

## Minutes cooperation meeting Vienna 2015-10-18

### Participants:

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### General

The group discussed possibilities for increased cooperation. The new suggestion for new structure of WBFSH could facilitate. Probably, the new structure will allow working groups on different subjects. Hence, we focused on listing important and urgent subjects for working groups/workshops.

### Suggestions for working groups/workshop subjects

- **Data exchange.** It's important then to look at existing systems, like World Fengur for the Icelandic horses.
- **Common Microchip** – could facilitate and decrease costs for studbook
- **International genetic evaluation** The Nordic countries are already at a point from which it's possible to estimate international BV:s. Economical and political questions remain still to solve. The benefits of international BV:s are obvious: Stallions used in multiple countries could get reliable BV:s much earlier if information from several studbooks are used. Also for mares it's beneficial, since international BV estimation would add information from exported offspring and other relatives.
- **Snp-technology** (from microsatellite to snp-chip) parental testing and genomic evaluation. Today Microsattelites are used for parental testing and snp-chips for genomic evaluation. By replacing the microsatellite technology with snp-chip technology at parental testing would decrease costs for the breeders and facilitate the process for genomic evaluation.
- **International competition results** – how to give the studbooks access to it.
- **Common database of X-rays for stallions:** Up to each stallion owner whether they want to add the pictures of their stallions or not. Could help harmonize the set of pictures (number and projections) required for stallions. The stallion owner could decide who should get access to the pictures of his/her stallion.
- **Common system for identification** – for passports
- **Cooperation Judges.** Lots of studbooks are using judges from other countries in addition to the national judges at for example young horse finals and stallion performance tests. It's not always easy to find suitable international judges for those studbooks. However, an international panel of judges, with regard to competence and code of conduct would facilitate. It could also help the national judges to get an international perspective and it's a good "career step" to strive for among the judges. A working group in this subject should start by compiling a review on the education of judges in the different studbooks. Thereafter standards for education of international judges and code of conduct could be set up. It would be up to the studbooks to nominate judges to become international judges.

Background Letter re  
International Cooperation meeting in Vienna

Following up on the informal discussions that have taken place over the past three or four years and by email, regarding the concept of greater international cooperation between stud books; several of us are hoping to meet Sunday morning in Vienna prior to the commencement of the WHBFSH program, to explore in a slightly more focused way, what are some of the practical possibilities and what might be the next steps. We hope everyone on this short mail list will consider attending. Below is a quick overview reminder of some of the discussion.

In particular we have discussed the dilemma of the smaller and medium sized national stud books. Several initiatives at the WBFSH that would bring greater cooperation and real benefits to these stud books are not moving forward as hoped and in these challenging economic times, we are missing important opportunities that would benefit our breeders.

Some of you will recall the idea, raised in private discussions in Newmarket and Seville, that a number of the smaller stud books could create an international alliance or cooperative that would effectively increase the level of service to our members. If we agreed to share data, give reciprocal recognition to registration certificates, recognize jurisdictions, develop standardized inspection and testing parameters and foster commercial relationships, we could enhance the stature and effectiveness of our breeding programs. This is in line with the objectives and spirit of the WBFSH. What is needed is a commitment to a protocol that brings these things to fruition, ideally within the context of the WBFSH.

This is not a new concept. It has been applied in many business situations with great success. Here are some of the important points:

1. It would be cooperation between completely autonomous stud books, possibly based on a recognition of exclusive jurisdictions.
2. Data sharing such as envisioned with Interstallion would result in annual publication of international breeding values, based on some standardized data. This would provide much needed credibility for the breeding programs of the smaller stud books and would provide a serious tool for breed improvement.
3. Close cooperation through the exchange of judging personnel, genetic material and research would create commercial opportunities between our countries.
4. Sharing of resources in strategic areas would allow us to provide services and value to our members that we might not be able to do on our own. For example the internet technology is available for us to develop an international performance and pedigree data base which could accomplish what WHIRDEC has been unable to achieve.

These and other ideas have been considered. We look forward to more discussion and ideas when we meet in Vienna. Exact time and location will be determined once we know how many people are available.

Hope to see you in Vienna,  
Chris Gould