



### **Restrictive nosebands in working equids**

Recent concerns have been raised that the act of excessive overtightening of nosebands may be causing suffering to horses. Scientific evidence is available to support these concerns, notably from the International Society for Equine Science (ISES), (refs 1,2) who have recommended the use of a simple gauge to avoid overtightening. Therefore on welfare grounds highlighted by this research and the absence of any to the contrary, the Blue Cross is happy to support the ISES position of advising against the overtightening of nosebands in order to gain extra control over the horse to which it is applied, or to disguise unwanted, possibly pain related behaviour.

#### **References**

1. ISES (The International Society for Equitation Science) 2011. Training principles: does your training system stand the test of science?

<http://www.equitation-science.com/news.html>. Accessed 7th Dec 2011.

2. Randle, H., McGreevy, P.D. 2011. The effect of noseband tightness on rein tension in the ridden horse. Proceedings of the 7th International Equitation Science Conference, Eds: M. van Dierendonck, P. de Cocq, K. Visser, Wageningen Academic Publishers, Wageningen. 84.

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