



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



## EXPERIENCE

1985-1993 Swedish Army

1993-1998 Swedish Univ. Acricult. Science - Vet School

1998-2005 Swedish Univ. Agricult. Science – Manager Farrier School

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**

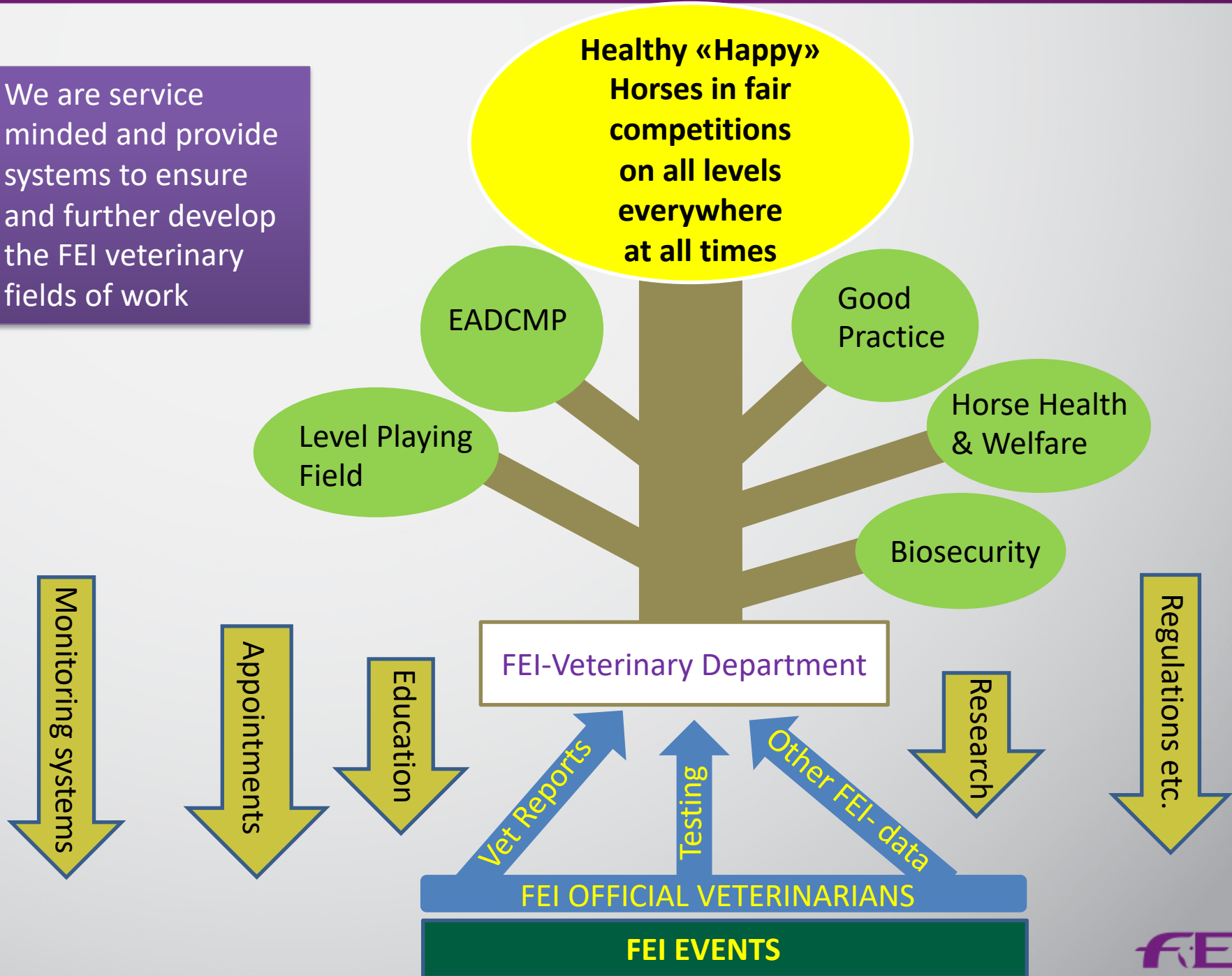


# **What does the FEI do to fulfill the Five Freedoms?**

## **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**

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

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

# Examples of future planned actions promoting equine welfare

ITEM	NEED	ACTION
Equine knowledge	Increased equine knowledge among stakeholders	FEI Campus
Equine Health & Welfare	We should be able to assure that FEI horses are living good lives	Project on welfare indicators and the possible need of a monitoring system
Veterinary Treatments	How and with what are FEI horses treated? Medical, ethical, economical and Clean Sport aspects	Monitoring system

*Thank you*  
*Questions?*

