The International Movement of Horses for Competition – The Racing Perspective

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Introduction

• 1. Historical developments
• 2. The challenges
• 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
Challenges

• New entrants to international racing
• Lack of harmonization:
  – Temporary and permanent protocols
  – Residency periods
  – Diseases of concern (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
Transparency

• People move with increasing ease as countries become more transparent in their disease reporting

• Transparency builds confidence and trust and allows effective collaboration
GCC Multi-movement certificate

• The GCC has been using a 90 day temporary, multi-movement certificate for competition for several years
• This certificate already allows intra-regional movement in the manner that the HHP project proposes on a global scale
The Sub-population Concept

- Horses
- Registered horses
- High health status horses
- HHP
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-win solution