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ZOOPROFILATTICO
SPERIMENTALE
DELL'ABRUZZO
E DEL MOLISE
"G. CAPORALE"

Enhancing Health and Welfare of Non-for-human-consumption (non-DPA) Horses: An Online Investigation

Giusy Matteucci , DVM.

Istituto Zooprofilattico dell'Abruzzo e del Molise «G. Caporale»





DPA vs non-DPA: Equine data-bank

- Mandatory registration of equids (EU 429/2016, EU 2019/2035 EU 2021/963): both breeding animals and those used for competitions, included the «athlete horse» as defined in the legislative decree (D. Lgs) 36/2001.
- Categorization: **DPA** (intended for human consumption) and **non-DPA** (not for human consumption).



Photograph by Alamy





CONSISTENZA CAPI REGISTRATI IN BDN PER SESSO

DATA RIFERIMENTO

30/06/2024

SPECIE CAPI

CAVALLI

SPECIE ALLEVAMENTI

CAVALLI

TIPO ATTIVITÀ

Tutte

ORIENTAMENTO

Tutte

DPA / NON DPA

NON DPA

NUMERO CAPI

265.535

SPECIE_CAPI REGIONE	CAVALLI	
	F	M
ABRUZZO	3.378	2.922
BASILICATA	2.145	1.107
CALABRIA	3.999	2.491
CAMPANIA	8.452	6.856
EMILIA ROMAGNA	9.820	9.431
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA	1.957	2.018
LAZIO	18.577	15.552
LIGURIA	2.300	2.266
LOMBARDIA	19.821	20.204
MARCHE	3.189	2.861
MOLISE	1.042	841
PIEMONTE	12.290	11.721
PUGLIA	5.609	5.240
SARDEGNA	10.086	6.142
SICILIA	11.717	7.921
TOSCANA	14.217	12.283
TRENTINO - ALTO ADIGE (BZ)	1.033	1.040
TRENTINO - ALTO ADIGE (TN)	889	798
UMBRIA	4.148	3.575
VALLE D'AOSTA	249	213
VENETO	7.766	7.369
Totale	142.684	122.851

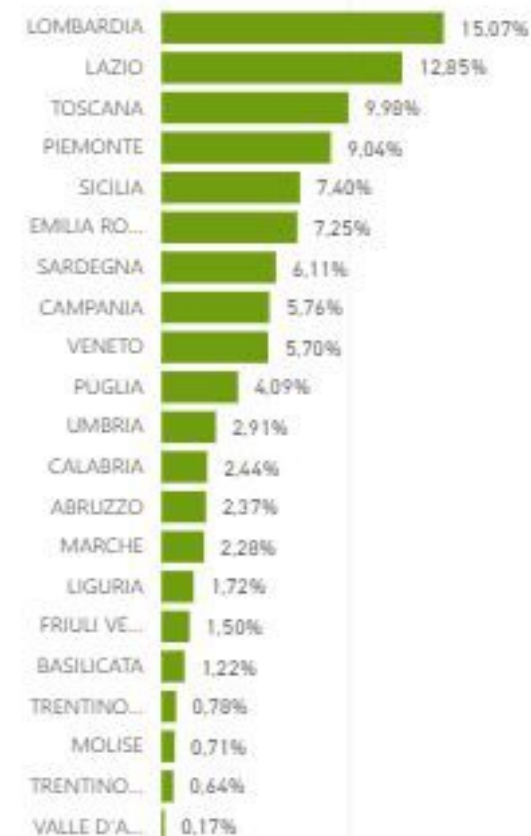
%NUMERO CAPI SUL TOTALE e TOTALE CAPI per REGIONE e SESSO

SESSO F M



%NUMERO CAPI SUL TOTALE per REGIONE e STATUS

NON DPA



Problems:

- I. Challenges in managing retired athletic horses (non-DPA)
- II. Non-DPA equines are considered in the legislation in the same way as companion animals
- III. Important role in the transmission of infectious diseases, regardless of their legal status (DPA/non-DPA).

