

Senate Inquiry into the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register

Submission to be received by 19 April 2019 (extension granted)

Committee Secretary,

Senate Standing Committee on Rural & Regional Affairs & Transport

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Thank you for the invitation to respond to the Senate Inquiry. Many excellent submissions saluted the merit of a NHTR and a few raised concerns. I have included updates in use/available internationally which can provide solutions for these concerns. As Australia is a long way behind global practice we are non complaint or not recognised in some areas BUT we are in the enviable position now to benefit directly from 20+ years of global experiences with troubleshooting having been done. We now have access to some excellent applications for the NHTR to use as its base. The EU's levels of equine ID, traceability, health etc. are long standing and truly international. I have attached a cross section of today's global practices, who benefits, myths of double registration, Privacy concerns and how an NHTR can streamline and simplify the entire Equine sector for the 1 horse owner through the equine disciplines, associations, businesses and ancillary services. One example of a current costing is below as a guide. Central to these systems is a common thread running throughout; **UELN Universal Equine Life Number. www.ueln.net with more details giving national projects international linkage. Australia does not need to be behind globally if we opt not to be.**

My response follows my *experiences with EU Equine legislation and breed management with strict adherence to detailed Equine ID & record accuracy from 1997 on.*

It began with initiating the recognition of Spanish purebred horses (Caballos de Pura Raza Espanola) born in Australia back into the Book of Origin of the P.R.E. owned by Spain. The StudBook was managed at that time by the MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (CAVALRY SECTION), now by the Ministry of Agriculture still under EU EQUINE REGULATIONS. My first meeting was with General Benavides in Madrid who sternly told me that the role I was taking on, was a very serious one. His Directive had been that his administration of the Spanish Stud Book for Ministry of Agriculture, required him to be able to **provide at any given time the accurate information on the ID, whereabouts and numbers OF EVERY P.R.E. HORSE IN SPAIN.** That was my brief from him, for Australian horses, still to the Ministry in Spain. A very new concept for Australian horse owners. I am proud to say that process was completed in 4 years and in 2001 the first Australian born, Spanish horses were inspected here, ID under EU regulations (microchip, 5 generation pedigrees with DNA {bloodtyping 1997} & Parent Validation and the EU Lexicon drawing of all unique markings for each and every horse) plus pedigree linkage back to a Spanish born breeding P.R.E was done in states of Australia (bar NT). The process continues today with regular Breed Commission visits from Spain to inspect each mature horse as suitable / not suitable for a breeding permit. ALWAYS UNDER THE STRICT EU REGULATIONS WHICH WERE VERY STRINGENT IN THE EYES OF OWNERS HERE, BUT COMMONPLACE INTERNATIONALLY WITH 51 COMPLIANT COUNTRIES WITHIN THE SPANISH STUDBOOK, WHICH BREED COMMISSIONS REGULARLY VISIT. THIS OCCURS WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER EUROPEAN OWNED BREEDS IN AUSTRALIA.

Other areas of involvement; SA Horse Industry Advisory Group Chair ,HORSE SA Board, Director / Founder Ass.PRE (ACPRE) Australia Inc., DNA & Breed Registrar (1997-2007), Foundation Pure Spanish Horse (USA) Board & Australasian Registrar,Fed. Int Breeders (FICCE) PRE Horses Board , King Felipe II Int. PRE Service award 2012, UELN (France) Adviser in Australia 2011 - current. Retired P.R.E. breeder / Int. P.R.E. Judge Qualified 2009. Contributed Horse Venue Biosecurity Workbook (ACPRE Australia Inc) .

BEFORE GOING ON, please take time to view the National Equine Forum 2019 held recently in UK.

