

Mutilations and blood collections in Equidae





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FEEVA
Every horse matters

About FEEVA

FEEVA, the Federation of European Equine Veterinary Associations, was created in Strasbourg in 1998 by veterinary practitioners from different EU countries met to discuss with European Parliament members the issue of medicine regulations concerning horses.

[READ MORE](#)



FEEVA is part of the FVE family

FVE is the European representative body for the veterinary profession in Europe. FEEVA is member of UEVP, the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners. UEVP is a Section of FVE.

FVE WEBSITE





Equidae

Mutilations

Blood collections



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Mutilations

Definition (Merriam-Webster)

"An act or instance of destroying, removing or severely damaging a limb or other bodyparts of a person or animal"

Mutilations

Definition (Merriam-Webster)

"An act or instance of destroying, removing or severely damaging a limb or other bodyparts of a person or animal"

- Destroy
 - Remove
 - Severely damage
- parts of the body*

Equine

Definition (Merriam-Webster)

"Of, relating to or resembling a horse or the horse family"

EFSA

- Horses
- Ponies
- Draught horses
- Donkeys
- Mules
- Hinnies

Equine body and sensory capacity

EFSA

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- Ponies
- Draught horses
- Donkeys
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Equine body and sensory capacity

Equines are vertebrate animals

Recognised sentience: *a sentient being*

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A living being having the ability to feel, perceive and experience the world around them

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**An intelligent being capable of experiencing
positive and negative feelings**

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Equine body and sensory capacity

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Recognised sentence: *a sentient being*

Ethical perspective: Recognition of equines intrinsic value

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EFSA

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How smart are
horses?



How smart are horses?

- How does horses respond to the state of knowledge or ignorance of their human companions?



How smart are horses?

- They used more visual and tactile signals with the uninformed than the informed caretaker
- Looking at the object
- Touching the object
- Pushing the caretaker towards the object

How smart are horses?

Horses are highly social
animals: they
communicate very much
with each other

How smart are horses?



They try to communicate with humans as well

**They try to communicate
with humans**

Are humans trying to understand horses?

How smart are donkeys?

- Donkeys have an excellent memory, and great ability to learn.
- A 2013 study by The Donkey Sanctuary found that they can learn
- and problem-solve at the same pace as dolphins and dogs.

How smart are donkeys?

- This means that donkeys remember good and bad experiences for a long time.
- Negative or painful experiences affect the donkey's behaviour, sometimes for years

How smart are donkeys?

Are humans trying to
understand donkeys?

-
- Which interventions does humans have the right to perform on animals?

Which interventions
does humans have the
right to perform on
animals?

- Ethics in societal
decision-making:
- Justification &
Proportionality

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Proportionality

Ethical perspective: Recognition of equines intrinsic value

Which interventions
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animals?

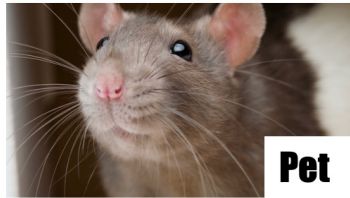
- Ethics in societal
decision-making:
- Justification &
Proportionality

