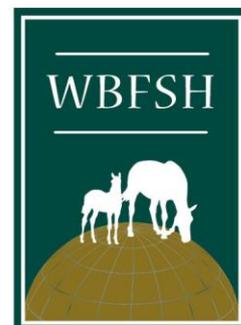


Newsletter from WBFSh secretariat Vilhelmsborg, April 21st 2017



Dear Sir or Madam,

Please take care that this newsletter is forwarded to all relevant persons within your studbook, your sport horse breeding network, and for instance your national federation.

- Everybody is welcome to sign up for this newsletter - it can be done via our website www.wbfsh.org - look at the top.



This newsletter includes 5 topics:

- Update on annual meetings 2017
- Definition – Rightful breeder of a horse
- Statement – Recognition of studbook of origin, their passports & UELN numbers
- Update on data exchange project
- WBFSh statement in support of UELN 2017

General Assembly and seminars 2017

Preparations for the next General Assembly are well under way. Be sure to mark up your calendar on November 11th to 14th 2017 for this year's General Assembly and seminars! The meetings will be hosted by the Danish Warmblood Society (Dansk Varmblod) and will take place at the Legoland Hotel in Billund, situated in Central Denmark

(<https://www.legoland.dk/overnatning/hotel-legoland/hotel-legoland/>) and only 5 minutes from Billund Airport.

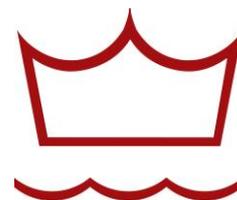
The diverse programme boasting exciting activities and presentations is bound to make this a memorable event.

Sightseeing destinations may include venues such as the Lego Idea House, Blue Hors Stud, and other interesting places – more information to come during summer and autumn as usual!

For the intellectual part of the programme, keynote speakers such as equine veterinarians Mette Uldahl and Rikke Munch will make interesting presentations on "The influence of the horse's shoeing on dressage gaits" and "The influence of testosterone on the performance of stallions".

Once again, a WHIRDEC meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the WBFSh.

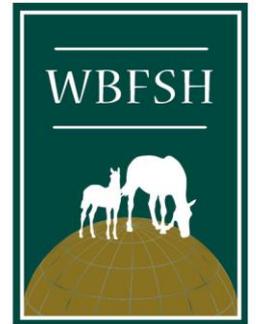
Keep an eye on our website for updates on the General Assembly 2017.



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STATEMENT: RECOGNITION OF FELLOW WBFSH MEMBER STUDBOOKS, THEIR PASSPORTS & UELN NUMBERS

As an umbrella organisation of sport horse studbooks worldwide the WBFSH advocates for coherence amongst its members as well as expecting its members to give respect and recognition to fellow WBFSH members. There have been several reported cases where WBFSH members have failed to respect the studbook of origin of a horse, its UELN and its identification documents.

The WBFSH strongly supports the UELN and the single lifetime identification document for equidae and is fighting at EU level for the preservation of both. Therefore, we make the following statement:

Whereas the WBFSH sets standards for membership, including standards of record keeping,

"The WBFSH considers it an infringement of privilege when its members do not respect fellow WBFSH members as recognized studbooks nor as breed authorities that issue horse identification documents and UELN numbers. Willful disregard of a studbook records, including the failure to recognize a fellow member as a studbook of origin, and to accept its issued passports & its UELN numbers will be dealt with by the disciplinary committee as any violation of the rules or statutes would be, and may be deemed actions which are liable to scrutiny and/or termination of membership."

Although this matter is not explicitly detailed in the WBFSH statutes, the WBFSH board & executive committee feel strongly that it should be made a rule of membership.

To support its position, the board may place before the general assembly a motion specifying "Recognition of the studbook of origin and Respect of fellow WBFSH member studbooks", as well as stipulating a mechanism for dealing with infringements.



