



healthy working animals
for the world's poorest communities

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

Monday 23 July 2012

Dear Mr. Paul McGreevy,

RE: Welfare concerns surrounding restrictive nosebands

The recent discussions regarding restrictive nosebands have been brought to our attention by Emma Milne MRCVS, an Ambassador to the Brooke. The Brooke is concerned that evidence suggests the act of tightening nosebands is causing suffering to horses (McGreevy, Warren-Smith & Guisard 2012; Randle & McGreevy 2011).

As evidence suggests animals are suffering, the Brooke supports the view that the use of excessively tight nosebands should be prohibited by competition regulatory bodies. Monitoring the fit and use of all types of nosebands, all parts of the bridle, and other equipment by qualified individuals would be an effective way of improving the welfare of these elite sport animals during competition and training. The Brooke would welcome the objective checking of noseband tightness, as ISES recommends.

As stated by the RSPCA, under the UK's Animal Welfare Act 2006, those in charge of competitions have a specific duty to ensure the welfare of horses that compete under their rules. In the same way, at the Brooke we support a spectrum of activities which protect, maintain and improve the welfare of working horses, donkeys and mules used or kept by individuals for their livelihood. In either context while these changes may not happen instantaneously, implementing known processes which lessen any detrimental effects to the animals should not be ignored.

Sincerely,

Petra Ingram
Chief Executive

BROOKE HOSPITAL FOR ANIMALS

30 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HH Tel +44 (0)20 3012 3456 Fax +44 (0)20 3012 0156 www.thebrooke.org info@thebrooke.org
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