

STANDARDS, STUBBOOKS, RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION COMMITTEE

2003 World Trotting Conference

Final Report

Committee Member Attendance: Rod Pollock (Australia) – Chair
Ted Smith (Canada) – Secretary
Colin Dalby (Great Britain)
Dominique de Bellaigue (France)
Pierre Guillemette (Canada)
Stefan Johansson (Sweden)
Fred Noe (United States)
Terttu Peltonen (Finland)
Maurizio Soverchia (Italy)
John P. Voskamp (Netherlands)
Dr. Friedrich Willms (Germany)

Election

Rod Pollock (Australia) was appointed Chair of the Standards, Studbooks, Records, Identification Committee and Ted Smith (Canada) was appointed Secretary.

Receipt of Minutes from 2001 World Trotting Conference in Finland

The Committee's report was reviewed. **MOVED** by Ted Smith and **SECONDED** Dominique de Bellaigue. **CARRIED**.

Receipt of World Statistical Data

An update on the compilation of world statistics was discussed. Members were reminded of the importance of their country's participation. Current figures will be made available later in the conference.

Agenda of Issues

- Microchip identification
- Universal equine life number
- World records, compilation and updating
- Multiple embryo transfers and affects of reciprocity between registries
- Information requirements, records and earnings, electronic data interchange
- Review of import and export certification with attention to frozen semen
- Communication between ITA members
- Breeding evaluations of sires and dams, earnings and currency exchange
- International recognition of Standardbred And Trotting Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland (STAGBI)

1. Microchip Identification System

A poll of registry bodies using the implantation of a microchip as a form of permanent identification of Standardbreds revealed the degree of importance they hold with respect to unique identification of horses.

Methods Utilized

Netherlands ('97):	microchip	DNA	markings
Finland:	markings	DNA/B.T.	microchip
Germany ('92):	markings	microchip	DNA
Great Britain:	microchip	markings	DNA
France ('97):	microchip	markings	DNA
Italy ('88):	microchip	DNA	markings

*number in parenthesis denotes year identification by microchip was introduced.

Countries using freeze branding/tattooing revealed the following:

Australia:	DNA	freeze branding	markings
United States:	freeze branding	DNA	markings
Canada:	DNA	freeze branding	markings

Implantation is always on the animal's left side with the exception of Germany. Other matters for consideration would be that the microchip is ISO compliant, a veterinarian versus an identification technician does the insertion of the chip and the microchip number is retired when the horse is no longer being used for Standardbred breeding or racing.

Recommendations:

- 1.1 Microchip implementation is recommended to be undertaken on the standardbred's left side in the neck.
- 1.2 Microchips to be utilized in identification to be ISO compliant.
- 1.3 Microchip numbering to be unique and the number to be retired upon the death of the standardbred.
- 1.4 Future developments in microchip technology be regularly evaluated and communicated internationally particularly where this technology assists the welfare of the standardbred.

NOTE:

For the universal and international application of this identification mechanism it is suggested that Germany consider a transitional strategy to migrate towards a common international location.

2. Universal Equine Life Number

The Universal Equine Life Number was explained by John Voskamp (Netherlands) that this represented a fifteen (15) alpha/numeric sequence of characters with the first three characters representing the country of origin, the next three characters representing the bred registry and the nine remaining characters identifying the animal. This unique system takes its origin from the European Union and will be implemented November 1, 2003. This system will be government regulated in Europe. It is thought to have as a primary purpose medication control over human consumption of meat and meat by-products.

Recommendations:

- 2.1 Registries consider and reserve dedicated fields in their computer data base systems to cater for this unique international identifier.
- 2.2 Evaluate and work with regulators and livestock industries where their activities impact on this identification number.

3. World Records, Compilation and Updating

The key to the recognition of world records has been identified previously by Ake Isberg. These areas have been standardized. These reasons are still valid.

Records and statistical information recognize the diversity of many environments and the variation of racing tracks internationally. Continued evaluation is required to ensure that the track size dimensions are appropriate.

The mile rate/kilometer is the common denominator.

4. Embryo Transfers – Issues identified

- Conditions of artificial insemination
- Definition: Legal, veterinary and other
- Ethical - Sexing
- Combined births and/or twins
- Recognition of new technologies – no genetic engineering
- Economics – Cost of utilization
- Health and welfare of the breed
- Control human intervention in this process

After considerable discussion it was recognized that all Member countries would continue to limit registration to one embryo transfer per year from a donor mare whereas it was noted that a number countries currently permit more than one embryo transfer per

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donor mare could continue their practice. These countries were Holland, Finland and Germany. France permits the registration of only one embryo transfer foal from a mare per year. It has very strict regulations and will only permit this practice in exceptional cases. (See Appendix I)

Stefan Johansson brought to the Committee's attention a recommendation made in the 1989 Report of the Standards, Records, Stud Book Committee that in all cases where a mare has been bred by embryo transfer that its registration certificate and breeding records be noted accordingly. All members agreed that they would make the necessary changes to their Registries to ensure that export certificates would include a field to provide the notation that the horse was the result of an embryo transfer. This has been the practice in both Canada and the United States.

