



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2010

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STAKEHOLDERS' SEMINAR

Modernizing meat inspection

“Food safety: a shared responsibility” was the title of an EU seminar jointly organised by the European Livestock and Meat Trading Union (UECBV), European farmers’ organisations (Copa-Cogeca) and FVE. At the seminar, held on 14 September, participants discussed the weak and strong points of the current system as well as the risk-based meat inspection system.

Speaking at the seminar, Mr Pesonen (Copa-Cogeca) pointed out that modern meat inspection system should be based on *“an integrated and holistic approach addressing animal health, animal welfare, public health and consumer protection”*. Robert Huey (Union of European Veterinary Hygienists) and FVE’s representative, agreed with this holistic view and drew the attention to the key role Official Veterinarians play at slaughterhouse level. The new control system should be based on peer-reviewed science, he stressed, and should be risk-based for optimal consumer protection and confidence. Furthermore, the Food Chain Information should play a “key

role” in the new system and should be underpinned by the Herd Health Schemes checked by the private veterinary practitioner who regularly visits the farm. Modernisation should aim to increase the efficiency of the controls for food safety and not just to reduce cost, he said, referring to the FVE position paper¹. Mr Thunestephsen of the UEBCV working group on veterinary issues stressed the need for improving food safety by focusing on today’s food safety hazards and available technologies. The hygiene package principles should be implemented on a risk-based meat inspection with harmonising food safety goals across Europe.

The seminar was a follow-up of the meeting on veterinary inspection organised by the French presidency in July 2008 in Lyon.

¹ http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/public_health/fve_09_pos_002_inspections_in_slaughterhouses_modernisation_final.pdf

FACING THE CHALLENGE



'Animal Welfare Education: everyone is responsible' was the theme of a large interna-

tional conference held in Brussels. European Commissioners, Mr Dalli and Ms Vassiliou, MEP Ms Paulsen, Belgian prince Laurent and Minister Onkelinx together with many speakers from all corners of the world addressed the audience. The fact that such conference is held, and the large audience it attracted clearly demonstrates the fast growing international attention for animal welfare. One of the points that emerged from the conference is the high expectation society has regarding the role of the veterinary profession: both as experts, having a profound knowledge of relevant technical and ethical aspects as well as, as communicators being able to explain what good animal welfare is and how it can be achieved. However, at the same time it appeared that, despite a number of very good exceptions, the profession is not always ready to deliver on these responsibilities and an strong effort to catch up in pre and postgraduate veterinary training is urgently needed. An issue that comes back regularly is the ever growing global population, and the growing numbers of people reaching higher standards of living and wishing to consume more meat and diary products. Projections indicate that towards 2030 the demand will increase by 50%. It will be a challenge to meet these demands, and even more to do so without compromising animal welfare. So, let's face the challenge!

Jan Vaarten, Executive Director

ANIMAL HEALTH

EU VETERINARY WEEK (1)

Traceability = identification + registration

"Traceability is a prerequisite for a fruitful partnership between farmers and veterinarians and should be based on identification and registration as an indivisible tool," stressed Walter Winding, president of the Federation of veterinarians of Europe (FVE), speaking at this year's edition of the EU veterinary week, held in Brussels on 14 and 15 June. Animal identification and traceability were at the heart of the event, which was organised for the first time in 2008 by the Commission's DG Sanco and the FVE. Speakers at the conference discussed the role of traceability in public and animal health, disease prevention, food safety and quality, labelling, consumer confidence, animal welfare and crisis management. The conference was attended by some 400 participants including Chief Veterinary Officers,



Members of the European Parliament, scientific experts, representatives of veterinary and farmers' associations

and other stakeholder organisations². There was currently no traceability of the movement of pets in Europe, Christophe Buhot, FVE vice president reminded the audience. And this, "in spite of the fact that 60% of human pathogens and 85% of emerging diseases are zoonoses." The outbreak of rabies in France in 2004 following the importation of an infected, unidentified dog was a schoolbook example of "where traceability helped to organise the fight against this rabies outbreak and could have helped to trace the owner much faster and avoid the euthanasia of several dogs". Apart from benefits for animal and public health, identification and registration would also help to stem illegal puppy trade and false certification. Dr Buhot called for a mandatory pet identification, registration in a national database and the transmission of ID numbers to a central European database. "without registration, identification is of no value and there is absolutely no traceability", he warned. The next EU veterinary week conference will be held on 19-20 May 2011.