Ethical perspective: Recognition of equines intrinsic value

different from

Traditional perspective: intended use for humans

Laws and regulation for animals across Europe



Pet



Pet



Pet

Intended use



Laboratory



Slaughter



Sport



Pest

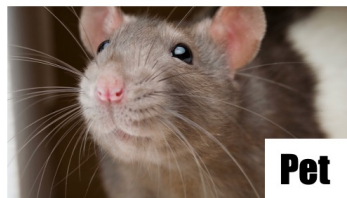


Feral/wild boar



Slaughter

Laws and regulation for animals across Europe



Intended use A



Intended use B



Intended use C

Basic needs
Sentience
Intrinsic value

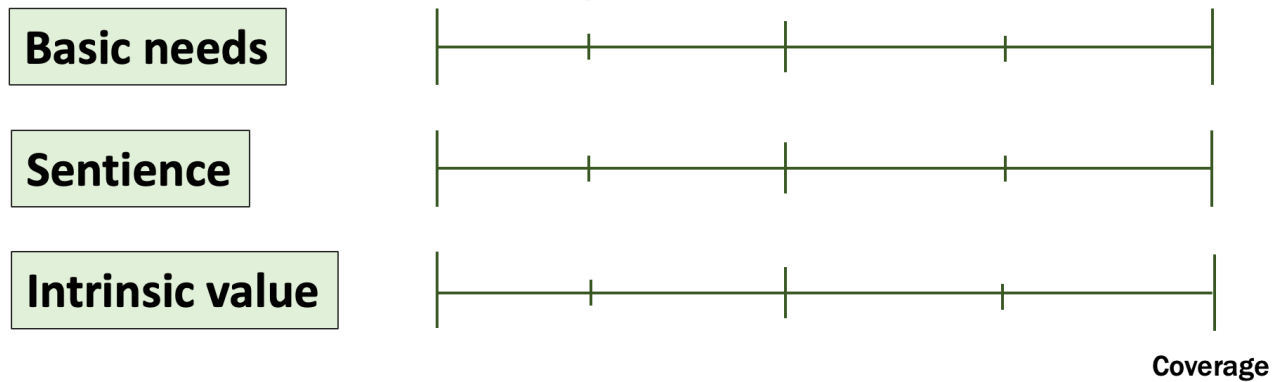


= line of arguments

Modern perspective and ethics for societal decisions



"A good life"



Which interventions
does humans have the
right to perform on
animals?

Modern perspective

- Ethics in societal
decision-making:
- Justification &
Proportionality

Ethical perspective: Recognition of equines intrinsic value

**Societal and/or individual
interests in using horses**



The intrinsic value of the horse

Acknowledgement of:
-Basic needs
-Sentient level



*Which
compromises of
the intrinsic
value of the
animals can be
accepted?
-and for what
reason?*



Proportionality

**Ethical balance
for societal
decisions**

**Transparent
governance of
horse welfare**

Is it in the interest of the equine or the human?

The intrinsic value of the horse

Acknowledgement of:

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- Sentient level

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Ethical balance
for societal
decisions

Transparent
governance of
horse welfare

Is it in the interest of the equine or the human?

Intended gain: survival, financial, leisure etc.

The intrinsic value of the horse

Acknowledgement of:

- Basic needs
- Sentient level

and for what
reason?

governance of
horse welfare

quality

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Is it in the interest of the equine or the human?

Intended gain: survival, financial, leisure etc.

Inflicted pain, discomfort, disrespect, body malfunction

Acknowledgement of:

- Basic needs
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Ethics & Transparency

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Ethics & Transparency

Protection of our non-verbal partner: the equine

Societal decision-making -with animals' intrinsic value as a starting point



FVE Animal Welfare WG, subgroup:

- Dominique Autier, France
- Thomas Richter, Germany
- Mette Uldahl, FVE Vice President
- Article co-author: Susanne Hartmann

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A transparent Methodology for Society to Address Animal Welfare from the Intrinsic Value and the Justifying Reason to A Transparent Methodology for Society Addressing Animal Welfare–Proposal for an Ethical Based Framework for Decision Makers

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Which mutilations
are justified at
which level



Laws across Europe:

Laws across Europe:

SWEDEN: Animal Protection Act (Djurskyddslagen SPF 2018:1192)

Surgical procedures

2 § It is illegal to carry out surgical procedures or injections to animals where it is no medical indication.

Excluding specially permitted animal testing procedures

Anesthetics are required at all surgical procedures.

Ch 5. Surgical procedures that is allowed to be carried out by animal health professionals without medical indication.

2 § A veterinarian is allowed to perform the following surgical procedures without medical indication and for 6, the procedure does not require anesthetics.

1. Remove surplus teats on calves.
2. Place a nose ring on bulls.
3. Remove wolf teeth on equids.
4. Sterilise bulls, rams and boars via vasectomy or caudal epididymectomy.
5. Take out and implant embryos from **sheep and goat**
6. ID-mark animals via freeze marking, ear-tags or inject microchip transponder.
7. ID-mark dogs, cats and rabbits by tattoo

Laws across Europe:

Germany: Tierschutzgesetz § 6

SWEDEN: (1) The complete or partial amputation of body parts or the complete or partial removal or destruction of organs or tissues of a vertebrate is prohibited. The ban does not apply if:

Surgical procedure 1.
2 § It is ill the intervention is justified in individual cases

Excluding s a)
Anesthetic is required according to veterinary indication or
1b.

Ch 5. Surgi horses are identified by hot branding,
5.

2 § A vete to prevent uncontrolled reproduction or - unless veterinary concerns conflict with this
the proced - sterilization is carried out for further use or keeping of the animal.

