

# Memo

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To	Board WHFF
From	Gerben de Jong
Date	May 25, 2023
Subject	Update on Harmonisation Working Group
Attachment(s)	

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After the workshop in Morges, two meetings via Teams were organized, on 1 December 2022 and 18 May 2023. Next on line meeting will be in September 2023.

Topics on the agenda are/were:

## 1. Survey on extra traits scored on countries

Before the workshop in Morges a survey was carried out among the WHFF members on extra traits scored beside the 18 standard traits. Based on this survey the WHFF type harmonization working group has indicated six traits which are commonly scored or countries will start to score coming period. To support the harmonization of linear traits, the working group has carried out another survey (January 2023) to collect extra information on these 6 extra traits on the trait definitions applied, heritability and correlations with other traits (linear conformation traits and functional traits).

Approach is that we should not force all countries to score these traits. We could think of making them not official but try to harmonize. This could be very helpful for a rather new trait like front feet orientation. But we also should know if those traits have added value compared to the traits we currently have in the WHFF trait list. It is good to have at least a common trait definition.

The extra traits the working group is looking at:

- rear udder width
- bone quality
- udder balance
- top line
- udder texture
- front feet orientation

The results of the survey will be shared and discussed during the next workshop in 2024 and will serve to make a document with trait definition and pictures.

## 2. Conformation defects

From the survey shared during the workshop in Morges with more than 120 defect names a list was made with 20 defects which are commonly used by countries. Of this 20 defects 14 defects are in common with the ICAR list.

The next step is to collect and define the descriptions of these defects. This information will be shared during the coming workshop and will help to understand what every organization is doing and can help in the harmonization of names and definition.

## 3. Review trait description list

The description of some standard traits were discussed based upon some discussion during the workshop in Morges. It was decided to make no changes in the documentation.

#### **4. Evaluation of the workshop Morges**

Points for improvements for next time:

- Having 4 cows per group during the training sessions is a good number.
- Making a binder with all material is a lot of work. Better approach is to have all material available in a electronical way one day before the meeting for all participants.
- We should have time at the start of the working to harmonize the instructors -> have half a day extra before the meeting to visit a farm and have a brief training of the working group.

#### **5. Workshop Italy 2024**

The next workshop was discussed and the current plan is to have the workshop in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of April 2024. Exact dates will be determined by ANAFIBJ and the working group before summer 2023.