Overview is <http://nationalequineforum.com/forum-2019/>

Individual speakers share the facts far better than I can. I draw your attention to the short presentations 1-9 +17. Particularly 3, 6 and 8

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHXHTh3S3i4E1lav_SvKN5aIDdGcU7BsA

“Cutting edge technologies empower equine sectors in the global equine industry”

S Stoffel

Separate links for UK are;

<https://www.equineregister.co.uk/home> CENTRAL EQUINE DATABASE plus CHIP CHECKER & DIGITAL STABLE additions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZA2PAo5B7PI> CED specific uses for Australia

Separate links for SCOTLAND;

[www.scotequine](http://www.scotequine.com) www.horsescotland.org/news/latest-news/scot-equine-id-launch-today-at-snec/

Separate links for US are; **EQUICORE** (in US, Ireland & India) information from Summer Stoffel

www.equicore.com/team

<https://animalagriculture.org/EquineIDProceedings>

<https://animalagriculture.org/resources/Documents/Conf%20-%20Symp/Symposiums/2016%20Equine/Equine%20Diseases%20Forum%20Whitepaper%20PDF%2006.08.16.pdf>

<https://animalagriculture.org/resources/Pictures/Page%20Graphics/Stoffel,%20Summer.pdf>

<https://www.slideshare.net/trufflemedia/ms-summer-stoffel-why-equine-identification-traceability>

GVL GLOBAL VETLINK has a list of Apps to support but not limited to Vets operating with equine records anywhere, anytime.

<https://www.globalvetlink.com/products/myvetlink/>

IRISTRAC www.iristrac.com (2 min video demonstration)

Separate links for EU (France) are; Submitted by Emilie Goulas, including the current EU regulations regarding all equidae

Attachments (5) submitted are with this submission

- 1.UELN 2018 (Power point)
2. Présentation SIRE 2018-english
3. Australia_Submission
4. CELEX_32015R0262_EN_TXT and CELEX_32016R1012_EN_TXT (Extensive)

Separate attachment for EU (Netherlands & Luxembourg) are; by Max Becherer and attached to this submission.

“UELN and National Databases combined with Individual Studbook Information Systems”

Separate links for EU are

http://www.wbfsh.org/files/Delta_Horse_presentation_by_Max_Becherer_Billund_2017.pdf

NHTR DATABASES/ PLATFORMS GLOBALLY IN USE STREAMLINES AND SIMPLIFIES RECORDS FOR THE SECTOR AVAILABLE 24/7 FOR WHATEVER EMERGENCY ETC.

BENEFITS

- BIOSECURITY ; Extra Australia (exports) well covered as we are seen as a clean country; Intra Australia; **totally exposed** due to naive National herd & total lack of National Equine database. Germ warfare (with any zoonotic disease eg Hendra, EEE etc.) / terror attack or threat could be rapid and effective.
- 24/7 AVAILABILITY of all information is available internationally
- HUMAN SAFETY: Behavioural studies; data all held in one single system to evaluate training programs etc. in workplaces where equines are present.
- OH & S; In workplace are horses equipment, needing maintenance, checking as sentient “tools”. ID essential for any process in the workplace.
- EQUINES FOR THERAPY; Becoming more common now , recently with autistic children, ID essential for these “tools” in rehabilitation of physically and mentally affected children and youth.
- INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN EQUINE ID LEGITIMACY; non compliant with most.
- TRADE IN EQUINE PRODUCTS; into EU & countries, AUSTRALIA is currently **VERY limited with only 1 or 2** Australian Validated Collection Centres (VCC).

(current examples are US has 69 VVC, SPAIN has about 60+ VVC

https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/ganaderia/temas/comercio-exterior-ganadero/centrosrecoigidaequino19-02-2019_tcm30-104935.pdf ;

GERMANY has about 170+ VVC <https://tsis.fli.de/GlobalTemp/201904191047401483.pdf>

EU COUNTRIES are https://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/live_animals/approved-establishments_en)

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R0659&qid=1555658759301&from=EN>

https://ec.europa.eu/food/sites/food/files/animals/docs/semen-ova_au_equi_scc.pdf

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2018/659 of 12 April 2018 on the conditions for the entry into the Union of live equidae and of semen, ova and embryos of equidae.