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DEFINITION: RIGHTFUL BREEDER OF A HORSE

Time and again disputes occur as to who the rightful breeder of a horse is. Often these disputes do not arise at the time the foal is registered with a studbook, but when said foal has grown into an athlete that competes and performs successfully at top level.



Arguments can be made that the person responsible for the creative pairing of pedigrees should be considered the breeder, or that the person who registers the foal with a studbook is its breeder. But there are many grey areas, for instance embryos that are purchased & carried to term in surrogate mares. Is the breeder the person that was responsible for the conception of the embryo? Or the owner of the mare at the time the foal was registered, even if the mare in this case is not even the biological dam of the foal? Due to disputes that have occurred in relation to this issue not only between breeders but also between studbooks, the WBFSH has often been called upon to make a statement as to who the rightful breeder of a horse is. At the last two joint meetings of the WBFSH board and executive committee this issue was debated in depth. Following these deliberations, the WBFSH recommends that:

“Unless there was a contractual agreement at the time of sale of a pregnant mare, whereby the rightful breeder of the foal in utero sold with the mare is clearly defined, the rightful breeder of a foal is the entity that owned and/or had full rights to the mare (in the case where a mare may be leased for a breeding season) and registered the foal upon its birth with a studbook to obtain registration papers.”



UPDATE ON DATA EXCHANGE PROJECT

Our studbook members know that before the opportunity to work in collaboration with the FEI presented itself, the WBFSH was in negotiations with the platform Hippomundo for a possible cooperation. Not due to any shortcomings of Hippomundo, this cooperation did not succeed. However, subsequent to the WBFSH withdrawing from further negotiations – no written agreements had been made – an open letter from Hippomundo to the studbooks caused concern and confusion.

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The WBFSH wants to reassure the studbooks that one of its major concerns is the protection of the studbooks and their data. Legal counsel specialising in data protection is being sought to ensure adequate precautions are taken.

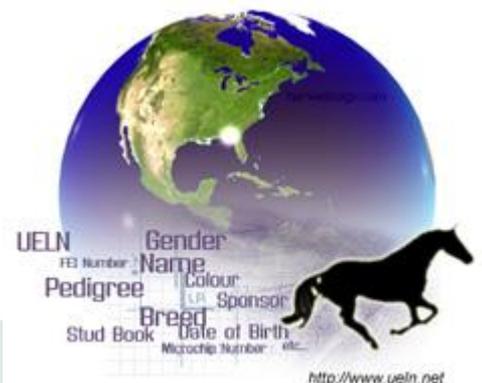
Further to this, it is important to bear in mind that the FEI & WBFSH have entirely different goals. The FEI's purpose is to promote international equestrian sport and the WBFSH focuses on breed improvement.

A collaboration makes a profound and powerful statement about the mutual respect and recognition that the two leading organisations in breeding & equestrian sport have for each other. Breeding and sport are closely interrelated & dependent on each other. Without the breeders, there would be no equine athletes. Without the sport, the breeders do not strive for new heights in their breeding goals.

The WBFSH task force for the data exchange project is working closely with the FEI on developing a central database that will allow participating studbooks to access sports results. This is the first stage of the developing project. But as the world is getting smaller it is not enough anymore to simply have breeding information correlated with sports results. Breeders and studbooks require more sophisticated implementations of data to keep abreast of modern breeding trends and developments. With this in mind, the WBFSH task force is also looking at working more closely with some of its member studbooks' specialists to develop useful tools. Since this is a major project and care and time must be taken to develop it properly and not take short-cuts, the WBFSH is aiming to have more news on progress as well as results as soon as is reasonably possible.