EU VETERINARY WEEK (2)

OIE and DG Sanco sign MoU

A memorandum of understanding was signed between DG Sanco and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) at the occasion of the European Veterinary Week in June. The memorandum aims to facilitate the attainment of common communication goals for the next European Veterinary Week to be held 19-20 May of the World Veterinary Year "Vet2011³," and will include the production and distribution of six videos (including animal health and disease surveillance, crisis management, food safety, zoonoses and emerging

² <http://one-health.eu/ee/index.php/en/homepage/>

³ <http://www.vet2011.org>

diseases and companion animals). Leaflets and a web-based photo competition are also in the planning.



Mr Vallat and Mr Dalli at Veterinary week 2010

EU ANIMAL HEALTH LAW

Outcome stakeholders' consultation published

Last year, a stakeholders' consultation was held in order to identify potential issues in the new EU Animal Health Law. A total of 153 responses were received and the results have now been published⁴. Results show a general support of stakeholders on the proposed approach by the Commission to clarify roles and responsibilities of animal keepers and owners. The need to establish obligations also for operators other than animal keepers and owners was highlighted by several stakeholders. Although the voluntary approach was regarded as the most adequate one by the majority of stakeholders, a significant share would prefer that compulsory training for people dealing with animals. Concerns were issued on the funding of the training and flexibility.

Regarding the role of the veterinary services, the results also show a need to clarify and harmonise certain veterinary tasks EU-wide. This is valid in particular for the 'export certification'

and international trade. "Certain veterinary tasks are perceived as purely official, while the others have a certain official character and can be performed by veterinary practitioners, other experts, where relevant (i.e. for aquaculture, apiculture) or other staff, such as technicians", according to the report.

The education and training for veterinarians was considered important but should be flexible, adjusted to specific needs and adapted to the level of public tasks assigned to a professional; "approved veterinarians do not need the same level of training as the official veterinarians". These trainings should therefore be "output / target-oriented towards proper enforcement and without generating unnecessary costs". Training should be provided "also to other professionals responsible for certain working areas with a lack of veterinarians", such as aquaculture or apiculture. Many Member States already have already introduced continuous professional developments of veterinarians and for those it seems that the additional regulation at EU level would be redundant.

The identification and registration of pet animals, zoo animals and other non-food producing animals was largely perceived as "a necessary step further for animal health and/or welfare reasons". The FVE took the opportunity to reiterate its position, in particular regarding on-farm biosecurity, cross border cooperation between veterinary services, regular farm visitations, the need for reliable identification and registration, the welfare of animals during transport and cost sharing schemes⁵.

ANIMAL WELFARE

CARODOG.EU

A new initiative to promote responsible dog ownership

Companion Animal Responsible Ownership for Dogs in Europe – CARODog.eu in short - was jointly presented on September 9th by the Belgian EU Presidency, the International Animal Welfare Organization Four Paws and the Istituto G. Caporale Teramo, an OIE collaborating centre for veterinary training, epidemiology, food safety and animal welfare. Announced as the "newest project in Europe-wide animal welfare", carodog is a science-based website about dog welfare in



the EU (www.carodog.eu).

The database contains the most recent scientific and practical data on dogs in Europe, including the legislation on dangerous dogs, identification and registration and stray dogs. The initial objective is to provide and disseminate knowledge on dog health and welfare, focusing on strategies against canine overpopulation, in the shape of good practice guidance.

On 1 and 2 October, the European Commission hosted the first international conference on animal welfare education⁶ followed, on 4 and 5 October, by a conference on responsible dog ownership in Europe⁷.

4 http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/diseases/strategy/pillars/docs/sum_results_consultation_en.pdf

5 http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_health/fve_07_099_cahs.pdf

6 <http://www.animalwelfare-education.eu/>

7 <http://www.vier-pfoten.eu/>

PIG CASTRATION (1)

Working towards a European partnership declaration

A pilot group met on 2 September to prepare a partnership declaration regarding piglet castration in Europe. The group was formed as a direct consequence of the 2 June workshop on pig castration organised by DG Sanco and is made up of various invited stakeholders (producers, retailers, veterinarians) and policymakers. The pilot group aims to develop a set of future actions in order to be agreed and undersigned by the different stakeholders, by the end of 2010. Rens van Dobbenburgh (Netherlands), UEVP vice president, participated on behalf of FVE/UEVP. *"If different stakeholders agree on phasing out the castration of piglets in Europe, the result is obtained much quicker than by banning the act using EU legislation,"* said Andrea Gavinelli, head of the DG Sanco unit for animal welfare, recalling the aim of the initiative. At the meeting, certain particularities were discussed such as regarding the situation in the different EU countries (e.g. ban in Netherlands by 2015, retailers initiative to stop selling meat from castrated pigs in Belgium) and the production of traditional products (e.g. Serrano or



Parma ham) in some Southern countries which are generally slaughtered at a later age. The discussion focused on the preparation of a draft paper summarising a possible common position on pig castration. The prelimi-

nary document, which possibly could include a deadline to stop surgical castration without anaesthesia and analgesia and which could include a deadline to ban surgical castration completely, will put on the agenda of the next meeting of the pilot group on the 13th of October.

PIG CASTRATION (2)

ALCASDE: "different strategies rather than a single solution"

The final report on alternatives to castration and dehorning (ALCASDE⁸) is now available online⁹. The project was set up to provide recommendations based on research results on alternatives to the surgical castration of pigs. As a general conclusion, the authors of the project do not recommend a ban on pig castration over a short-time period *"because the meat from boars cannot be guaranteed to be free of boar taint."* It goes on to state that: *"Due to the potential risks that it would entail (i.e. economic, welfare, meat quality) a combination of different strategies rather than a single solution is envisaged"*.

They also recommend further research into the harmonisation of boar taint detection technologies, an EU-wide survey on the incidence of androstenone and skatole levels and studies to improve pig welfare in relation to the different alternatives to castration. Finally, they recommend to carry out a large-scale study on the preferences and behaviour of European consumers regarding fresh pig meat and cured or smoked products from entire males and females.

⁸ <http://www.alcasde.eu>

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/farm/alcasde_study_04122009_en.pdf

EQUINE WELFARE

Forum on horse transportation to look at enforcement

A European Transport Forum will be held in Brussels on November 29th 2010 to discuss how the welfare of horses during transport can be improved through the better enforcement of legislation. The Forum has been jointly organised by the FVE and BEVA and is sponsored by The BEVA Trust and World Horse Welfare (WHW). *"It is all very well to campaign for new regulations but at present the existing regulations are not being enforced adequately,"* stressed Madeleine Campbell, BEVA president, speaking at the press conference during the recent BEVA congress. *"The crux of the matter is enforcement and there are none better placed to help*



with this than veterinarians." Speakers will discuss the critical control points, effective control systems and good practices while also considering trade flows, animal health risks, horse identification and the effect of closing horse slaughterhouses. The conference is open (at no attendance charge) to anyone with an interest in long-distance transport of horses, including representatives of EU Member States, CVOs, Members of the European Commission and European Parliament, scientific experts, national veterinary organisations, animal transport associations and animal welfare associations. To register for the Forum, please email your name; email address; telephone contact numbers; postal address, nationality

and the name of the organisation (if any) which you represent to:

office@hobgoblins-stud.com

Entitle your email: "Transport conference". Registration closes on 31st October 2010. Places are limited due to venue size, and applicants will therefore be notified by November 7th 2010 whether they have been allocated a place.

LABORATORY ANIMALS

Improved protection of animals used in scientific experiments

Early September, the European Parliament voted to revise legislation on animals used for scientific purposes. The revised legislation, first proposed by the European Commission in 2008, aims to strengthen the protection of animals still needed for research and safety testing. The new directive also limits the number of animals used in experiments, requiring alternatives to be used where possible. The principle of the Three Rs (replace, refine, reduce) has been taken on board. Among the main changes is the requirement to perform ethical evaluations prior to authorisation of projects using animals and the upgrading of housing and care standards. All establishments within the EU will need to have a designated veterinarian with expertise in laboratory animal medicine, charged with advisory duties in relation to the well-being and treatment of the animals. The use of non-human primates is subject to restrictions, and the new Directive also introduces a ban on the use of great apes in scientific procedures. Only when survival of the species itself is at stake, or in the case of an unexpected outbreak of a life-threatening or debilitating disease in

human beings, can a Member State exceptionally be granted permission for their use. The Member States will have 24 months to adopt and publish national legislation, which will transpose the provisions of this Directive. The new Directive will take effect on 1 January 2013.

SLAUGHTER WITHOUT STUNNING

Halal goes mainstream

In a recent press release, the British Veterinary Association (BVA) warned that the use of meat and meat products from animals not stunned before slaughter in the wider food chain could lead to "an increase in the number of animals slaughtered without stunning and an increase in unnecessary suffering". The press release was issued in a reaction to newspaper investigations revealing that meat slaughtered under certain



religious rules without pre-stunning is entering the mainstream food chain without being labelled as such. The



investigation¹⁰ also found that the meat is being used in schools, hospitals, pub chains and certain sporting venues. According to the press, GateGourmet, one of the largest airline caterers, is considering making the majority of its meals halal¹¹. The BVA is concerned that consumers are confused by existing food labels, and it supports moves by the European Parliament to introduce mandatory labelling of meat from non-stunned animals, including the use of the meat in other products. The FVE finds the practice of slaughtering animals without prior stunning "unacceptable under any circumstance"¹². The BVA supports the concept of one clear EU-wide label that would indicate higher welfare throughout the food chain. Similar findings have been reported in other European countries over the past months. In Belgium, 12% of schools in Brussels serve halal meat only, while over half of the

10 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1313303/Britain-goes-halal---tells-public.html>

11 <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1311483/British-Airways-caterer-GateGourmet-plans-make-meals-halal.html>

12 http://www.fve.org/news/publications/pdf/2010_poster_ritual_slaughter.pdf

schools do not serve pork. In France, fast-food giant Quick has opened a number of restaurants only serving halal meat. Earlier this year the European Parliament voted in favour of the compulsory labelling of meat from non-stunned animals. The FVE strongly welcomed this move.

AW ACTION PLAN

FVE's recommendations

In November 2009, the Commission mandated an external consultant to evaluate the EU policy on Animal Welfare. The evaluation is to be achieved for December 2010 and will be the basis for a future EU action plan. The European Parliament published its report on the "Evaluation and Assessment of an animal welfare action plan 2006-2010"¹³. FVE now published its vision on the future Animal Welfare Action Plan, in particular focusing on the role of the veterinarian. FVE encourages the European Commission to focus on the following 7-actions:

1. Form a European network of reference centres for animal welfare "without delay".
2. Continue to set acceptable, practical, evidence-based and enforceable animal welfare standards. Existing legislation - such as in transport - "should be upgraded" and standards for the welfare of species not yet covered by legislation (rabbits, fish, dairy cows, sheep) should be set.
3. Research the development of key, validated, reliable, robust and feasible indicators ("iceberg indicators"). "The welfare of an animal should be assessed at various times during an animal's life such as on farm, during transport, at animal gatherings and at the slaughterhouse".

4. Increase its efforts in animal welfare education. The FVE recommends "the inclusion of animal welfare throughout pre-graduate veterinary training, as well as in Life Long Learning programmes".

5. Continue to provide EU citizens with accurate, transparent and impartial information on welfare issues. "Food should be labelled according to its welfare provenance in order to facilitate consumer choice. Marketing claims about higher welfare standards should be independently verified".



6. Continue its international initiatives. "The inclusion of animal welfare requirements in international agreements is essential. In addition, the investigation of the trade in exotic and companion animals into the EU should be a priority", according to the Federation.