1. Remove surplus teats on calves.
2. Place a nose ring on bulls.
3. Remove wolf teeth on equids.
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Laws across Europe:

SWEDEN:

Surgical procedures

2 § It is illegal to perform mutilations on animals. In horses it is allowed to perform mutilations (e.g. cut the tail) if there is a **veterinary indication**.

Excluding surgical procedures It is allowed to **castrate a horse** if it is necessary for the future keeping/use of the horse.
Anesthetic

Ch 5. Surgical procedures

2 § A veterinarian is allowed to perform surgical procedures on animals if a local pain killer is used. As there is no such pain killer it is in fact forbidden.

the procedure

Removing the vibrissae and protective hair in the ears is forbidden.

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Laws across Europe:

Germany: Tierschutzgesetz § 6

UK: Mutilation Act, permitted procedures for horses:

Identification procedures

- Freeze branding
- Hot branding
- Microchipping
- Tattooing
- Other methods of identification involving a mutilation required by law

Procedures for control of reproduction

- Castration
- Vasectomy

There is a **veterinary indication**.

...ing/use of the horse.

There is no such pain killer it is in fact forbidden.

n.

3. Remove worn teeth on equids.

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- Freeze branding
- Hot branding
- Microchipping
- Tattooing
- Other methods of identification

Procedures for control of

- Castration
- Vasectomy

There is a **veterinary indication**.

act forbidden.

Positive lists for permitted procedures
Everything else is not permitted

3. Remove wolf teeth on equids.
4. Sterilise bulls, rams and boars via vasectomy or caudal epididymectomy.
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Food Safety

Platform conclusions

<https://food.ec.europa.eu/animals/animal-welfare/eu-plat...>

. **Guide to good animal welfare** practices for the keeping, care, training and use of horses 15 MARCH 2021 aw_platform_plat-conc_guide_equidae_en.pdf English (1.95 MB - PDF)Download Other languages (10) español (2.33 MB - PDF)Download dansk (2.91 MB - PDF)Download Deutsch (10.88 MB - PDF)Download ελληνικά (1.97 MB - PDF)Download français (9.53 MB

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13.1 Tail docking, trimming and nicking

Docking the tail and the nicking of tendons to affect tail carriage should be strongly discouraged. Docking of horses' tails should only be carried out for veterinary reasons. The trimming of horses' whiskers and inner ear hairs should be discouraged.



Photo 27 and 28. Tail docking and hot iron branding should be strongly discouraged.

13.2 Other mutilations

No other mutilations should be performed on horses, except castration, which should only be carried out by a veterinarian and performed under sedation and local anaesthesia or total anaesthesia, in both cases followed by long lasting analgesia. Hot iron branding should be strongly discouraged. If freeze branding is undertaken, it should be done professionally.

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14.2 Breeding methods

Horses should not be bred in a manner that may entail suffering.

Examples of mutilations: (Non-exhaustive list)

Tail tendon nicking and/or botox injections in the tail.

The quiet tail

Horse Welfare in Horse sport

① How is the horse?

Grinding teeth
Clapping teeth

Movement
of head
and neck

Horse language: behavioural markers



Horses telling about problems: Conflict behaviour



The positively accepting horse:



Amputation of the tail:

- Tail docking of work horses
- Old tradition
- To avoid the tail getting caught in harness, but can be managed otherwise

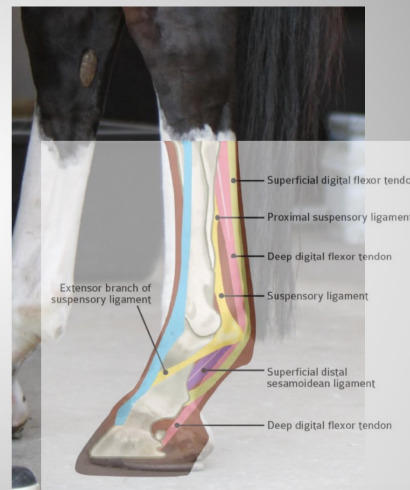
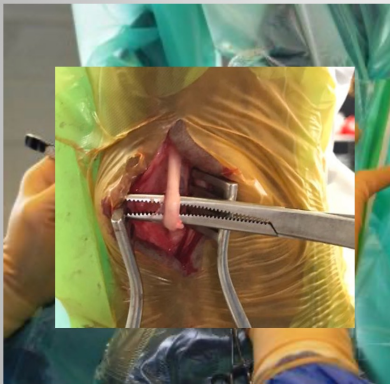
Amputation of the tongue:


