

Minutes of NATA Meeting
November 27, 2003

Meeting was held at Jon and Lynda Konrad's place, at 7:00pm. Present were Ed & Lyn Antypovich, Carla Craig, Geri Blew, and Jon and Lynda Konrad.

1. Health Reports

All the Tarpans are showing steady improvement, having arrived in October in a state of high stress and low nutrition. All have put on weight, and will be wormed shortly (with exception of the Kraig herd, which is being naturally supplemented).

Gustav, the Rare Breeds Canada owned stallion, is slowly improving. We had the vet out to see him on October 24. The vet gave him an injection of penicillin and took a fecal sample for testing. His recommendation is that the Tarpans be supplemented with sweet feed for energy and weight gain, and oil to help their dry skin.

1a. Candy Vorderbrug's Report on Pregnancy and Herd Health

Candy's concern was that she has had a very low percentage of live births in last few years. She suggested that the problems began around the time of the MRLS crisis several years ago in Kentucky and other US states, but did not get better in following years. She emphasized that nutrition had not been a factor.

Several of the mares appear to be pregnant, but because of the nutritional stress they had experienced in late summer, it was suggested that it would be hard to know until they foaled.

It was agreed by all members that this year has had too many struggles for the Tarpans to be an indicative year in terms of reproductive health. We all agreed that our expectations would be low in this aspect.

2. Breed Name

Lynda gave a brief overview of the research collected thus far regarding the Tarpan's name, including opinions of various experts on using the name "Tarpan" for this horse. Those opposed to the name gave several reasons for not continuing with it:

- a) the Tarpan is in fact extinct
- b) the Polish Konik is also called "Tarpan" although the Polish authorities are trying to discourage this
- c) the Pyrenean Tarpan is still another breed using this name, which leads to further confusion (not to mention the fact that this breed claims a closer association to the ancient Tarpan than ours does)

- d) in Germany, this line is sometimes called the “Heck Horse”
- e) depending on our options for new genetic material, we may have to introduce Konik or other blood into the breed. This will change the breed and may/should have an impact on the breed’s name
- f) the manner in which the horse was created, using equines stolen from the destroyed Warsaw zoo during the Second World War, could cause bad feelings toward the horse itself, and perhaps we should try to distance the horse from that part of its history
- g) there is a farm in the US that is breeding mustangs and calling them Tarpan. Although blood testing has proven that there is no relationship to either the ancient Tarpan or any of the modern breeds of Tarpan, this family is insistent that they will keep this name.

It was decided that the name “Tarpan” should be retained if possible, because that was the whole point of it’s coming into existence; however, we want to somehow qualify and distinguish this breed from the other breeds. Members were asked to think of names we could use.

**Note: to this point, we have had several names suggested:

1. “German Tarpan” because it was created in Germany
2. “Nomadic Tarpan” because the ancient Tarpan wandered across much of Europe
3. “Askanian Tarpan” after the Russian Game preserve on which the last ancient Tarpan died in 1876
4. “Ukraine Tarpan” because the ancient Tarpan mainly lived on the Steppes of Ukraine
5. “Tierpark Tarpan” after the place in which this Tarpan was created (“Tierpark” means “zoo” in German)

3. Formation of Breed Organization

At this point the organization is small, and as a result is somewhat informal. If we desire to help this breed in any major way we need to be better organized and charge membership fees. Lynda Konrad was asked to lead the group. Geri Blew volunteered to set up a web site for the breed. Membership fees for this year will be set at \$25.00 Cdn/per year. However, it was suggested that we wait for a breed name before we officially name the organization.

**Note: shortly after this, Lynda was approached by Candy and asked to take over any internet reference sites as soon as possible, as she no longer wanted to take inquiries. On her own initiative, Lynda changed the name and address on these sites to “North American Tarpan Association”, with her own home address. This is still open for discussion and change – it was simply done to satisfy Candy’s needs, and to bring the Tarpan back into the spotlight.

4. Registration of the Herd

It was generally agreed that we want the Canadian Livestock Records Corp (CLRC) to accept and manage registrations of the breed as soon as possible. Lynda agreed to look into details of how to have the breed recognized.

A pedigree program must be chosen to use in managing the herd and registering offspring until that point.

5. Breed History

Most of this area was dealt with at the same time as “Breed Name”. Copies of Dr. Gus Cothran’s genetic tests were handed out as well. Dr. Cothran has tested a number of our Tarpan herd, and has found them to be genetically unique, but also as closely bred as is safe to do so. New blood must be found for the summer breeding program before any complications arise.

6. Breeding Program

It was decided that attempts would be made to find Tarpans of the same line for breeding. We will look in Germany and Belgium for assistance with this. If this option falls through, we will again consider using Konik Polskie influence.

7. Other Business

We need to establish a clearer breed standard. This is a first step in establishing Tarpans as a breed. Discussion led to some initial observations about the Tarpan, including: distinctive colour, willing nature, no jowl (straight jaw), deep jaw, extreme hardiness, low withers, low-set tail, iron hooves that don’t need shoeing, and an average height of 12-14 hh. Further discussion is needed on this, including whether or not white markings should be discouraged, whether shoeing should be allowed, and so on.

MEETING ADJOURNED.