7. Focus on appropriate implementation and enforcement of existing legislation. "In particular, legislation on animal transport and pigs should be investigated". The full paper can be found on the FVE website¹⁴.

PUBLIC HEALTH

FROM FARM TO FORK

One Health: new FVE leaflet available online

The FVE has produced a leaflet on One Health ("Healthy animals = healthy people"), which is now available online¹⁵. In the leaflet, the Federation briefly describes the concept of One Health, the farm-to-fork principle and the important role of veterinarians in food safety and public health. Much of the content of the leaflet was based on the Food Safety information brochure produced by the Union of European Veterinary Hygienists, of which the second edition has now been adopted. The complete UEVH brochure is freely available from the FVE website¹⁶.



13 <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2010-0130&language=EN&ring=A7-2010-0053>

14 http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/animal_welfare/035_10_vets_and_animal_welfare_final.pdf

15 http://www.fve.org/news/publications/pdf/fve_new_one_health_leaflet_2010.pdf

16 http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/public_health/uevh_food_safety_brochure_final_revised_2010.pdf

MEDICINES

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES (1)

EPRUMA meets Commissioner John Dalli

On 27th September, a delegation of the European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals (EPRUMA) presented their initiative to promote the Responsible Use of veterinary medicines to the European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli. FVE was represented by its executive director Jan Vaarten. EPRUMA representatives stressed that veterinary medicine – and antibiotics in particular – are an invaluable resource to be used wisely in order to preserve their efficiency for the benefit of both animals and people. The delegation presented its joint activities and communication tools to John Dalli. These are aimed to increase the awareness regarding the Responsible Use of medicines, particularly of antibiotics in food-producing animals, at both national and European level.



From left to right: Mr O'Brien, Mr Vaarten, Mr Dalli, Mr Pesonen, Mr Bouxin, Mr Frangerberg, Mr Vassallo and Mr Delmotte

Additionally, EPRUMA representatives requested the European Commission to make Responsible Use a key policy initiative and to collaborate with EPRUMA in communicating its concept in order to maintain the long-

term efficacy of medicines, including antibiotics, as part of the Commission initiative "Animals + Humans = One Health".

RESPONSIBLE USE OF MEDICINES (2)

EPRUMA launches website

The European platform for the responsible use of medicines in animals (EPRUMA) now has its own website: www.epruma.eu.

The website includes news items, background information and a list of forthcoming events. Publications are currently available in English, French, Dutch and Czech, with other language versions to be added shortly.



ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Comparing the use of veterinary antibiotics between European Countries

There are wide variations in the use of veterinary antibiotics between European countries – variations that cannot be explained by the difference in animal species demographics alone. That is the conclusion of a recent paper¹⁷ by authors of the European

Medicines Agency, who compared the sales of veterinary antibacterial agents in ten European countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK).

The usage, as expressed in mg antibacterial drugs sold/kg biomass of slaughtered pigs, poultry and cattle and of (live) dairy cattle, varied from 18 to 188 mg/kg. Also the relative proportion of the various classes of antibacterial agents varied considerably. Overall, 48% of the sales of veterinary antibacterial agents in the EU concerned tetracyclines, 17% sulphonamides and trimethoprim (as sulphonamides or in combination) and 16% beta-lactams.

Also, the usage patterns varied considerably: e.g. in the Netherlands, the Czech Republic and France tetracyclines accounted for 57%, 56% and 50% of the amounts sold, respectively, while in Finland, Sweden and Norway the corresponding figure was 11%, 11% and 5%, respectively. The highest usage of antibacterial agents among food-producing animals is generally in pigs and consequently Denmark and the UK would be expected to have the highest and lowest usage, respectively, of the 10 countries included in the present study. However, the estimated amounts of antibacterial agents sold per kg biomass of the major animals amounted to 52 mg in Denmark, 94 mg in the UK and 188 mg in the Netherlands; aim of the surveillance is to identify and quantify risk factors for the development and occurrence of resistance.

