



## Danish Agricultural Advisory Service National Centre | Horses

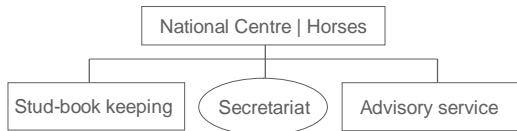


## Who is the National Centre | Horses ?



### National Council of Horses

- Political Council of 30 breeds in DK
- Agrees on strategy and perspective for NCH



## Who is the National Centre | Horses ?

### Secretariat:

- Representative to the authorities
- Advisor on aspects of managing breeding societies

### Advisory service on all aspects of horse keeping e.g.

- Legal & economical aspects
- Feeding
- Health & welfare
- Construction of stables etc.
- Breeding aspects

### Supplier of stud book services:

- Tagging and Branding, issuing of certificates, development of breeding evaluations (indexes) etc.



## Subject of the session

### Legislation on horse keeping



In 2008 a new law on horse keeping was introduced in Denmark

The following issues will be reflected on:

- Legislation process and sector interaction
- Main areas in danish horse legislation
- What is the impact of legislation on the horsesector ?
- Balance between management and rules ?
- Can we benefit from the experiences made in DK ?



## Process of legislation on horse keeping



### Why are we occupied with legal regulation ?

- Animal welfare has high priority on the public agenda
- Lack of confidence in the sector
- Horsesector decides to be proactive and to interact

### Working group at the Ministry of Justice established

- Organizations with different background as participants
- Aim: Proposals to minimum requirement

### Main issues arised in working group:

- Regulatory frames in opposition to practical management
- Practical problems arised from compromises



## Presentation of the Danish legislation

### Main areas chosen for short presentation

- Stables
- Exercise



## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Stables:

- Tie Stalls (permanently) is prohibited



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## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Stables:

- Size of box stalls
- Minimum area:  $(2 \times \text{height at withers, measured by bar})^2$



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## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Stables:

- Size of box stalls
- Minimum area:  $(2 \times \text{height of withers, measured by bar})^2$

Minimum size of box stalls	
Height of withers	Minimum area in m <sup>2</sup>
1,0 m.	4,0 m <sup>2</sup>
1,2 m.	5,8 m <sup>2</sup>
1,3 m.	6,8 m <sup>2</sup>
1,4 m.	7,8 m <sup>2</sup>
1,5 m.	9,0 m <sup>2</sup>
1,6 m.	10,3 m <sup>2</sup>
1,7 m.	11,6 m <sup>2</sup>

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## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Stables:

- Height to ceiling
- Originally: minimum 2,60 m.
- Revised requirements: Graded according to size of horse



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## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Stables:

- Indoor climate
- Minimum volume of air pr. horse: 30 m<sup>3</sup>
- Daylight
- Windows at 7% of stablearea



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## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Paddocks and exercise:

Paddocks required for every household  
 Minimum area of paddock: 20 m. x 40 m.  
 Requirements: 2 hours in paddock or other exercise - Elegant solution  
 Problem: maximum 20 horses in the paddock



## The DK-legislation as implemented

Feeding & water  
 Supervision  
 Handling, Means of aid/force and doping  
 Hoofcare  
 Education



## The DK-legislation as implemented

### Implementation will follow a transition period

- Important welfare issues implemented 2011
  - E.g. permanent tie stalls
- Structural issues implemented 2020
  - Area of box stalls
  - Height of ceiling



## The impact of legislation

Legislation can have an impact on growth - must not be underestimated

### Investments can be affected where additional resources are required:

- Direct impact, when construction/reconstruction is needed
- Reduced supply or more expensive supply
- Higher costs for horseowners renting stables (demand/supply)
- Result: General activity in the sector is reduced



## The impact of legislation

Important not to criminalize the horse sector in general  
 - accept from horsekeepers as well as society!

The balance between management and rules has to be found,  
 if the result should be better welfare

### Examples of problems from DK legislation:

- Daylight requirements for horses kept outside at daytime
- Means of aid vs. means of force



## Benefits from the DK experiences

Proactive approach to take control on the process

Pay attention to the public opinion – "choose" the fights

Watch out for compromises – get the practical horsekeeping on the agenda

Demand scientific documentation when specifying requirements

The overall impression of the danish legislation is positive, but we have to address some very important problem areas before we risk to reduce the activity in the sector.

We look forward to a revision in 2012 to avoid the worst consequences.





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Thank You for the attention !



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