- Sticking out the tongue while being ridden is a symptom of the horse being uncomfortable for an undefined reason
- Too avoid low scores in competition, where a tongue sticking out is not desired

Neurectomy of limbs:

- De-nerving prohibits transmission of pain signals to the horse's brain
- Performed to disable chronic lame horses to feel pain
- It disguises symptoms of attrition in sport horses, and allows them to compete while not being sound

2. Fasciotomy/neurectomy of the suspensories






Thermocautery
(pin firing):

Horse ripping/slashing:

- Act of animal cruelty



Caslicks surgery:



Surgical/invasive reproductive procedures:

- OPUS: aspiration of eggs, in vitro embryo production
- ICSI: Intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection
- Flushing of fertilized eggs within the mare (oocyte pick up etc.



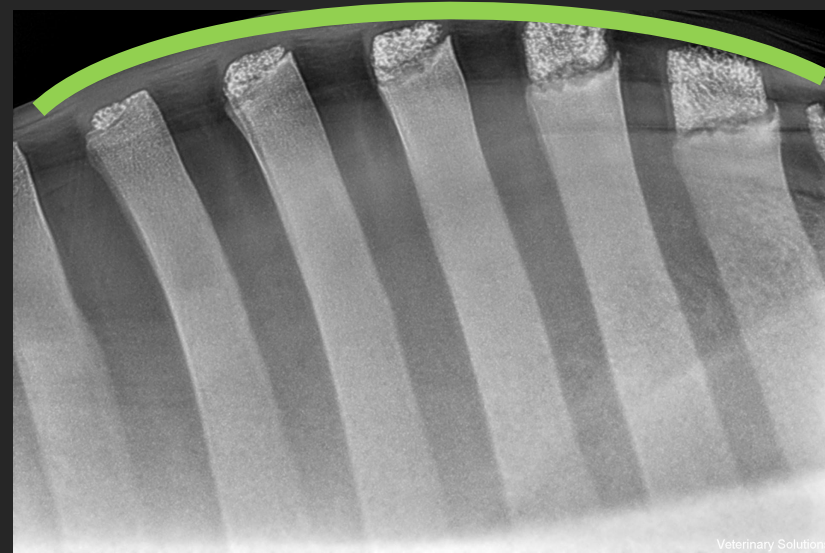
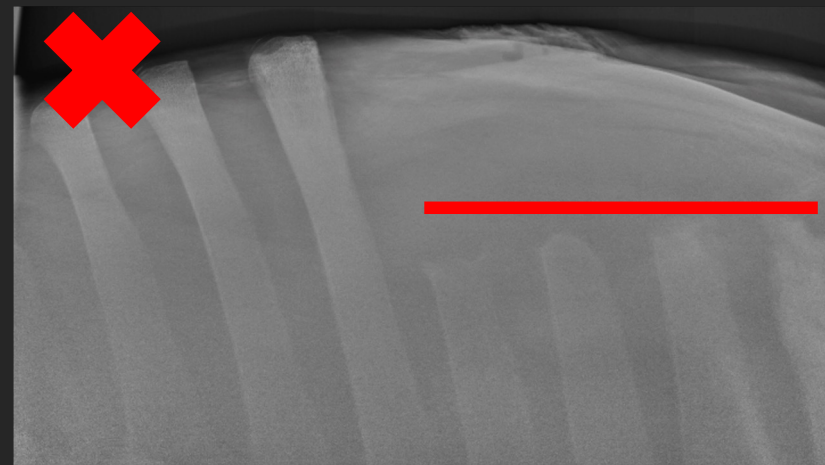
Bit seat teeth:

- Bellowing/rounding front part of the cheek teeth to allow for bit placed in the mouth
- Teeth worn unnaturally and alveoli can open

Surgery of withers

To lower the height at the withers for a horse to be measured as a pony

(maximum 148cm at the withers)



Injection and infusion of medicines in healthy horses:

In training and competition of horses



Removal of wolf teeth

- Old tradition in riding horses
- To avoid potential problems with the bit

Surgery of roarers

- To enable them to take part in sport/higher levels of sport



Surgery of cribbiters:

- To disguise stereotypy



Lesions and injuries from tack/human handling of the equine via tack:

- Oral lesions from use of bit/rider hand
- Trimming skin/mucous membranes at the commissure of the lips
- Back lesions from saddle/girth etc
- Lesions from use of rider spurs
- Lesions of the tongue due to tongue tie
- Etc.