17 Comparison of the sales of veterinary antibacterial agents between 10 European countries, Grave et al, J Antimicrob Chemother (2010)

ANTIMICROBIAL SURVEILLANCE

Veterinary antimicrobials: harmonising data collection throughout the EU

Harmonising the collection and reporting of data on the sales and use of antibiotics in animals throughout the EU was discussed during a meeting with Member States and stakeholders, on 28 September in Fougères (France). The meeting is part of the European Surveillance of Veterinary Antimicrobial Consumption (ESVAC) project, set up by the Technical Consultative Group of the European Medicines Agency. The TCG consists of experts in the fields of collecting, processing, analysing and reporting of data of antimicrobial agents. Collecting comparable data from each Member State on the use of antibiotics would help to establish the risk assessment and risk management regarding antimicrobial resistance and to evaluate the impact of measures such as prudent use. It would also contribute to an evidence-based policy of the use of veterinary antimicrobials.



EDUCATION

VETERINARY TEACHING ESTABLISHMENTS

Lászlo Fodor, new president of the EAEVE

At the May general assembly of the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), Mr Lászlo Fodor (Budapest) was elected for a 2-year mandate.



1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ANIMAL WELFARE EDUCATION

“Everyone is responsible”

Under the motto “Everyone is responsible” the 1st EC International Conference on Animal Welfare Education aimed to provide more information to the citizens about educational tools and programs on animal welfare, and to raise awareness about how important it is to educate citizens, farmers, professional animal carers, handlers, slaughterhouse operators, retailers and other stakeholders on how animals should be treated. The confer-

ence was opened by Mr. J. Dalli, European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, with an introduction from the Belgian Presidency of the EU. The working sessions explored the science and values guiding animal welfare education, methodologies for teaching animal welfare, and the role of the media in animal welfare education. There was an ample opportunity for the sharing of experience, and the conference closed with the award ceremony for the children’s drawing and painting competition.

TAIEX WORKSHOP

Veterinary education in the Mediterranean area

“Toward a Mediterranean Union for veterinary education” is the title of a Taiex workshop co-organised and hosted on 7 and 8 October by the Alfort Veterinary School (France).

Aims of the meeting include the sharing of information regarding the veterinary curricula in Mediterranean countries, EU legislation and evaluation of veterinary education and to develop a regional roadmap for the harmonisation of veterinary curricula in Mediterranean countries.



FVE & PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

FVE 35 YEARS YOUNG

Festive general assembly in Brussels

The upcoming FVE General Assembly, held in Brussels from 11 to 13 November, will celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Federation.



One profession, One voice, One Vision shot taken at the FVE GA in Basel.

The format will therefore be slightly different, with, on the Friday afternoon, several special guest speakers highlighting the importance of the One Health concept, including Hans Rosling, Karolinska Institute (to be confirmed), Andrea Ammon of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (to be confirmed), and Haluk Anil (Bristol University) from the Dialrel initiative.

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FVE discusses wide range of subjects during Basel GA

At the spring FVE general assembly, held in Basel on 10 and 11 June, guest speaker Juan Lubroth, chief veterinary officer of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), highlighted the objectives and milestones of the FAO's activities in the veterinary field. "We are confident that rinderpest has been eradicated", he said, adding that the official declaration was expected in June 2011, ten years after the last case of this disease – which had had "a phenomenal impact" – had been observed. Regarding One Health, "H5N1 has helped to show the relevance of

veterinary input in public health".

The cross-sectional approach of H5N1 should be applied in the control of all zoonotic diseases, said veterinarian Simone Magnino, of the World Health Organisation's department of Food safety and Zoonoses, during his address. In particular in so-called neglected zoonotic diseases such as rabies, echinococcosis and leishmaniasis, a One Health approach was crucial, he said. He strongly encouraged increasing the input from the veterinary public health aspect. The third guest speaker touching on zoonoses was professor Phil Craig (University

