Moving Horses Internationally for Competition; Making It Happen

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10 February 2017
In the beginning…

• How does an organization go about facilitating the development of protocols necessary to permit the international movement of horses for sporting competition?
• Import/export regulations are controlled by government
• Logistics are managed by shipping agents
• What is the role of the sporting organization?
The Benefits of International Movement of Horses

- Marketing and development of the sport
- Benchmarking and improvement of the local sport
- Owner enjoyment and satisfaction...playing on the world stage
Examples of Successful Developments

• Japan (Japan Cup)
• Hong Kong (HKIR)
• Australia (Melbourne Cup)
• Dubai (Dubai World Cup)
• Singapore
• 2010 Asian Games
• Korea
Asian Games Equestrian Events Conghua EDFZ November 2010
The Risks of International Movement

- The introduction of exotic diseases, especially Equine Influenza, is a very real risk
  - Australia 2007
  - Japan 2007
  - South Africa 2003 and 1986
  - Newmarket 2003
  - Hong Kong 1992
Financial Costs of Introducing an Exotic Disease

- It has been estimated that the cost of the introduction of the equine influenza virus to the Australian horse population was:

  AUD$ 2 BILLION
The Risk to Decision-makers

• For example, the 2008 Australian Royal Commission into the escape of the Equine Influenza virus from a government quarantine station
• Officials quite reasonably fear the ‘blame game’
• Officials must protect the interests of all equine enterprises
• There is no incentive for government officials to ‘roll the dice’ no matter how beneficial ‘making it happen’ may be for the individual sport
Potential Difficulties and Constraints

- Horses are often a low priority for national veterinary services
- Equine infectious disease expertise may be limited
- Risk aversion
How to get started?

• Once a sport or industry decides it wants to conduct international competitions but their nation has no international agreements that permit the temporary importation of horse for competition without quarantine requirements that make competition impossible, what can be done?
Understand the System

- The role of the OIE
- The role of national veterinary authorities
- The role of shipping agents
- The role of the sport or industry
Resources

• Equine Sportsmedicine and Surgery (Hinchcliff et al Editors) Chapter 61

• IFHA IMHC website:
  http://www.ifhaonline.org/default.asp?section=About%20IFHA&area=26

• OIE Terrestrial Animal Disease Manual
Resources (cont’d)

Terrestrial Animal Health Code

Terrestrial Animal Health Code
(2016)

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VOLUME I

General provisions

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User’s guide
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ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSIS, SURVEILLANCE AND NOTIFICATION
Notification of diseases, infections and infestations, and provision of epidemiological information
Criteria for the inclusion of diseases, infections and infestations in the OIE list
Diseases, infections and infestations listed by the OIE
Animal health surveillance
Surveillance for arthropod vectors of animal diseases

RISK ANALYSIS
Import risk analysis

QUALITY OF VETERINARY SERVICES
Veterinary Services
Evaluation of Veterinary Services
Understand Risk Management

• All international horse movement involves risk

• No risk = No movement

• Risks must be managed

• When developing movement protocols risks must be assessed and measures taken to reduce those risks to ‘acceptable’ levels…but what level of risk is acceptable to who does it need to be acceptable?
The 4 Components of Risk Analysis - OIE Guidelines

Hazard identification → Risk assessment → Risk management

Risk communication

STAKEHOLDER COMMUNICATION
Horse Industry and Government Veterinary Services
Import Risk Assessment Critical Control Points

- **Release assessment**
  - Return or onward journey to 3rd Country after International Competition
  - IMPORT Border And Quarantine

- **Exposure assessment**
  - Exposure of susceptible animal(s)

- **Consequence assessment**
  - Establishment in susceptible population(s)
  - Spread among susceptible population(s)

**Release and exposure scenarios**

**Outbreak scenarios**

**Return or onward journey to 3rd Country after International Competition**

**IMPORT Border And Quarantine**

**Exposure of susceptible animal(s)**

**Establishment in susceptible population(s)**

**Spread among susceptible population(s)**
Import Risk Analysis Report for Horses from Approved Countries
Final Report

March 2010
Develop a Network of Useful Contacts

• The International Movement of Horses Committee
• Government officials
• Project leaders of past initiatives
• Consultants
• Shipping agents
Find a Champion

• Developing temporary horse movement protocols requires a leader with enthusiasm, grit and determination

• Initiatives have succeeded or failed on the efforts of the project leader

• Find a great Project Manager
Form a Partnership

- Industry
- National government veterinary services (may be multiple bodies)
- OIE
- Shipping agents
- A public/private partnership is essential
Make a Plan

