



Helsinki Humane Society
The Helsinki Society for Animal Protection (HESY ry)
Yhdyskunnantie 11
00680 Helsinki
Finland
www.hesy.fi

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Dear Professor McGreevy,

President of the International Society for Equitation Science

ISES position statement on restrictive noseband

HESY (Helsinki Humane Society) opposes all competitions and methods of training which cause animals stress, pain or other harm. That is why we endorse ISES' recommendation concerning the prohibition of excessive tightening of the noseband in equestrian sports. Research has proven that excessive tightening of the noseband can cause horses suffering, injuries and stress. The aim of this method is usually to mask a horse's misbehavior mostly caused by fear, pain and the fact that the horse does not understand what is required of it.

HESY supports ISES' recommendation concerning the use of taper gauges and the obligation of gear stewards to check the tightness of nosebands in equestrian competitions. The Society recommends that equestrian training in general abandon training based on discipline and punishment, because favouring a positive attitude would change the horse's role from utensil to a companion in a hobby.

Yours sincerely,

Hannele Luukkainen

Chairman of the Helsinki Humane Society