The Subject of Sexing

The Committee discussed the subject of sexing. This practice is being used in the collection of semen in stallions. There is no enforceability. It makes no sense to use sexing with embryo transfers nor does it protect the health and welfare of the breed and is ethically questionable.

Recommendations:

4.1 The Committee notes the usage of this artificial breeding technique.

5. Breeding Evaluation of Sires and Mares

Terttu Peltonen (Finland) requested the Committee consider implementing a common international ground for the breeding evaluation of sires and mares. Holland, Finland, Italy and Germany have such programs in place to increase the quality of their horses and set indicative standards based on such criteria as pedigree, race performance, earnings, conformation and health. They would like to encourage other registry bodies to follow suit.

Dominique de Bellaigue (France) strongly opposed the Best Linear Unbiased Projection. The Chair explained that countries such as Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand could never implement a program of this nature due to civil litigation and government legislation in those countries. Pierre Guillemette (Canada) stressed that a program of this nature did not protect the breed as it may limit stallion selection and/or protection and may over the long-term limit the genetic pool.

The Chair concluded the discussion on breeding evaluation of sires and mares by suggesting that breed registries take a strong approach in positively recommending key pedigree and performance characteristics to breeders. Registries should consider and provide the information available to breeders on their local and international data base.

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On the subject of the international data base, the Chair asked Committee members to work diligently in ensuring that their electronic data fields are right the first time for jurisdictional transfers of data to the international data base. The international data base is an excellent tool for all facets of the international industry.

Recommendations:

- 5.1 That each Member provide key performance information to assist industry participants in the evaluation process of both stallions and mares and their choice of the breeding decision by internet (EDI) or hard copy methods.
- 5.2 That each Member consider, approve and implement, where practical, the inclusion of their data in the international data base.

6. Standardbred and Trotting Horse Association of Great Britain and Ireland (STAGBI)

The Committee discussed the critical nature of the integrity of information of racing and breeding in Great Britain and Ireland together with their support systems. It is critically important that STAGBI provide up-to-date information systems particularly where international transfers/clearances occur. Colin Dalby (Great Britain) advised that Great Britain and Ireland had the necessary information systems to provide the required information in this area.

As STAGBI is the recognized jurisdictional Member for Great Britain and Ireland, they will provide clear rules and guidelines for the registration and racing associated with their environment.

Recommendations:

- 6.1 STAGBI provide a full service registry within the Rules of Trotting for the industry participants within Great Britain and Ireland.
- 6.2 STAGBI will co-operate with all other international jurisdictions on behalf of the industry participants from Great Britain and Ireland.
- 6.3 The Committee considering the development stage of trotting in Great Britain and Ireland had requested that France act as a key mentor in the provision of advice, information, etc. with Sweden and the Netherlands as secondary contacts.

7. Recognition of Earnings and Exchange Variation

The Committee discussed the issue of exchange variation in the recording of stakes money for a standardbred and noted the current racing operational aspects of administrations. The countries in the UET have recently instituted a mechanism to deal with this area together with a trigger if currency changes occur rapidly.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 7.1 As a result of the increased international mobility of racing standardbreds that upon retirement the owner/breeder/studmaster may utilize in their information the total actual earnings in each denominated currency however many for stallions and broodmares.
- 7.2 Members consider that total lifetime earnings can be exchange varied to the country of domicile of the standardbred at the end of the season in the season of retirement.

8. Communication between Members

Maurizio Soverchia (Italy) requested that all registry bodies establish minimum standards of information being exchanged between countries especially with respect to the exportation of horses. All members agreed that three-generation pedigree, parentage verification including genetic markers, race line summaries including lifetime wins, prior year, current and last five or six starts would be provided. A standardized compilation sheet of this information would be provided at the next meeting. Refer to schedule as an example. (Appendices II and III)

Recommendations:

- 8.1 The above guidelines be achieved, where possible, given computing developments.
- 8.2 The Committee email developments regularly and meet annually.

9. Rules of Import and Export

Recommendation:

- 9.1 Each registry body must have a signed stallion service certificate from the stallion owner or his authorized agent before registering a foal.

10. Sub-committee: World Records

Recommendation:

That this sub-committee be incorporated into the Standards, Studbooks, Records, Identification Committee because of its charter.

This report summates the deliberations of the Committee. All participating Members are thanked for their positive contribution.

MOTION: Edward Rennell
SECONDED: Maurizio Soverchia

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY