



The UCD Review of Horse Welfare in Ireland 2007-2009 joe collins

Sponsored by **World Horse Welfare**



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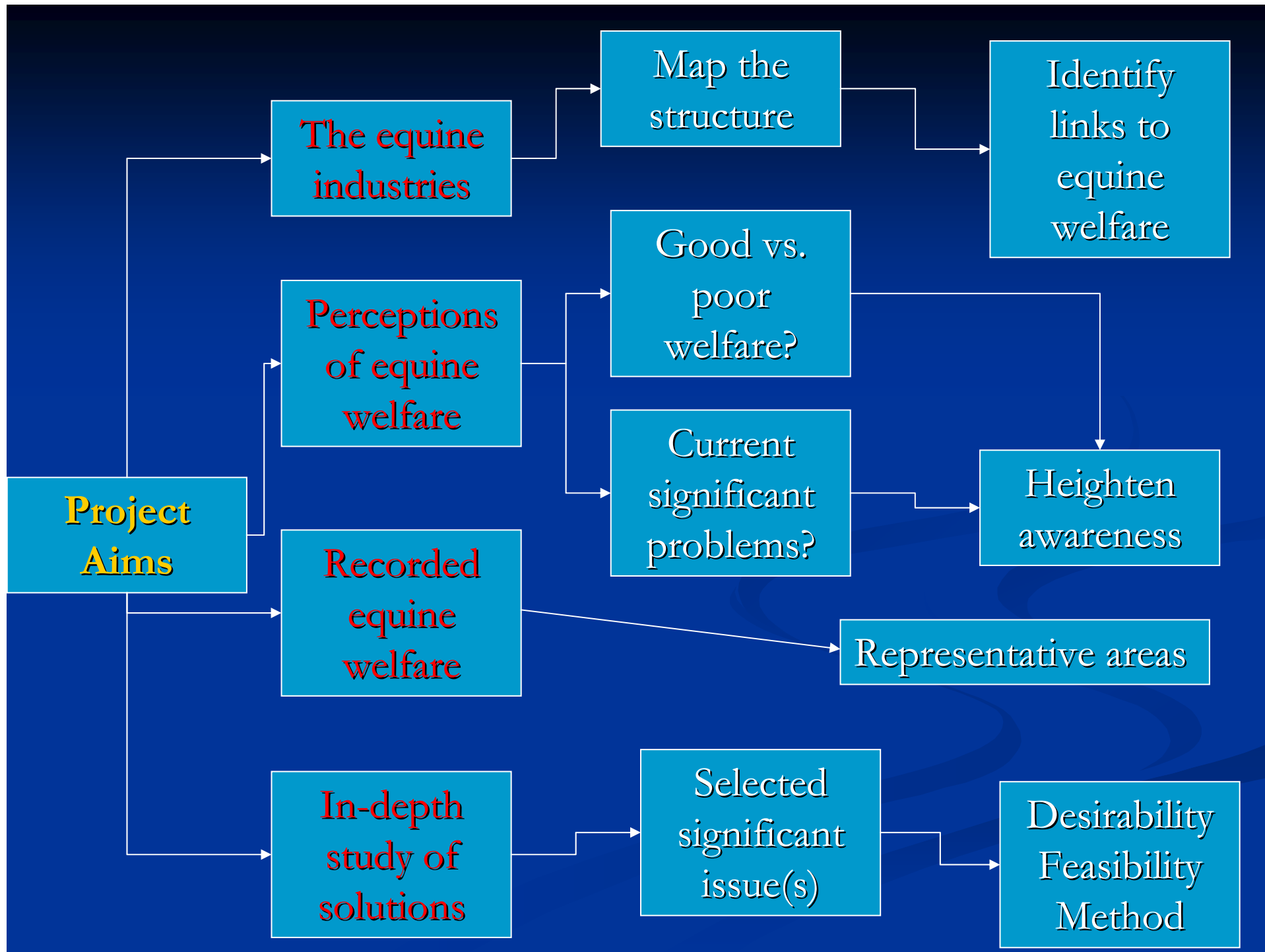
Prof. P Wall

Aim

Perception, in Ireland, of the
welfare of:

Horses in sport vs.

Horses in other contexts



Respondents

- Government/regulation
EU, Nat.(DAFF/DARD/FAWAC/VCI/GMU), L.A.
- Industry
HRI, HSI, IHB, ITBA, Turf Club, IEC, Vet. Ire.,
Farriery, Harness Racing, Transport, IFA
- Education
UL, RACE, Pony Club, Teagasc
- Welfare
ISPCA, Donkey Sanctuary, DSPCA, Horse projects

Round 1 Questions

- “a. As regards horse welfare, how acceptable do you find this scenario? From 0 = perfectly acceptable to 8 = entirely unacceptable.”
- “b. How frequently do you believe this occurs with horses in Ireland? From 0 = it doesn't to 8 = it occurs commonly”.

Round 1 vignettes – “Essentials”

- Freedom from Hunger, Thirst and Malnutrition
- Freedom from Discomfort
- **Luke ensures his polo ponies don't get food or water for eight hours before a match by muzzling them in their stables or during transport.**
- Brendan goes hunting most Sundays in the winter months. It's his main social outlet. He invariably spends the evening in the pub leaving his horse to dry off, with no food or water, standing tied-up in the box outside.

Vignettes – “Physical Insult”

- Freedom from Pain, Injury and Disease
- James ties plastic cable-ties tightly around the base of his racehorses’ tails in the pre-parade ring. He has heard that it *“reduces the incidence of bleeding during exercise”*.
- Lisa’s aging National Hunt gelding suffers a career threatening tendon injury but she won’t countenance retirement or humane destruction. Her vet agrees to bar fire and blister both front limbs, applying a cradle and bandages to prevent him biting at them while on box rest.

Vignettes – “Psychological Injury”

- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour
- Freedom from Fear and Distress
- **Hugh’s competition horse has become very hot-headed. His trainer supplies him with some injectable “stuff” that she has bought over the Internet, making the horse concentrate better at shows. At home, however, the horse is now very submissive and liable to be bullied in the field.**

Communicating Results

- Of Round 1 at the onset of Round 2
- <http://www.ucd.ie/horsehealthandwelfare>

Round 2

- Situations/locations – based on vignettes
- Reasons/drivers/motivation
- General means of addressing problems

Results – After 2 Rounds