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02018R0659-20180430>

- EQUINE WELFARE; simplistic with database software, streamlines intensive management protocols/checks. Less man hours needed to do paperwork in clubs, individual and big organizations & businesses. Programs have multiple fields of verification of facts. INFORMATION SUPPORT to eradicate bad practice/ backyard standard breeding

I began working with European Equine Legislation mandated Regulations in 1997 on and followed changes and reasoning behind updates needed. Covered was Biosecurity, Welfare/Meat in food chain, but most advances were in the IT area. Below is a list of some of those operational/available in EU, UK and US today. I have gathered submissions from these and have provided links to others. **The take home message is that for each problem/hurdle which arises, our 2019 IT world now can solve and adapt to simplify others.**

An NHTR may be seen as an extra burden of unwanted & unwarranted costs. The advances within the equine world seem inexhaustible once we look at the software currently in use internationally . *Australia is far behind and left very exposed & hence unprotected from lack of data across Government, Equine business, owners, clubs, organizations and educational institutions(for individuals/ ancillary professions) attempting to offer a needed number of courses/places in those courses.* Our lack of complying with EU protocols affects trade opportunities for the equine industry as well.

1804 ; The first horse in Australia is purported to have escaped to run free; since then we have no head count etc for horses. Much has changed and got away from us in that 200 years.

2019 ; International Privacy secured databases / platforms service the horse sector increasing data storage, hence epidemiological studies can be streamlined to minimise research times & funding needed. Future planning has a basis of data to work from removing much guesswork/ supposition. DATA FEEDS NEEDED STATISTICS ACROSS THE SECTOR TO EFFECT BEST PRACTICE , EQUINE & HUMAN WELFARE, INSURANCE, BIOSECURITY, PROBLEM SOLVING ,TRADE & INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF AUSTRALIAN HORSES LEGITIMACY (Horse & semen etc)

BENEFICIARIES of a NHTR :

Owners can utilise the software areas for private record/horse keeping. More horse time.

Organizations / Clubs / Studbooks / who have dependence on an ever-decreasing volunteer base, for member, horse, breeder, show, event planning / all recording etc. Eliminating costs to groups for costly software. Simplifies & streamlines workload and time. More horse time.

Quarantine AQIS, Trade, Biosecurity agents ; EI hit August 2007 and was considered eradicated in June 2008. Huge costs given to Government 12 years ago were given as “\$350 million in direct costs, plus \$1.5 another \$1.5 billion expended in indirect costs to the horse industry and the nation” (AHIC). What will it will it cost in 2019? The recent EI outbreak in the UK was contained in **a few weeks. Here it took months.**

Compliance opportunity ; For national compliance with HORSE MEAT regulations ISO 22005:2007 Traceability in the feed and food chain — General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation exist. Australia exports about 2 million kgs horse meat/year from 2 abattoir ; 1 in QLD and 1 in SA. Is it legal to eat horse meat in your state? You could be shocked at the answer.

International Equine Events here; Australia may be considered externally as having high Biosecurity laws on entry to the nations border. Within our coastline we are exposed, vulnerable and still after 2007 unprepared & incapable of stopping an EI spread quickly & efficiently. HENDRA is feared and without an NHTR in place, this influences decisions re overseas horses and human equine professionals coming here. Consider; Bats, horses,mosquitoes,migratory birds, humans; on the move with changing climates.

We know about Hendra and EI now...but what about maybe EEE? Internationally it is known that we do not have management tools in place for disease outbreaks affecting horses, both horses & humans let alone horses, humans, emus via mosquitoes e.g. Equine Eastern encephalitis (EEE)

“Eastern equine encephalitis in a flock of emus (Dromaius novaehollandiae)

Tully TN Jr et al.USA

Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) was diagnosed in a flock of emus in south eastern Louisiana. The outbreak involved juvenile and adult breeders ranging in age from 20 to 36 months, with an attack rate of 76% and a case fatality rate of 87%. The diagnosis was confirmed by isolation and characterization of the viral agent, and by detection of EEE antibody in two recovered emus.”

