Equine Welfare and ethical aspects in the equine sports - The FEI point of view
EXPERIENCE

1985-1993 Swedish Army
1999-2014 Government Veterinary Official Equine Sports
2002-2011 Private equine practitioner
2005-2010 Swedish Animal Welfare Board/Swedish Board of Agriculture
2010-2015 Swedish Racing Industry
2015- FEI
What is equine welfare?

The Five Freedoms of Animal Welfare

- **Freedom from Hunger and Thirst**: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigor

- **Freedom from Discomfort**: by providing an appropriate environment, including shelter and a comfortable resting area

- **Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease**: by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment

- **Freedom to Express Normal Behavior**: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal’s own kind

- **Freedom from Fear and Distress**: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering
Ethical approach

ANIMAL RIGHTS
“Animal rights means that animals are not ours to use for food, clothing, entertainment, or experimentation”
Peta.org

ANIMAL WELFARE
“the avoidance of abuse and exploitation of animals by humans by maintaining appropriate standards of accommodation, feeding and general care, the prevention and treatment of disease and the assurance of freedom from harassment, and unnecessary discomfort and pain.“
Saunders Comprehensive Veterinary Dictionary
The FEI approach

“To ensure that the welfare of the Horse is paramount and that it is never subordinated to competitive or commercial influence”

FEI General Regulations
What does the FEI do to fulfill the Five Freedoms?

FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

- Policy document without sanctions
- Intended to cover 24/7
- Does not cover Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour – Should it?
- Not optimal in covering freedom from Fear and Distress
What does the FEI do to fulfill the Five Freedoms?

FEI General Regulations

Article 142 - Abuse of Horses
1. No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time. “Abuse” means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse, including, but not limited to:
   (i) To whip or beat a Horse excessively;
   (ii) To subject a Horse to any kind of electric shock device;
   (iii) To use spurs excessively or persistently;
   (iv) To jab the Horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device;
   (v) To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured Horse;
   (vi) To "rap" a Horse.
   (vii) To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a Horse;
   (viii) To leave a Horse without adequate food, drink or exercise;
   (ix) To use any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the Horse upon knocking down an obstacle.

2. Any person witnessing an Abuse must report it in the form of a Protest (Article 163) without delay. If an Abuse is witnessed during or in direct connection with an Event, it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to an Official. If the Abuse is witnessed at any other time it should be reported as a Protest (Article 163) to the Secretary General for referral to the FEI Tribunal.
What does the FEI do to fulfill the Five Freedoms?

FEI General Regulations

• Covers 24/7

• No stewarding outside events

• General rule with certain specifications
What does the FEI do to fulfill the Five Freedoms?

FEI Veterinary Regulations/Veterinary System

- Covers competition
- Horse inspections
- Limb sensitivity
- Biosecurity measures
- Official Veterinarian Education
- Reporting system – follow ups
- Etc...
- No sanctions on welfare matters
Healthy «Happy» Horses in fair competitions on all levels everywhere at all times

- EADCMP
- Good Practice
- Horse Health & Welfare
- Biosecurity
- Level Playing Field

We are service minded and provide systems to ensure and further develop the FEI veterinary fields of work
### Examples of 2016 actions promoting equine welfare

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>NEED</th>
<th>ACTION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Harmonization, Quality assurance,</td>
<td>Launch of educational platforms, review of educational system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Horse Inspections</td>
<td>Harmonization, Support,</td>
<td>Development of educational and supportive module.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limb sensitivity</td>
<td>Testing of more events on all levels</td>
<td>Review current model, possible changes of organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Code of Conduct</td>
<td>Up to date?</td>
<td>Review together with WHW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewards/OVs</td>
<td>Harmonisation, Compliance,</td>
<td>Sports Forum 2016&gt;Processes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Injuries/Fatalities</td>
<td>Statistics for proactive measures</td>
<td>Further development of GEIS database</td>
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Examples of future planned actions promoting equine welfare

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<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Equine knowledge</td>
<td>Increased equine knowledge among stakeholders</td>
<td>FEI Campus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equine Health &amp; Welfare</td>
<td>We should be able to assure that FEI horses are living good lives</td>
<td>Project on welfare indicators and the possible need of a monitoring system</td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterinary Treatments</td>
<td>How and with what are FEI horses treated? Medical, ethical, economical and Clean Sport aspects</td>
<td>Monitoring system</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you

Questions?