• Planning is not too difficult, for example the 2010 Asian Games
• Execution is the challenge
Equivalent Equine Health Status between HKSAR & EDFZ China

Hong Kong SAR
Equine Health Status
Including riding schools at different locations of Hong Kong

BIOSAFETY PASSAGE

Core Zone
BIOSECURITY COMPARTMENT
Conghua Training Centre
Making sure your house is in order

- Government authorities must have confidence that the sport or industry has effective and appropriate systems of governance with respect to
- Identification of horses
- Movement tracking
- Preventative health programs and biosecurity
- Vaccination records
- Surveillance and reporting systems
Risk assessment of the equine health status of exporting countries

• Site visit with industry stakeholder and government veterinary authority of importing country

• OIE PVS Mission on assessment of Competency of Government Veterinary Services
  ➢ To provide a high level of confidence for importing country
  ➢ Dispensation of pre-export quarantine requirements
Disease Surveillance and Reporting

• A robust infectious disease surveillance system with a transparent international disease reporting system is the single most important factor that will be considered by any authority conducting a risk assessment.

• When assessing a risk, you must know what you are dealing with and you must be confident that you will be advised of any changes in the health status.
Risk Assessment of Exporting Countries: Emerging & Re-emerging Diseases
The Competence of National Veterinary Services

• Risk assessors must be confident that the veterinary services of the exporting country are fully competent to deliver the requirements of the importing country to the necessary standards of accuracy, completeness and transparency

• The OIE assesses the competency of veterinary services (CVS)
Biosecurity Facility and Event Management

Objectives

• To provide appropriate biosecurity and isolation to maintain the health status of visiting horses and to protect the local horse population from the introduction of exotic diseases

• To not compromise a visiting horse’s training regimen and competitive performance
Biosecurity Risk Factors

- People, clothing and kit
- Vets & Farriers
- Flying grooms
- Stable Assistants
- Work Riders, Jockeys
- Visitors
- Officials

*What equipment goes into isolation, stays in isolation*
HACCP and Isolation Stable Management

1. Health Status of Exporting Country

2. Pre-Export Health Requirements

3. Post-Arrival Quarantine Management
   • Separation from local equine population
   • Management of people and fomites
   • Procedures to allow horses to access training facilities separately

4. Transport and people movement

5. Contingency Plan
Pre-export Quarantine (PEQ) Facility Model Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the Importation of Horses into Australia

Animal Quarantine and Export Operations

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS)
HACCP Approach to Isolation Management

1. Perimeter Security
2. Human Entry Points
3. Vehicle Entry/Exit Points
4. Isolation Stables
5. Vector Control
6. Transportation between Quarantine and Port of Export
7. Biosecurity Education and Awareness
Key Points for Managing Biosecurity Isolation

• Clear and precise Standard Operating Procedures
• Check lists
• Robust independent auditing
• Clear lines of official reporting
• Practical governance by Competent Veterinary Authority
Systems to facilitate temporary imports when national health status is unacceptable

- Regionalization
- Compartmentalization
- Equine Specific Disease Free Zone (ESDFZ)
Transboundary competition horse movement: the HHP concept as an option to improve global access to equestrian sport

The development of the High-Health, High-Performance Horse (HHP) concept by the OIE in partnership with the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI) and the International Federation of Horse Racing Authorities (IFHA) over the past three years has not only resulted in a framework, now accepted by OIE Member countries and laid down in Chapter 4.16 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code (the Terrestrial Code), but has also inspired a greater interest in horses and the industries that represent equestrian sports among OIE Members.

Motivated by the growth in equestrian events and the demand by emerging regions and countries to host such international events, the OIE Ad hoc Group on International Horse Movement for Equestrian Sport set out to develop a global framework that would encompass already well-established OIE principles such as compartmentalisation and zoning (see Terrestrial Code Chapters 4.3 and 4.4), certification (see Terrestrial Code Chapters 3.1 and 3.2), traceability and identification (see Terrestrial Code Chapters 4.1 and 4.2), and biosecurity. Over a period of three years (2013–2015), the Group developed the concept and a first comprehensive outline of the elements of this concept was published in the OIE Bulletin no. 2015-1, pp. 56–61.

In an attempt to enable Member Countries to follow the evolution of the concept, the team decided to merge all elements, previously existing as separate documents, into one comprehensive document.
Updated December 2016

IFHA Manual of Operation for Management of High Health and High Performance Horses (HHP)
• Nothing will be achieved without an effective partnership
What is the quickest way to get over regulatory barriers?
The Power of Trust

• Achieving trust based on transparency and verification is the fundamental requirement to achieving international movement of horses for competition