UELN (Universal Equine Life Number) www.ueln.net is a simple 15 digit code which provides each horse globally with a UNIQUE CODE WHICH FUNCTIONS AS THE **ADDRESS** OF THAT HORSE'S INFORMATION IN THE WORLD e.g. with 20+ Australian organizations now operate with their assigned UELN codes

IT IS NOT THE MICROCHIP NUMBER

0 3 6

0 0 1

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

— — —

— — —

— — — — — — — — —

Country code

Registry code

Horse number in Registry



MICROCHIP COST CONCERNS ; <https://www.microchips.com.au/new-products> Price of microchips is quite small (\$9.90-12.90) Insertion costs vary; possibly open Microchip days could be established within local council zones as for cats & dogs.(“\$10 days”)

THERMOCHIPS ; now exist and worth consideration to monitor the horses temp. How often when your horse is unwell and you call the Vet does he say, what is his temp? Also be useful for welfare, breeding & foaling and in endurance situations/ extreme exercise scenarios.

Funding, enforcement and penalty implications of NHTR:

- **FUNDING & COSTING; WORKING EXAMPLE IS EQUINE DATBASE IN EU** is costed at EUROS 25,000 per year ; OVERALL on 5 year contract; Database/Platform Fee Inc. Maintenance/ Updates Done.
EACH USERS/ MEMBER = 1 OWNER COST OF EUROS 6 -10 per year (irrespective of NO OF HORSES Owned) A User Pays system.
- **ENFORCEMENT**
Current software options manage this simply and automatically, NOT ONEROUS AS THOUGHT. Australian specifics can be built in as with other countries. Services to owners are linked within the database . The technology can build in enforcement protocols of compliance for service access.
- **PENALTY IMPLICATIONS**
Managed simply and automatically by database.Such software allows instant updates/ payment options are all possible. Such packages offer small groups who are unable to fund detailed organisation software to be tailor made for them due to high costs etc, are able to partake of this system.

a. any related matters.

- **EPIDEMIOLOGY ADVANTAGES: EXTENSIVE** for many levels of statistics for equine research

MICROCHIP Q & As; *Mythbusting: Microchipping And Positive Horse ID*

Summer Stoffel USA

Myth 1: Microchips are expensive. International Standard Organization microchips are now available from the microchip companies for as little as US\$5 to US\$8 per chip. These are also Fédération Equestre Internationale compliant chips. Horses that are imported from the European Union already have a microchip because it is legally required.

Myth 2: Microchips can be removed easily. Microchips are implanted into a horse's nuchal ligament, which is just below the mane and about halfway between the poll and withers on the left side. According to a well-known microchip company in US, MicrochipID, "It cannot be removed without general anesthesia and surgery." When we asked top U.S. veterinary clinics about removal of microchips, the answers included, "We do not remove microchips because it would be very harmful to the horse since they are implanted into the nuchal ligament. It would be a deep invasive surgery." Another response was, "We have never heard of anyone asking to remove a chip." Contrary to what some believe, a microchip cannot be removed easily from a horse. It would require surgery with general anesthesia and leave a scar.

Myth 3: Chips can be changed or erased. The ISO microchips are read-only chips. This means that they only provide the identification number when scanned, and no additional information about the horse is stored on the microchip. They cannot be changed or erased with a magnet or powerful electricity. They do not have a power supply, battery or moving parts. For more US information, visit avidid.com or microchipsequine.com.

Myth 4: Microchips migrate. When properly implanted, microchips in the nuchal ligament do not migrate. The origin of this myth can be traced back to the early days of microchipping. In trying to create a microchip that wouldn't be rejected or considered a foreign body, a microchip was created out of materials that were so biocompatible to a horse's body that they could travel through tissue. That was also during a time when the original injection site was under the skin in the triangle area on the side of the neck that veterinarians commonly use as an injection site. However, when the injection site was changed from under the skin on the side to the nuchal ligament, the new standardized site stopped migration due to the density of the tissue in the nuchal ligament. According to one of the U.S. manufacturers of microchips, AVID (American Veterinary Identification Device), "when the microchip is properly implanted a small layer of connective tissue forms around the microchip, preventing it from moving." Thus, the mysterious rumor of microchips migrating has been laid to rest.

