



23. marts 2012
5.6.5.8

Dear Professor McGreevy,

President of the International Society for Equitation Science

The Danish Animal Welfare Society (DAWS) supports the statement of the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES), that the practice of over tightening nosebands to avoid penalties in competition is covering up poor training at the expense of horse welfare.

DAWS has 80,000 members who support our society's aim to improve the welfare of animals. DAWS opposes the use of any kind of animal training which compromise the welfare of an animal. Animal training and handling should at all times take the needs and overall welfare of the animal into account.

Tight nosebands prevent the horse from opening the jaw and displaying unwanted behavior, which causes judges at competitions to penalize. In order to receive better marks many riders choose to mask the tension of their horses at competitions by tightening the noseband,. As current research suggests over tightening of a noseband can cause physiological stress, injuries, and bone deformations. DAWS strongly opposes this practice.

DAWS supports the recommendations of ISES concerning the reestablishment of the practice of placing two fingers under the noseband to demonstrate that it has not been over tightened. In order for this practice to be carried out a standardized measuring tool should be used by stewards at national as well as international competitions to measure the tightness of nosebands.

This is a small change to the rules of competition, which would greatly benefit the welfare of horses. For this reason DAWS will push this issue for both national and international competitions.

Yours Sincerely

Britta Riis