



**WorldHorseWelfare**

*Celebrating 90 years of helping horses*

# Responsible ownership of equidae – next steps

Roly Owers MRCVS

Chief Executive, World Horse Welfare



# Overview



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
*Celebrating 90 years of helping horses*

- **Introduction** – Removing the Blinkers
- **Own Initiative Report (OIR)** – Responsible ownership and care of equidae
- **OIR Progress to date**
- **Opportunities** – CAP reform – EU Animal Welfare Platform
- **Conclusion**

# World Horse Welfare



**WorldHorseWelfare**

*Celebrating 90 years of helping horses*

- Established 1927
- Covers full spectrum of equine world working across 4 continents
- 120 employees - €10m turnover
- Education, campaigning and hands on care
- Supports sport horse welfare – advisor to regulators



# European equine sector

- 7 million equidae
- Contributing €100 billion+ per annum
- 2.6 million hectares of land used
- Key rural employer
  - Second largest rural employer in UK
  - At least 180,000 jobs in France



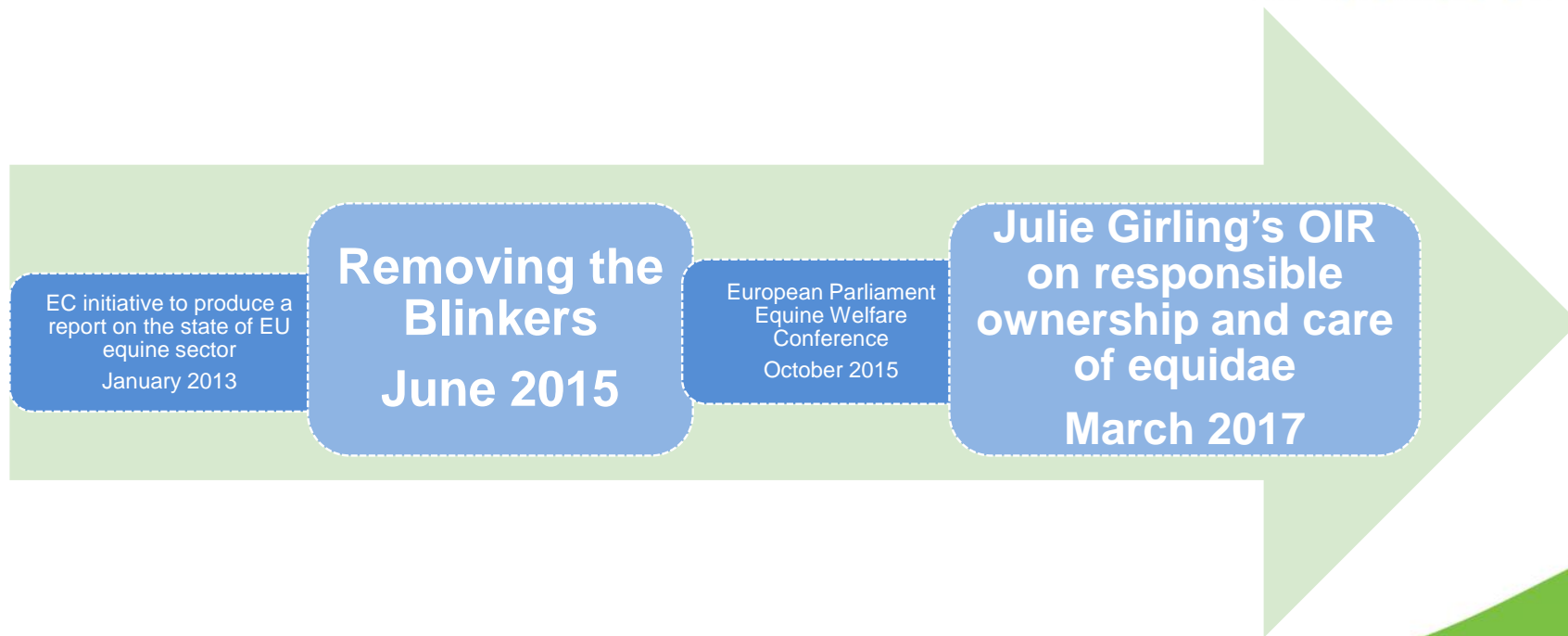
**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses



# Timeline



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses



# Removing the Blinkers

- 18-month project
- Undertaken at invitation of European Commission
- Ground-breaking report to address lack of data about true breadth and depth of the equine sector
- Discrepancies in treatment under legislation (companion vs farm)
- Identified key welfare challenges facing the sector



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses



# OIR on responsible ownership and care of equidae



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

- Rapporteur Julie Girling MEP & 4 shadow rapporteurs
- Followed on from key conclusions from Removing the Blinkers
- Adopted resolution by EP in March 2017
- Recognises the vital contribution of the equine sector across the EU





**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

# OIR main recommendations

- The dissemination of **non-legislative basic guidance** for the care and ownership of equidae
- The use of **innovative funding mechanisms** to reward responsible on-farm ownership of equines
- Empowering consumers/tourists, enabling them to reward those businesses that **use equines in a responsible way in a tourist industry**
- Increased inspections of farms and production of donkey milk guidelines
- Improve transport conditions of equidae





# Progress to date/1



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

- European Horse Network (EHN) legal group established to cover issues including **responsible ownership** (June 2017)
- EHN Horse Group meeting European Parliament on **welfare practices in equine tourism** (July 2017)
- Updated analysis on **legislation relevant to the equine sector at EU and national level** (French Equine Institute – August 2017)



# Progress to date/2

- The French Agency for Food, Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety (ANSES) **research on MRL phenylbutazone and thenoic acid (2017)**
- Promotion of **OIE chapter on Working Equids (2017)**
- INTERBEV research on the **guidance of good practices for slaughterhouses (2017)**



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

**anses**  
French agency for food, environmental  
and occupational health & safety



# Progress to date/3

- **Pilot project on best practices for animal transport – roadshows (ongoing)**
- **Practical Guidelines to Access for Fitness for transport of Equidae translated into all EU languages (by end of 2017)**
- **Eurogroup 4 Animals & World Horse Welfare membership at the EU Animal Welfare Platform**



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses



ANIMAL TRANSPORT GUIDES

Practical Guidelines to Assess  
Fitness for Transport of Equidae  
(Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and their Hybrids)



**The EU Animal Welfare Platform:**  
promoting dialogue on animal  
welfare issues relevant at EU level.



European  
Commission | Health and  
Food Safety

#EU4AnimalWelfare  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animals/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare_en)

# Opportunities/1



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

## Position of Equines in CAP

Necessity to highlight “green assets” of equine industry in order to:

- a) Respond to the strong environmental and animal sensitivities in our societies
- b) Promote activities with equines in economic, social and cultural policies
- c) Prove that the equine sector must be taken into account in the future CAP and in particular its second pillar



# Opportunities/2



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
Celebrating 90 years of helping horses

The poster features two signs on a post against a blue sky background. The top sign says 'CHALLENGE' with a right-pointing arrow. The bottom sign says 'OPPORTUNITY' with a right-pointing arrow. Below the signs, the text reads 'EU Animal Welfare Platform priorities:' followed by a numbered list of three items. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a cow, a dog, and a cat with human figures. Logos for the European Commission and Health and Food Safety are in the bottom left, and the hashtag #EU4AnimalWelfare and a URL are in the bottom right.

**CHALLENGE** →

**OPPORTUNITY** →

**EU Animal Welfare Platform priorities:**

1. Better application of EU rules on animal welfare
2. Development and use of voluntary commitments by businesses
3. Promotion of EU animal welfare standards at the global level

#EU4AnimalWelfare  
[http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/food/animal/welfare/eu-platform-animal-welfare_en)

- **EU Animal Welfare Platform**
  - Animal transport sub-group ✓
  - Equine sub-group ?
- **Unwanted horses** – proposed European Conference (second half of 2018)

# Conclusion



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
*Celebrating 90 years of helping horses*

- Equine sector hugely relevant to the EU
- A number of inter-related activities ongoing
- Cooperation between key stakeholders vital
- EU Animal Welfare Platform provides window of opportunity to 2019
- Julie Girling's OIR provides continued momentum that needs to be harnessed

# Thank you



**WorldHorseWelfare**  
*Celebrating 90 years of helping horses*

## Questions?

e: [rolyowers@worldhorsewelfare.org](mailto:rolyowers@worldhorsewelfare.org)

w: [www.worldhorsewelfare.org](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org)

t: @rolyowers