Myth 5: Microchipping violates horse welfare. A microchip is a tiny computer chip that is approximately the size of a grain of rice and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle similar to that used in normal injections and vaccinations. It is a simple injection that only takes a few seconds and is done without sedation. Most horses do not even show a response as the chip is quickly injected into the nuchal ligament, and the horse feels nothing when the microchip is scanned. Microchipping is extremely beneficial in many equine welfare areas. It is less painful and more effective than branding or tattooing. The tattooing procedure can be very uncomfortable, fade with time and be altered, and hot branding elicits a pain response in horses and is followed with local inflammation and increased skin sensitivity for one week. Other benefits also include, but are not limited to: disaster recovery, deterrence of theft, aiding in recovery of stolen horses and monitoring of horse slaughter. Did you know that the Equine Rescue Network (ERN) has an ever-growing nationwide network of 215,000-plus people, including volunteers, who scan horses at

auctions and kill pens? According to equinerescuenetwork.com, “If a slaughter-bound horse is found with a microchip or tattoo, ERN is able to notify previous owners. Understandably, no one wants to get a call that a previously owned horse is about to ship to Canada or Mexico for slaughter. Yet ERN has found that 85 percent of the time, the previous owners welcome the call and are happy to help, even if as a means to humanely euthanize the horse.” This means that when a horse is microchipped, horse owners can have peace of mind that should a horse they previously owned end up in a situation where they are suffering or bound for slaughter, there would be a way for the horse’s origin to be traced and former owners contacted. Therefore, microchipping adds an extra level of protection when it comes to equine welfare and is endorsed by the American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Myth 6: Microchipping causes cancer. The basis of any claims that microchips cause cancer should be explained. Many strains of mice used in laboratory tests are prone to developing cancer, which is interesting to the laboratory for research purposes. In some of these mice with an implanted microchip, a tumor was formed. However, the microchips were implanted for identification purposes in animals used for ongoing carcinogen and oncogenicity (capability of inducing tumor formation) cancer studies. So the mice in this study were being subjected to carcinogenic substances to test tumor formation as a result of the carcinogenic substances. In addition, the microchips implanted in those lab animals were not the same as the microchips that are implanted into horses or companion pets. The British Small Animal Veterinary Association reported that over 13 years, out of the 3.7 million pets that were microchipped in the United Kingdom, there were only two tumors reported. This would mean in that sample group, there would be a 0.000054 percent chance of tumor formation. That is not a significant enough statistic, and, taking into consideration all the outlying factors involved in the other case studies, claims cannot be made that microchips directly cause cancer. You can find more information from the American Veterinary Medical Association at tiny.cc/AVMAMicrochipping.

Myth 7: Microchips can track location or movement. ISO microchips are read-only chips and do not contain a GPS. There is no way for it to track movement. It only serves as an identification number. See Myth 3.

Myth 8: Microchipping is a way for USEF/USHJA to make money. Definitely not. Microchipping expenses are paid directly to the veterinarian and/or microchip company. In some cases it is included in the cost of foal registration with breed registries. See Myth 1.

Myth 9: Microchips are a way for USEF/USHJA to track personal information including the purchase price of a horse. Absolutely false. In the current system, when making an ownership transfer, the Bill of Sale must be provided to make the transfer with USHJA and USEF (when the USEF Lifetime Horse Recording Certificate is not available). Horse sale prices are not recorded with the USEF or USHJA. These are private agreements made between two parties. Nowhere in the world are private sales prices recorded with any breed or competition organization, and microchipping would not change the current recording system here in the United States. Microchips only contain an identifying number (See Myth 3) and serve as a way to physically link the horse to the registration/competition records. It also serves as a way for veterinarians or transportation companies to validate identity to ensure that they have the right horse when treating or transporting. The only data that could be connected is information that is already public record, such as the chain of ownership and breeding/competition results for the entire life of the horse, which in turn, creates transparency.