Objectives:

- I. Improve management practices for non-DPA horses, and control activities on this category in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Health Law (EU 2016/429);
- II. Develop a model for the introduction, development, management and evaluation of biosecurity in the management of non-DPA horses (Legislative Decree No. 136 of August 5, 2022 actuation of AHL);
- III. Create new levels of awareness of the relevant regulations and the proper use of information systems in the sector, with training, information and dissemination actions aimed at control officers and key stakeholders in the non-DPA equine world (from owners to insiders).

Research Methodology: the previous «SNAI» project

An online questionnaire was developed in a prior project:

SNAI (Social Network Analysis and Innovative diagnostic methods for the control of movement and infectious diseases of horses in Italy)

Attention was given to studying the levels of awareness expressed by facility managers and owners towards the responsible management of non-DPA equines.

To explore this topic, an *ad hoc* online nationally distributed questionnaire was developed and organized into five sections, each dedicated to a specific area:





- ❑ **Section 1:** socio-demographic profile and basic structural data, consisting of 13 questions
- ❑ **Section 2:** basic information related to logistics and organization of non-DPA equine accommodations, consisting of 10 questions
- ❑ **Section 3:** second-level information related to logistics and organization of accommodation facilities for non-DPA equines, consisting of 8 questions
- ❑ **Section 4:** data regarding health aspects, basic medicine administration and farriery, consisting of 23 questions
- ❑ **Section 5:** responsible ownership and end of life, consisting of 11 questions.

Photo: Dr. Michele Podaliri Vulpiani

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SNAI questionnaire results

The survey revealed a **lack** of data regarding the **equestrian (horse racing) sector**.

To fill this gap, it has been necessary to repeat the survey → ***EQUINOTIO project***.

By the way, the results obtained so far indicate a **good knowledge of animal welfare practices** among survey participants, particularly among equestrian athletes, amateurs, and veterinarians.

This suggests a **strong awareness of the importance of the human-animal relationship and the role of responsibility in horse care**.

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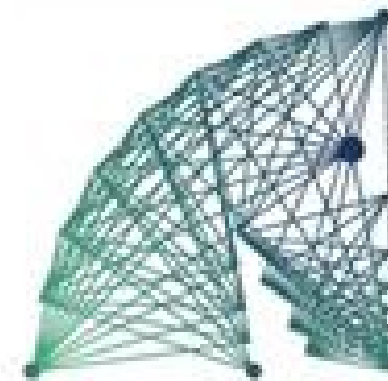


Equinotio: goal

Objective:

The intent is to stimulate the implementation and adoption of **biosecurity plans** in addition to proper and appropriate prevention measures for managing disease outbreaks in facilities with non-DPA horses.

Key Word: PREVENTION.



EquiNotio

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Legislation

L 84

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Contents

I Legislative acts

page

REGULATIONS

- * Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law') ⁽¹⁾ 1



Articles	Responsibility	Subject
Article 10	Operators' Responsibilities	Kempt animals and products
	(a) Health and Biosecurity	
	i) Animal health	Preventive measures, disease diagnosis, treatment
	ii) Veterinary medicine use	Proper administration, record-keeping, responsible use
	iii) Disease prevention	Biosecurity protocols, vaccination, quarantine
	iv) Good animal husbandry	Proper housing, nutrition, welfare
	(b) Biosecurity Measures	
	i) Species and categories	Risk assessment based on susceptibility
	ii) Production type	Intensive vs. extensive systems
	iii) Risk assessment	Geographic location, climate, local practices
	(c) Wild animal biosecurity	Prevention of contact with kempt animals
Article 114	Operators' Obligations	Equine identification and registration - BDN-E

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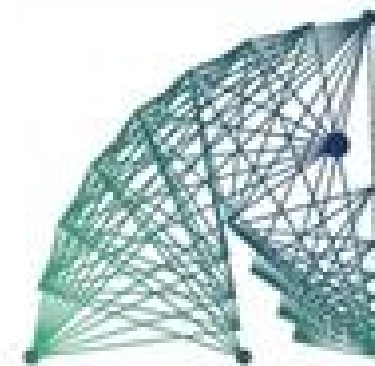
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Equinotio project