For the Equine or the human?

For the Equine or the human?

We need to consider the implications for the Equine as well as the human interest for each type of practice

For the Equine or the human?

We need to consider the implications for the Equine as well as the human interest for each type of practice

Transparency:

- Remove potential blinders: to reflect and recognise
- All interest disclaimed and put on the table

For the Equine or the human?

We need to consider the implications for the Equine as well as the human interest for each type of practice

Transparency:

- Remove potential blinders: to reflect and recognise
- All interest disclaimed and put on the table

Justification:

- Is a particular tradition/type of procedure justifiable by any means?

For the Equine or the human?

We need to consider the implications for the Equine as well as the human interest for each type of practice

Transparency:

- Remove potential blinders: to reflect and recognise
- All interest disclaimed and put on the table

Justification:

If yes or perhaps:

- Is a particular tradition/type of procedure justifiable by any means?

For the Equine or the human?

We need to consider the implications for the Equine as well as the human interest for each type of practice

Transparency:

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- All interest disclaimed and put on the table

Justification:

- Is a particular tradition/type of procedure justifiable by any means?

Proportion:

- Ethical balance between equine compromise of discomfort, pain, fear etc and human interests

Analysis of human gain versus animal harm

**Societal and/or individual
interests in using horses**



The intrinsic value of the horse

Acknowledgement of:
-Basic needs
-Sentient level



*Which
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Proportionality

**Ethical balance
for societal
decisions**

**Transparent
governance of
horse welfare**



Equidae

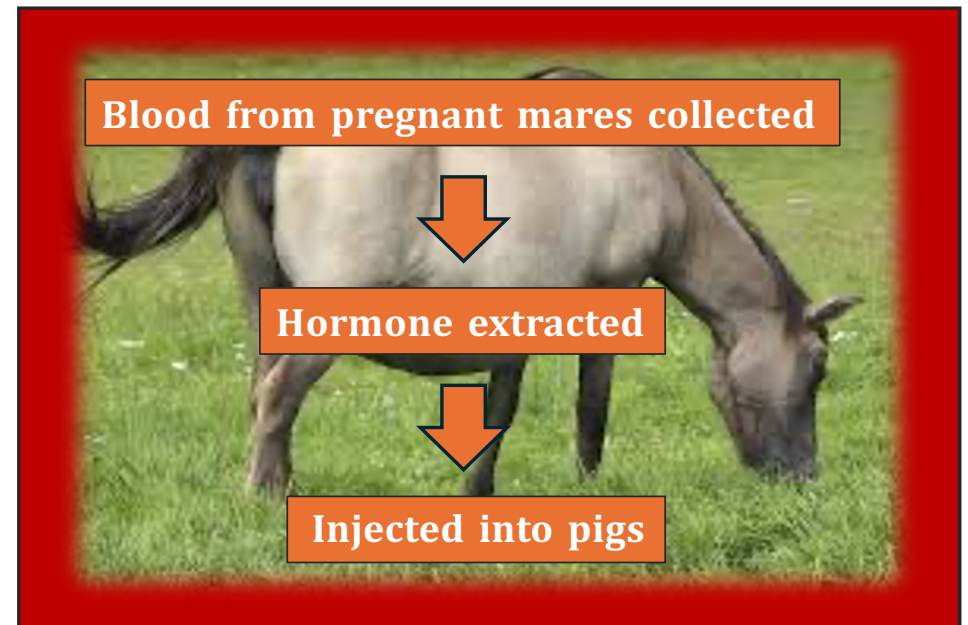
Mutilations

Blood collections

Background

Engaged since 2017 in the debate about "Blood Farms"

e.i pharma companies production of **PMSG** extracted from **pregnant mares blood** to be **used in pig production** globally to synchronise heat/eostrus and enhance pig litter size



- Animal cruelty
- Lack of animal welfare
- Abortions of early pregnancies
- Repeated pregnancies + abortions
- Excessive bleeding of mares
- etc