Myth 10: There will be an annual charge for keeping microchip info “current.” No. Just as there is no additional charge for keeping other identification information current, so there will be no additional charge to keep microchip

information current with USEF/USHJA. It will only need to be provided so it can be kept on file and attached to the horse's registration information for positive identification purposes.

Myth 11: The new USEF/USHJA rule change will require stewards to buy a microchip scanner. Stewards will not be required to buy scanners. Scanning microchips for positive horse identification will be carried out by the veterinarian at the competition and will not require horse shows or stewards to purchase microchip scanners.

Myth 12: It costs more than US\$150 to positively ID and microchip a horse. As stated before, implantation of microchips is a one-time cost of US\$35-60, which often includes the microchip. (See Myth 1) Also, starting in January 2016, the Anglo European Studbook will be able to issue "white paper" horse identification passports complete with a UELN, microchip, and DNA testing for US\$99, even for horses with no documented pedigree in the United States. The owner's veterinarian must fill out an identification form, complete with drawings and written description of the horse and the veterinarian's signature similar to a Coggins or FEI passport application. At the same time, hairs for DNA will be pulled and microchip implanted. DNA testing will be done through UC Davis, and microchips will be from an American microchip company. The purpose of this type of passport is to provide an affordable way for horses whose pedigree is unknown to be positively identified for the rest of their lives through a universal equine life number attached to a microchip number and supported with DNA results. Identities of horses with a brand or microchip can be traced back to the original birth registry without additional expense, and duplicate papers can be arranged.

Myth 13: There is no central database. There is no central database for microchips in companion animals. However, microchip numbers are tracked differently in the equine industry. The microchip implanted in a horse is attached to the breed registration number and/or competition number and can be found in the respective databases, which also means in the rare case that more than one microchip is found in a horse, it will trace back to a registration number connected to breeding or competition results in that country, thus reducing the gap in horse identification. Organizations such as the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses and the FEI, along with numerous countries, are currently working to collaborate and create a universal database in the very near future. Microchipping for horses has been used successfully in Europe since before 2006 to monitor horse welfare, protect against theft, prevent fraud, track competition eligibility, and for tracing in the event of a disease outbreak. It is a safe, reliable, less painful way to provide permanent, unchangeable positive identification. Here in America, we have all the systems in place needed for a seamless implementation. The USEF already has an area on the registration form for microchip numbers, and horse records can be searched via microchip number. Veterinary clinics, ranging from large to small local practices, have microchip scanners and the ability to implant chips. Breed registries already microchip or can provide the option of attaching a microchip number to a registration number. Regardless of whether the horse is positively identified and microchipped through a breed registry or microchipped by a veterinarian, when this information is recorded with the competition federation and associations on the registration form, it connects all the dots for positive horse identification. This protects all involved. The owner has assurance that the horse he is purchasing is indeed the one he believes it to be. The rider knows the horse's level of experience, and pedigree information can provide insight to the type of ride or level of talent the horse may possess. The trainer is guaranteed the horse is eligible for classes or divisions defined by age, experience, or breed and protected against points becoming invalid after discovery of unknown previous experience or true age. And last, but most important, is the horse. Should a horse fall into a situation of neglect or potential slaughter, traceability through a microchip can alert previous owners to the situation and the horse can be given a chance to survive. And that —is priceless.

SUMMER STOFFEL is the owner of Silver Creek Farms in Broken Arrow, Okla., and has bred horses that are competing both nationally and internationally. In addition to her work with the breed registries and international

federations and hosting the North American Stallion Testing, she also serves on the USEF Horse Recording & ID Task Force Committee and USHJA Jumper Breeding Committee