WBFSH STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF UELN 2017

The UELN & the horse's passport, which should be a single lifetime document (zootechnical & genealogical information), are closely linked and vital in order to keep track of horses internationally in terms of breeding & sporting performances, in the interest of reducing fraud and also in terms of addressing the issues related to the growing horse meat industry. The WBFSH believes in the single lifetime horse identification document and who should be allowed to issue it, as stipulate in EU regulation 262/2015:



“The bodies issuing identification documents for registered equidae should be the organisations or associations which maintain or establish studbooks for registered equidae that are officially approved or recognised by the competent authority of a Member State in accordance with Decision 92/353/EEC, or an official agency of the Member State which manages the studbook in which the equine animal is entered or registered for

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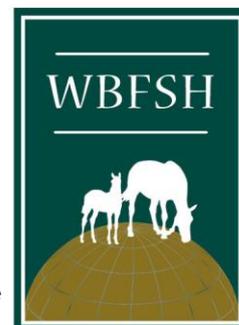
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breeding purposes in accordance with Decision 96/78/EC.”

Horse identification and traceability are of major importance during an age of globalisation where worldwide movement of horses for the purposes of sport & breeding as well as in the food industry is on the rise.

In order to achieve an identification that can be traced worldwide, the WBFSH strongly believes in the UELN as THE unique identification number that a horse should be given.

This UELN can trace a horse back to the original registration authority that first recorded the horse.



EU Regulation 262/2015 Article 2 - Definitions

(o) 'unique life number' means a unique 15-digit alpha-numeric code compiling information on the individual equine animal and the database and country where such information is first recorded in accordance with the coding system of the Universal Equine Life Number (UELN) and comprising:

- (i) a six-digit UELN-compatible identification code for the database referred to in Article 39; followed by
- (ii) a nine-digit individual identification number assigned to the equine animal

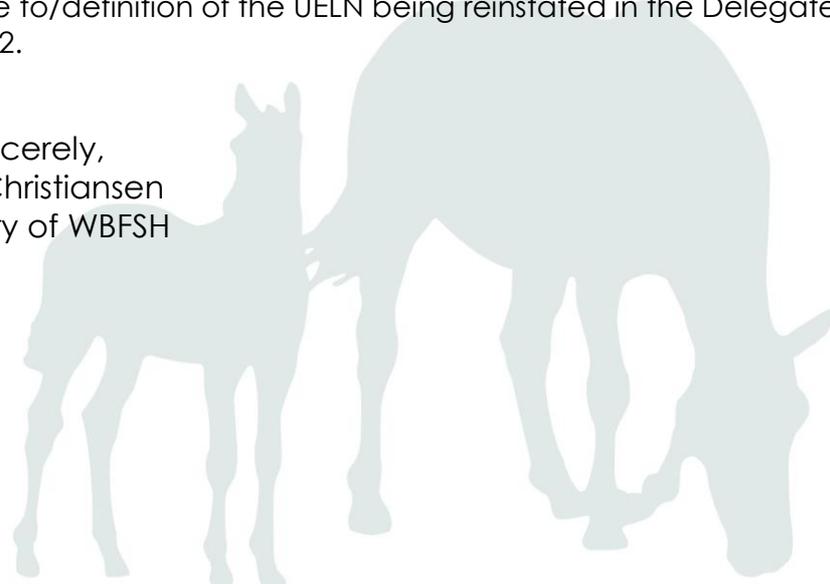
The UELN has been used & recognised for many years by many studbooks members of the WBFSH worldwide, as well as by equestrian umbrella organisations such as the FEI (Federation Equestrian International), EEF (European Equestrian Federation), Weatherbys, World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) to name a few.

According to EU Regulation 262/2015 (62):

“The UELN system is suitable for the registration of both registered equidae and equidae for breeding and production and allows computerised networks to be brought in gradually to ensure that the animals' identity can continue to be verified in accordance with Article 6 of Directive 90/427/EEC in the case of registered equidae.”

The WBFSH therefore appeals to the European Commission and Member States to maintain the Unique Equine Life Number (UELN) as the key element of identification and registration of equidae and the WBFSH advocates a reference to/definition of the UELN being reinstated in the Delegated Act 2016/1012.

Yours sincerely,
Karina Christiansen
Secretary of WBFSH



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