

*The Role of the Third Sector during Crisis and Recovery
The Case of COVID-19 and Equine Welfare Charities*

What the EU and Member States can do

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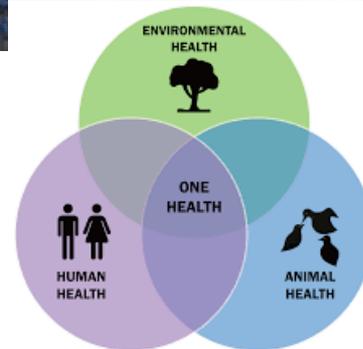
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Health of animals, humans, environment

- Inextricably linked – Covid-19 just latest example
- 6 July – *Preventing the Next Pandemic: Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission* – UNEP and ILRI
- One Health, One Welfare

Encourage EU to embrace these principles



What EU is doing

- Farm to Fork strategy, Green Deal
- Fitness check of EU animal welfare legislation, including 1/2005
- Platform on Animal Welfare
- EU Reference Centre on equines
- Animal Health Law



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



What Member States are doing

- Animal welfare laws (many EU countries)
- Species specific welfare laws (e.g. Horse Law: Denmark)
- Animal welfare enforcement – esp. farm animals
- Funding for animal welfare charities (e.g. Ireland, Germany, Austria)



But what about support for response to Covid-19?



How to prepare for next COVID-19 wave?

EU and Member States can ease impact:

- **Provide key worker status for animal welfare workers**
- **Ensure visits to care for equines considered essential**
- **Allow rehoming within guidelines**
- **Allow vets to undertake neutering and other preventative interventions**
- **Provide practical, consistent guidance (e.g. use of indoor arenas)**
- **Funding – to ensure rescue work and prevention can continue**

Equines – integral to societal wellbeing

After all

- Horses, donkeys and mules woven into fabric of society – most especially in rural communities
- Visible, close interaction with people
- Sport, leisure, transportation, policing, agriculture, tourism, ceremony, therapy, pets
- Do not fit into categories of farm and companion animals – fall between cracks
- Impact on communities, taxpayers when things go wrong



What animal welfare NGOs are doing

Equine welfare NGOs already doing their part:

- Spearheading crisis funding – e.g. Equine Rescues Emergency Fund (UK)
- Collating evidence – conducting surveys and sharing results with government
- Innovation and collaborating with others on solutions
- Seeking funding and planning for mitigations



What EU and Member States can do

1. EC – encourage Member States to provide logistic and financial support to equine welfare rescue organisations
2. MSs – support short-term equine welfare initiatives to help cope with impact (as previously outlined)
3. Continue with ongoing initiatives – e.g. Equine ID, Animal Health
4. Communication – promote guidance on responsible ownership
5. Establish Equine Welfare Working Group to develop contingency plan – comprised of EC, Member States and animal welfare NGOs
6. Include equine welfare in New Marshall Plan for European Tourism and Strategy for Roma Inclusion



In summary...

- **3Cs: Coordination, Communication and Costs**

- **Thank you for listening**
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