Modified questionnaire with focus on **biosecurity**
(Section 6)

Data Collection:

- ❖ Online survey results pending
- ❖ Feedback from previous project



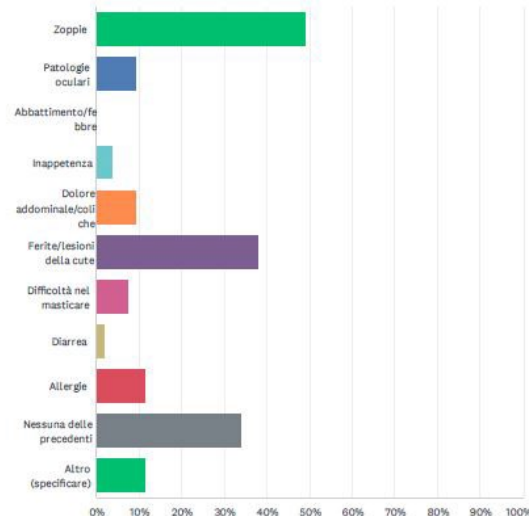
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Preliminary results

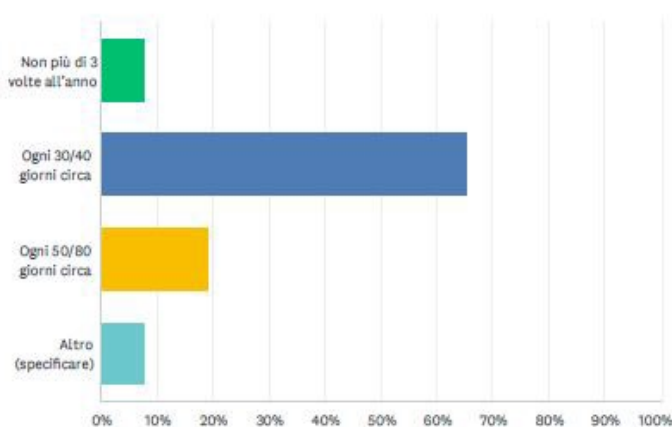
D38 4.2.1 Quale dei seguenti problemi di salute riscontra con maggiore frequenza? Indicare i 3 più frequentemente riscontrati:

Risposte: 53 Saltate: 17



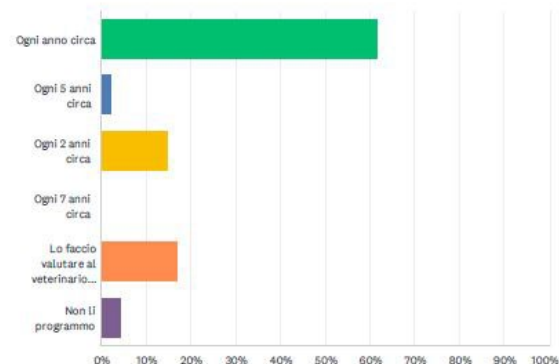
D42 4.3.3 Ogni quanto programma l'intervento del maniscalco?

Risposte: 52 Saltate: 18



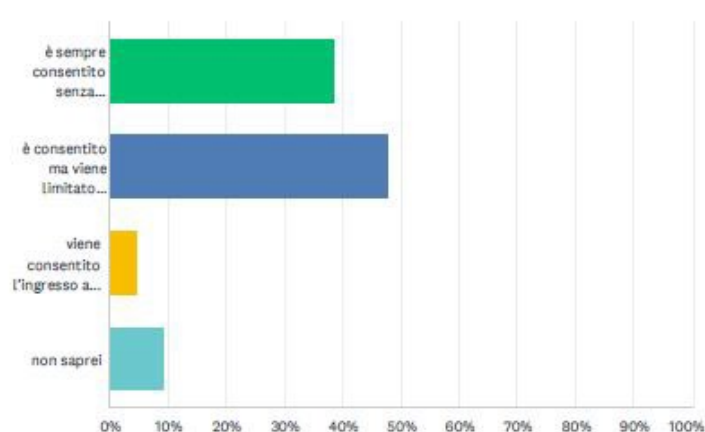
D54 4.7.2 Con quale cadenza programma con il suo veterinario controlli sulla dentizione?

