



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Inquiry Committee,

We welcome the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into the feasibility of a National Horse Traceability Register (Register). Such a Register would solve a lot of current problems in the horse industry at large.

A. The Australian Continental Equestrian Group Incorporated (ACE) runs an industry-based register and Studbook for horses and ponies. ACE is a member of the World breeding Federation of Sport horses (WBFSH) and works closely together with other European Breed societies as Oldenburger and Westphalian horses
ACE issues Passports with a Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) and the Passports are recognised Worldwide and by the Federation Equestrian International (FEI). We offer a quality control system to our members and breeders in form of an annual Assessment tour where the horses are assessed for their quality and progress made or not.

- B. A national register is essential for several reasons as mentioned already by you and other submissions.
- On one side we have the problem that many horses are not recorded at all, either by numbers or individual identification by recognised registers.
 - Then we have individual Breeders who issue their own Identification and Pedigree birth certificates without any form of control of accuracy.
 - The third group are horses which have multiple registrations.

As an example: -

A person buys a mare from the track (already registered with Australian Studbook) and uses it for official competition and a new Id (2nd lot of ID papers and Registration) will be issued by the Equestrian Federation (EA) in most cases under a different name and breeding unknown as the horse was purchased without registration papers or transfer so that she cannot race again.

Later the owner wants to breed her to a Holsteiner Stallion and presents the mare for acceptance into their Studbook. Through the microchip, the mare can be traced, the Pedigree handwritten on the mare application and she will get a different name as the owner chooses. The mare will then get registered as a foundation mare into the Holsteiner studbook. A new birth certificate will be issued (3rd lot of ID papers).

Next year he breeds to a Hannoverian Stallion and the same happens again (4th lot of ID papers) and so it continues. When he decides to sell, the owner can promote "registered EA, Holstein, Hannoverian, etc."

We need a head organisation either Government controlled or self-regulated on a membership basis of all entities who issue horse ID documents in order to guarantee no double registrations. The above-mentioned horse should have only the Australian Studbook Papers or ID card with attachments to it like Recorded EA under the Name....., Accepted into the Holsteiner Studbook under the Name..... and so on. This can be achieved by self-regulation.

Ideally the Horse's name should not be allowed to change either, but I believe that would require Government regulation.

- C. My background is German, and this is where I grew up. Each horse, pony, donkey and mule need a passport under EU regulation. Dual registration is not allowed, and each animal can have only one Passport. All information is recorded on a central database. With today's technology this should be made possible in a cost-effective matter.

Race Horses, Stock horses, Arabians, Quarter horses, ACE, AWWHA and some other societies have already proper registration and ID documents with microchip in place and would be a good start to seek cooperation from them.

Then there are all the sporting organisations EA, PC, Camp drafting etc, who record horses which also need to come to the party as well as all the other smaller breed societies and registers.

- D. It will take funding, and we only need a very small percentage of the forecasted Government surplus to get it all started and then it should be able to fund itself by the industry.

Enforcement is important, but to be effective it would need government regulation in a form that all Entities who issue horse ID or birth certificates need Government approval and follow certain rules and criteria.

- E. I would be more than happy to help in the establishment of a national Database if needed.

Thanking you for the opportunity to submit.
Kind regards

Ulrich Klatte

President ACE Group Inc.