of Salford, UK), during his presentation on *Echinococcus multilocularis*. Although the parasite has little impact on animal health, "it is an important zoonosis, causing liver failure, requiring long-term medication, liver resection or transplantation", he recalled, adding that it was fatal "in 95% of cases without treatment". Between 1982 and 2000, 532 human cases had been identified in Europe, mainly in the east of France, southern Germany, Switzerland and Austria – a disease focus that was getting larger, he noted. Although the main host of the parasite was the red fox, dogs were "very good hosts" and dog ownership was an important risk factor for human infection. Since the options for control were "not great" once the parasite was introduced, Professor Craig said that preventing it from becoming established was the best approach for countries free of the disease. Other topics discussed included animal welfare, the FVE strategic plan, herd health and farm visitation schemes and the structure of professional organisations. The next spring general assembly will be held in Palermo (Italy) on 10 and 11 June 2010.

In Basel, FVE's sections also held their general assemblies:

UEVP GA

Feminisation – a phenomenon widespread in the veterinary profession throughout Europe – was more due to a loss of interest in the profession by men than an increased interest by women. So said Professor Muriel Surdez, a sociologist from Fribourg University, guest speaker at the general assembly of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP), held on 9 June. UEVP vice president Rens van Dobbenburgh reported on the introduction of a digital database of antibiotic use in the Netherlands, which would allow monitoring the amount of antimicrobials prescribed per veterinarian and purchased per farmer.

Together with farm industry partners, the veterinary profession were to reach the goal of a 50% decrease in the use of veterinary antibiotics by 2013. Failing this, Dutch veterinarians might lose the right to prescribe.

Other topics included the title of ‘acknowledged veterinarian’, medicines, illegal puppy trade, pig castration and the practitioner’s role in hygiene and public health.

UEVH GA

The Union of European Veterinary Hygienists (UEVH) updated their One Health paper, which is now available online¹⁸. Other topics included the welfare of farm animals, dogs and dairy cows, the modernisation of meat inspection, a survey on the use of plant inspection assistants and undergraduate training in food hygiene.

Two guest speakers gave presentations during the joint session with EASVO: Kenneth Clarke, on the Lowe Report on the provision of veterinary services in the UK and professor Jakob Zinsstag (Dept Epidemiology and

Public Health, Swiss Tropical Institute) on the subject of One Health.

EASVO GA

Besides the guest speakers invited jointly with UEVH (see above), the general assembly of the European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO) discussed the relationship with animal welfare charities, puppy trade and the relationship with statutory bodies. The delegates also discussed the importance of highlighting the veterinary profession as a health profession.

EVERI GA

The European Veterinarians in Education, Research and Industry (EVERI) will launch a scheme through which veterinary students will be encouraged and facilitated to undertake extra mural studies in Laboratory Animal Medicine. EVERI delegates also discussed the Swine Diseases Curricula project led by Jan Bernardy (CZ), which investigates the changing role of swine veterinarians over the last 30 years. Guest speaker Andreas Meisser (Switzerland) gave a presentation on One Health and its implications and chances for the veterinary profession.

RECOGNITION OF PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

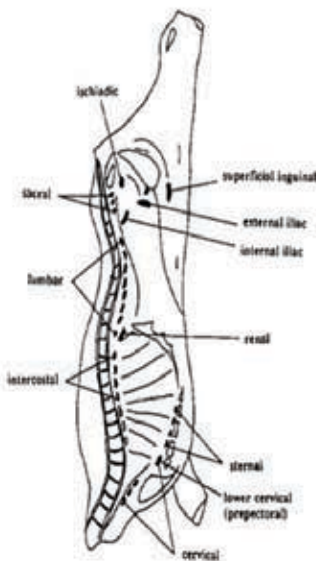
FVE Statutory body WG evaluates Dir. 2005/36/EC

The background comes from a DG Internal Market & Services consultation on the evaluation of the Directive which would hopefully lead to



the proposal of official amendments and recommendations by the 2011. In May 2010, Competent Authorities were asked to produce national experience reports by September 2010 and FVE was entrusted by the Commission to coordinate the work and the collection of these reports for the veterinary profession. On 1 July, FVE organized a consultation meeting for Competent Authorities and Statutory Bodies in order to explain the main goal of the consultation process and forthcoming steps. A total of 21 reports were submitted to DG I&MS.

