attraction of new investors into breeding segment. Small amount of government financial support to stud farms for each mare bred. Farms are complete agricultural units, not only horse breeding.
- Sweden – increase from 2009 in numbers of mares bred. Market challenges favor racehorses over yearlings. Developing some incentives for breeding and owning young horses. These measures have increased number of young racing horses.
- Belgium – decline in number of foals over last eight years. Breeding is now increasing due to adoption of using French-bred horses, reciprocity between the two countries, and changes in gambling regulations that allow bets on foreign races.
- France – number of mares bred increasing yearly, so in order to increase the profitability of the breeding industry, undertaking an intentional decrease in number of mares bred to less than 15,000 mares by 2015. The eventual goal is to have 4,000 qualified race horses (currently 5-6,000 qualify every year).
- Italy – the number of foals have been decreasing for several years as a result of a plan implemented in 2010 for the elimination from the breeding pool of dams more than 14 years of age.

The following recommendation was put forward and approved for submission to the General Assembly:

That data representing a five year period be submitted prior to the onset of subsequent World Trotting Conferences for a more complete comparison and elucidation of trends.

5. Consideration of the International Data Exchange Proposal

Follow-up from the 2009 New Zealand meeting calling for the creation of an international database – still under development by the UET. 6-7 Countries sending data daily, however integration of data has been difficult to achieve.

The USTA currently developing lists of exported horses for free access through www.ustrotting.com.

It was brought up that the Marketing Committee working on an administrative gateway/database. The Chair remarked that notifications of stallion export would fit well under this umbrella.

A concern was raised that stallion reports do not currently reflect world foal production and earnings from “shuttle stallions.” A solution was proposed that each breed registry request statistics for these stallions and create an online database.

6. Identification of Horses

Updates from 2009 Meeting:

- EU requires horse passports from the country where an exported horse was foaled.
 - Also requires Unique Equine Life Number (UELN), DNA typing at birth, microchips, and health certificates.
- The US and Canada currently working on UELN and developing passports for horses for export to Europe.
 - Passports will not include medical histories, and will therefore note that horses are not intended for human consumption.
- New Zealand utilizes hair and DNA samples for horse identification.
- The USTA has approved the use of microchips as means of identification.
- Number of DNA markers used varies among countries.

As horses exported to Europe are not allowed to race without a passport, the following recommendation was put forward and approved for submission to the General Assembly:

In cases of exportation to Europe it is necessary that horses travel with a passport from the country from which it is being exported.

7. Export Certificates – and the Late Application for Them

Continuing problem regarding the transport of horses between countries for racing but not for inclusion in the stud books. Some jurisdictions and transporters/agents do not provide proper documentation (i.e. Export Certificates). The Committee supported the restatement of the recommendation from the 2009 meeting:

An Export Certificate must be applied for to the breed registry prior to the horse leaving the country of export whether it is for permanent or temporary export. This will enable the country of export to notify the importing country in advance of the horse being imported.

The Committee also puts forward the recommendation for approval by the General Assembly that:

Any information exchange required for proper export, all supporting documentation be supplied within 72 hours of request for documentation being received.

8. Current Regulations and Practice, by country, of:

a. Embryo Cryostorage –

- not approved in any country

b. Sperm Sorting

- Banned in Australia (Part 1 of Rule 286).
- No specific ban in Canada, US, or UET, but overall disapproval

c. Importation of Frozen Embryos

- Banned in UET and currently does not occur in any of the represented member countries

d. Semen of Dead Stallions

- UET allows use of semen for one year after the date of the stallions death

The Committee put forward and approved the following recommendation for consideration by the General Assembly:

A foal that is the product of sperm sorting shall not be eligible for racing registration in any country.

9. Current Horse Import and Export Practices

Dealt with previously under Item 7.

10. Any Other Matters

a. Discussion and Implementation of UET 2012 Rules relating to breeding

The Committee put forward and approved the following recommendation, based on the UET rule, to be considered by the General Assembly:

Any horse testing positive for steroids or growth hormone may be excluded from breeding.

b. Breeding Research

The Committee put forward and approved the following recommendation to be considered by the General Assembly:

That a summary of recent and ongoing reproductive research in the member countries become a standing agenda item for the Breeding Committee at future ITA and WTC meetings.

Summary of recent and ongoing reproduction research taking place in member countries:

Canada – Recently received a request from individuals conducting DNA research for finding markers for performance. This request was denied; similar requests made to the USTA and Sweden, which also denied the requests

US – The USTA has undertaken an evaluation of genetic diversity in the standardbred population. The goal of this research is to assess if limiting stallion books has had any success or if further restriction on number of matings is required.

Australia – Harness Racing Australia recently entered into agreement looking at sperm sorting and stallion fertility. The goal of this research is to improve breeding efficiency, and work out quality assurance on behalf of breeders, and to develop semen transport at ambient temperature.

Italy – Research taking place in regards to genetic selection based on genetic indices from all horses in the stud book since 1994, and is conducted by a university agreement with the Italian horsemen that sets the goals and methods of the research.

Sweden – Research on inbreeding in standardbred as compared to Icelandic horses has shown that inbreeding has a negative impact on number of racing starts and competitive years. Institutions are also researching effects of training methods and nutritional management on yearlings, two-year-olds and three-year-olds. Research into OCDs and osteoarthritis in stifles is currently underway.

Russia – The All-Russian Institute of Horse Breeding and the All-Russian Institute of Experimental Veterinary Medicine are undertaking breeding and veterinary research, which have good cooperation with OIE and with French veterinary research organizations.

France – New emphasis on establishing procedures to detect foal doping (anabolic steroids and growth hormones) from 2012.

South Africa – Standardbreds and French Trotters recently registered as approved breeds, which has generated interest from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, which is looking for collaborators for research in these breeds.

c. The Committee submits the following recommendation to the General Assembly:

That future agenda items should include proponents of and supporting documentation.

d. Watching brief

Members are encouraged to undertake monitoring of equine infectious disease, and that this topic is added to future agendas. Two particular diseases of concern brought forward:

1. Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA)
2. Equine Rhinopneumonia (EHV1 and EHV4)