- **PRIVACY CONCERNS** This has been a concern for many owners and organisations internationally, software now has the highest levels of security & privacy concerns covered. This is in place in other countries currently using the packages.
- **MCLEAN** attributes a NHTR may allow data for behavioural studies to be accessed quickly and simply, to provide best practice work to be done, researched and findings delivered. ALL sector **BENEFITS** in behavioural understanding & training best practice to increase human safety and maintain high levels in equine welfare. Much horse mistreatment is result not of malice or ill intent etc. but simple ignorance/ unawareness of best practice. Members of database may opt to share & receive information on aspects of equine management; husbandry, training, events, state/ national /international news, disease alerts, natural disaster alerts.
- **RIRDC**; Need data to be readily available so that equine sector can be responsible toward other agricultural sectors by being traceable if being infected with e.g. EEE, for which there is an equine vaccine but not for any other species. It is often fatal for mammals including humans and could devastate our common agricultural plus not-often-thought of sectors e.g. our EMU FARMING, now targeting both Fashion & Health industries. Outbreaks in US killed humans, horses, emus and others. *The equine sector must be able to contain its infected and separate its unaffected as close to immediately as possible.*
- **AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MANAGE AND NURTURE OWN ITS NATIONAL BREEDS/herds** (BRUMBY, AUSTRALIAN DRAUGHT HORSE, AUSTRALIAN PONY, AUSTRALIAN RIDING PONY, AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE, COFFIN BAY PONY, WALER) Please view them here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=za7sZ1A9YTA> as is each countries responsibility to all its breeds of all species. Manage genetic diversity, health and welfare needs a NHTR to meet this responsibility. Digital Facial Recognition simplifies difficulties with free roaming horses. Any culling would then be done by accurate selection if needed, not by random shootings of unidentified horses. Technology allows horses to pass through gate openings by microchip direction, enabling free roaming herds to be moved, counted, fed individually and medicated/ supplemented/wormed if necessary. It is commonplace in EU larger studs and in the US. We have no excuses other than pleading ignorance of the technologies or apathy /complacency.
- **PRIMARY INDUSTRY DEPARTMENTS, RSPCA, RESCUE GROUPS, RESEARCH STUDIES SEEKING PARTICIPANTS** etc. Notifications can be shared nationally via instant bulletin board to entire horse owning sector without discrimination. Services to the equine sector as a whole, can be INSTANT & many fold & readily available to all members no matter the location, the number of horses, the type or breed of horse or discipline of involvement.
- **WE CANNOT CONTROL EVERYTHING** e.g. climate change, migratory birds carrying diseases heading to new areas , habitat destruction drives this. An example being *"PIRSA confirmed the HENDRA virus - which can cause death both in humans and horses - had been detected in a tissue sample taken from flying foxes that died in North Adelaide this month" Jan 18, 2013.*

Studying data provides the best insight for preventative measures to be put in place.

EU PROPHYLACTIC measures are now being added to prevent known problems occurring.

[https://www.ifce.fr/ifce/une-visite-sanitaire-equine-obligatoire-en-](https://www.ifce.fr/ifce/une-visite-sanitaire-equine-obligatoire-en-2019/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=ifce+1004&utm_campaign=SIREVisite+sanitaire+equine+obligatoire&fbclid=IwAR0dIERBV1OM_YPHC92hEYX9-AX22RkHqKKN1gqzwltyxADnN7J9PPfH08)

[2019/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=ifce+1004&utm_campaign=SIREVisite+sanitaire+equine+obligatoire&fbclid=IwAR0dIERBV1OM_YPHC92hEYX9-AX22RkHqKKN1gqzwltyxADnN7J9PPfH08](https://www.ifce.fr/ifce/une-visite-sanitaire-equine-obligatoire-en-2019/?utm_source=Facebook&utm_medium=ifce+1004&utm_campaign=SIREVisite+sanitaire+equine+obligatoire&fbclid=IwAR0dIERBV1OM_YPHC92hEYX9-AX22RkHqKKN1gqzwltyxADnN7J9PPfH08)

- NO NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN EQUINE BODY EXISTS WHICH IS SUPPORTED BY A MAJORITY OF SECTOR MEMBERS.

Finally, Thank you to all who have given of their time generously at odd hours across hemispheres and time zones in support of our Australian initiative into the feasibility study of a NATIONAL HORSE & TRACEABILITY REGISTER. Internationalism has overtaken Nationalism in the very best way for a positive future for the global equine family.