Risposte: 47 Saltate: 23



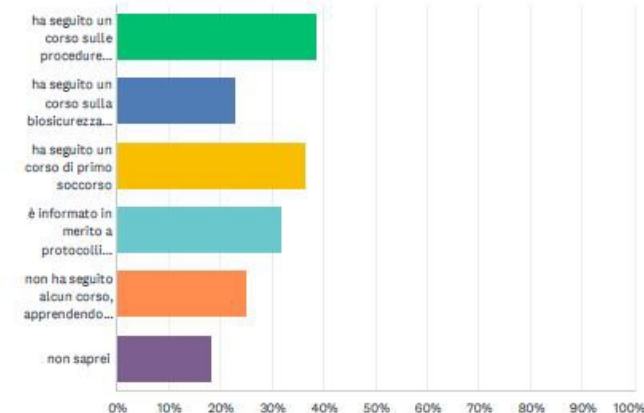
D78 6.5.1 L'ingresso di visitatori alla struttura:

Risposte: 44 Saltate: 26



D81 6.6.1 Il personale della struttura/il gestore/proprietario (risposta multipla consentita):

Risposte: 44 Saltate: 26



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Preliminary results

The data obtained do not show significant problems:

- ✓ Generalized awareness about proper horse management → medium to high cultural level of respondents
- ✓ Good human-animal relationship
- ✓ The main training needs identified concern:
 - importance on “uncommon” biosecurity practices, such as quarantine, pest control, prevention of wild contact...;
 - cleaning and disinfection plans in case of infectious disease to protect animal and human health;
 - antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ Management of the non-DPA horse at the “end of its career”, in order to provide the institution with useful information to regulate this stage of the animal's life cycle and to invest in encouraging and incentivizing the use of and access to *ad vitam* facilities, suitable for the needs of retired horses.





Awareness of **Biosecurity**:

- High awareness of common practices (e.g.: vaccinations)
- Low awareness of less common measures (PPE)
- Frequent movement of horses



Training needs



What we will do:

The results will be useful to:

- develop a checklist for competent authorities, ensuring compliance during inspections, with the intent not to repress and sanction, but to **identify areas for improvement, to train, educate and implement prevention**;
- enhance the **knowledge** and competence of horse owners, managers, and operators, fostering better practices for the welfare of non-DPA horses, especially for old animals.





EquiNotio

Il progetto **"Social Network Analysis e metodiche diagnostiche innovative per il controllo degli spostamenti e delle malattie infettive dei cavalli in Italia"** si concentra sulla necessità di tutelare la salute e il benessere dei cavalli non Destinati alla Produzione di Alimenti (non DPA). **L'obiettivo generale** è quello di implementare il concetto "High Health, High Performance Horse" (HHP) per individuare una popolazione equina rispondente ad elevati requisiti sanitari e di prestazioni, consentire una circolazione sicura dei cavalli e facilitare l'espansione del settore del cavallo sportivo.

[Guarda il VIDEO dell'applicativo Equitracing!](#)



<https://www.izs.it/equinotio/>

Conclusion and Recommendations

Importance of Proper Management:

- Welfare of non-DPA horses
- Prevention of disease outbreaks

Recommendations:

- Enhance knowledge and competence of stakeholders
- Implement biosecurity measures
- Develop clear guidelines for end of career management

Future perspectives:

- Re-propose the Europe-wide survey to learn about the reality of the horse world, highlighting differences with Italian culture, e.g. the management of the equine registry under the Ministry of Health, or pest control, in view of climate change (*One Health*)...

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And if you own a horse...

https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/Indagine_EQUINOTIO

That's our survey!



Thank you very much for your attention