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October 19, 2015

International Society for Equitation Science
c/o Professor Paul McGreevy
Room 206, R.M.C. Gunn Building (B19)
Faculty of Veterinary Science
The University of Sydney NSW 2006
Australia

To whom it may concern:

Re: Support – ISES Restrictive Nosebands Position Statement

On behalf of the San Francisco Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (the SF SPCA), one of the most enduring and respected animal welfare institutions in the United States, I am writing to convey our strong support for the position statement of the International Society of Equitation Science (ISES) regarding restrictive nosebands.

The SF SPCA regularly looks to the Five Freedoms – basic ideals that set forth an appropriate quality of life for animals under human care – as guiding principles of animal welfare. Unfortunately, restrictive nosebands clearly violate nearly every aspect of this humane framework, including the ability of horses to experience freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain and injury; and freedom from fear and distress. Contemporary scientific studies cited by ISES demonstrate that restrictive nosebands present significant risks to the welfare of horses, including pain and distress, reduced blood flow, and potential nasal bone deformities. In addition, exceedingly tight nosebands are not necessary for safe and successful horse training and competition.

The SF SPCA denounces the use of restrictive nosebands in equine training and competition and enthusiastically joins ISES in recommending that all equestrian sports require that the tightness of any noseband be checked by a steward with a standardized taper gauge. This simple change to competition rules would ensure that tight nosebands on horses are not permitted in equestrian sport (especially in dressage

competitions) and, therefore, alleviate unnecessary animal suffering and promote ethical equitation.

The SF SPCA thanks ISES for its humane leadership on this important animal welfare issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandy Kuentzel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "B".

Brandy Kuentzel, Esq.
Corporate Counsel & Director of Advocacy

cc: Jeannine Berger, DVM, DACVB, DACAW, CAWA, SF SPCA Director of Behavior Resources