Along with the national reports FVE decided to submit a briefing note¹⁹; in its document to DG IM&S FVE explained the role of the veterinary profession in animal health and public health, and stressed the need for all vets to be registered in their home country by the Competent Authority in whatever field they are working,



¹⁸ http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/public_health/uevh_food_safety_brochure_final_revised_2010.pdf

¹⁹ http://www.fve.org/news/position_papers/veterinary_profession/fve_sbwg_briefing%20note_final_version_docs_042.pdf

including veterinarians in academia, public health and industry. Holding adequate language skills and adequate professional indemnity insurance for veterinarians crossing borders is essential, reminded FVE, and a clear reference to such requirements for employees and self-employed veterinarians is desirable. The FVE also recalled the need for ensuring a high level of veterinary education throughout the EU and invited the Commission to officially recognise and support the current evaluation system, coordinated by the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE) and the FVE. Furthermore, the Internal Market Information System could be used to improve the communication between EU competent authorities to ensure a more effective mutual and automatic recognition of professional qualifications. The FVE also urged the Commission to update the Directive's annex on minimum training requirements, since these "need to be in line with scientific advances and public expectations", and a better regulation of cross border services provided by veterinary paraprofessionals, particularly veterinary nurses.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION OF PORCINE HEALTH MANAGEMENT

Pig veterinarians create European association

The European pig veterinarians have set up a new association, the European Association of Porcine Health Management (EAPHM)²⁰. The objectives of the new association are primarily educational, to increase contact and interaction across "an increasingly borderless Europe" but also to represent its interests and views on



The EAPHM group: from right Mr Bernardy (CZ) Mr Mackinnon, President (UK), Mr Sévin, treasurer (FR), Mr Maes - secretary (BE), Mr Høgedal Jørgensen (DK)

welfare, health and production. "Europe produces over 250 million pigs and is the second biggest pig producing region after China. It is now time to come together to assist our industry to cope with the many changes ahead, especially regarding welfare, as well as improving the health and efficiency of our producers," commented its founding president, John Mackinnon, a specialist pig practitioner from the UK. Other board members come from Spain, Denmark, France, Belgium, Netherlands and the Czech Republic.

The Association will be officially launched at the beginning of 2011. Its first congress will be held in Helsinki

(Finland) from 25-27 May 2011. For further information, please contact dominiek.maes@UGent.be

TAIEX CONFERENCE

Towards an improvement of veterinary services in Ukraine

"Strengthening the Livestock Sector and Veterinary Services in Ukraine" is the title of a Taiex conference to be held in Kiev (Ukraine) on 2 and 3 November. Aim of the conference is to give a better understanding of the main EU legislation and activities related to the veterinary profession. The 'prevention is better than cure' policy of the EU will be presented. Special attention will be given to issues related to education, privatisation, the right of establishment and capacity-building needs for veterinarians. Legislation on veterinary medicinal products will also be discussed.

The workshop will assist the veterinary association of Ukraine and the state committee of veterinary medicine in the currently ongoing reform of the veterinary services and in establishing a professional statutory body.

²⁰ <http://www.esphm.tiho-bakum.de/EAPHM.htm>

POSITION PAPERS AND OTHER RECENT DOCUMENTS

Food Hygiene

- UEVH Food Safety Brochure (Sept 2010)
- FVE One Health Information leaflet (June 2010)
- Modernising Inspections in Slaughterhouses (Sept 2009)

Veterinary Profession

- FVE's Evaluation Professional Recognition Directive (Sep 2010)

Animal Welfare

- Veterinarians and Animal Welfare – FVE 7-step input towards new European Animal Welfare Action Plan (July 2010)
- FVE slaughter without prior stunning poster (March 2010)
- FVE Position on Pig Castration (Nov 2009)

Animal Health:

- Animal Cloning – FVE review paper (June 2009)

And many more... on www.fve.org under News & Publications !

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The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) is an umbrella organisation of 46 veterinary organisations from 38 European countries and 4 Sections, regulated by the law on international societies in Belgium.

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