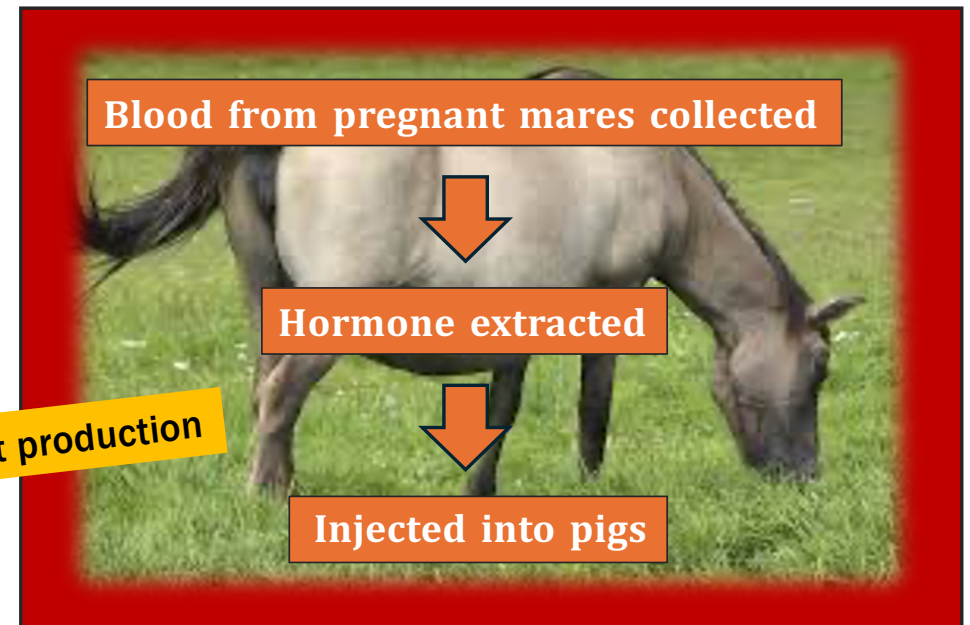
Background

Debate about animal welfare concerns: Equine and pigs

Import from outside EU

Production inside EU

Ethics in pig meat production



Horse Welfare During Equine Chorionic Gonadotropin (eCG) Production

by **Xavier Manteca Vilanova**¹ , **Nancy De Briyne**²  , **Bonnie Beaver**³  and **Patricia V. Turner**^{4,5,*}  

¹ School of Veterinary Science, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Barcelona, Spain

² Federation of

³ Department of

⁴ Charles River

⁵ Department of

* Author to whom

Animals **2019**, *9*

Article

Full-text available

Recommendations for Ensuring Good Welfare of Horses Used for Industrial Blood, Serum, or Urine Production

May 2021 · *Animals* 11(5):1466

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Xavier Manteca Vilanova · Bonnie Beaver ·  Mette Uldahl ·  Patricia Turner

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Xavier Manteca Vilanova · Bonnie Beaver ·  Mette Uldahl ·  Patricia Turner

Including all bioproducts harvested from Equines

Joint Position paper



WORLD VETERINARY
ASSOCIATION



Canadian Veterinary
Medical Association

Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires



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AVMA®

American Veterinary Medical Association

Joint Position paper



Canadian Veterinary
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Association canadienne
des médecins vétérinaires

FVE, CVMA and AVMA joint release: Animal welfare in the PMSG industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/18/2023



ELVA
Every horse matters

**Recommendations for ensuring good horse welfare of horses
used for production of bio-products**



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Joint Position paper



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FVE, CVMA and AVMA joint release: Animal welfare in the PMSG industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/18/2023

Recommendations for ensuring good horse welfare of horses
used for production of bio-products

A call for **defined, supervised** and **enforced** minimum criterias
for welfare of animals involved



Every horse matters



American Veterinary Medical Association

Joint Position paper

Not a call for a ban

FVE, CVMA and AVMA joint release: Animal welfare in the PMSG industry

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/18/2023

Recommendations for ensuring good horse welfare of horses used for production of bio-products

A call for **defined, supervised** and **enforced** minimum criterias for welfare of animals involved

Joint Position paper

Not a call for a ban

However,

A very strong call to:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/18/2023

- **end animal cruelty**
- **ban low standards of animal welfare**

**within areas of the equine industry
inside and outside EU**

Analysis of human gain versus animal harm

Societal and/or individual
interests in using horses



The intrinsic value of the horse

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Which
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**There is a limit to minimal welfare and comfort
and a limit for maximal compromise
we can inflict on the equine**

Mutilations and blood collections in Equidae

Thank you😊

**There is a limit to minimal welfare and comfort
and a limit for maximal compromise
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