

Danish



Equine Health Monitoring

An investigation of the scientific foundation and stakeholder needs

Wendy Hartig, DVM, stud. PhD, Pia Haubro Andersen, Professor, DVM, PhD, DVSc, Hans Houe, Professor, DVM, PhD, DVSc

Referral hospital data
Large Animal Hospital,
University of Copenhagen

Quality control in equine practice
Clinical governance
Evidence-based medicine

Clinical research
Access to systematized,
secondary data

Heridity aspects
Breeding for soundness

Health targeted management
The impact on health and longevity

Wendy Hartig
Author
hartig@life.ku.dk

Pia Haubro Andersen
Co-author

Hans Houe
Co-author

THE QUESTIONS
Who knows the durability of Danish horses?
What is the longevity of them?
Do they have a good welfare?
Are they bred, managed and used wrongly?

THE RESEARCH QUESTIONS
How can we estimate prevalence and risk of disease?
How do we manage disease surveillance and establish disease control tools?
Can we practice targeted breeding for healthy animals?
How do we educate veterinary students?

ANSWERS CAN ONLY BE PROVIDED BY Prioritization, organization, and coordination of information in a national health- and disease database, with a design and content that meets the stakeholders' needs.

BACKGROUND
Existing recording of equine health-related data in Denmark
Statutory registrations:
Demographic basic data (EU-legislation) in one single database (national supplement).
UENL number (Universal Equine Life Number).
Microchip number.
Notifiable diseases are reported to the authorities.
Voluntary registrations:
Show jumping & dressage results: already continuously incorporated in the mandatory database.
Not available:
Mandatory reporting of medical treatments of horses, besides the common EU-legislation.
Medical records are kept at the individual clinics.
Central diagnosis registration.
Systematized insurance databases.
Systematic collection of information regarding diseases and health, including performance.

WHAT TO CONSIDER
Quality of data can be compromised at many steps. Every database should contain exact documentation about its purpose, design, and raw data registration criteria.
No database can serve all purposes.
It is vital to match the possible input of data with the needs for output.

