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Postcard from Germany

In 2012 WEVA welcomed the Gesellschaft für Pferdemedizin (GPM, German Equine Association) as a new member. The GPM was founded in 1991 and boasts 850 members. "Economically speaking, (Germany has a) very high density of equine clinics and consequently strong competitive environment," German equine veterinarian Stefan Wachtarz, Dr.med.vet, said.

Wachtarz said the GPM is active in the equine health community in a variety of ways, including:

- Regularly informing members about important equine veterinary developments, including new regulations and updated scientific news;
- Supporting scientific studies;
- Maintaining expert groups focused on different regulatory issues, such as guidelines for pre-purchase examinations;
- Creating pamphlets that can be distributed to owners on topics such as anesthesia or vaccination guidelines; and
- Informing the public on issues related to equine medicine.

Wachtarz said Germany is home to more than one million equids. Some of the challenging issues equine veterinarians face in Germany include medication issues, both in sports and in animals for slaughter/consumption, he said.

—Vincent Gerber, PhD, DVM, Dipl. ACVIM, ECEIM, FVH, WEVA Treasurer