

An Cumann Éireannach um Fhóirithint ar Ainmhithe
The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
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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

18th November 2014

Dear Professor McGreevy,

Re: Restrictive nosebands on horses

The Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) supports calls from the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) for changes in the use of nosebands in equestrian competition.

The use of cranked nosebands may give a competitor an advantage at the expense of the welfare of the horse. There is clear evidence that the use of these nosebands can result in unnecessary suffering, restricting normal blood flow with resultant tissue compromise and associated pain. In Ireland, this may be an offence under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013.

The ISPCA firmly believes that the use of excessively tight nosebands should be prohibited by equestrian competition regulatory bodies and that all equestrian sports should require that nosebands are checked by stewards for tightness at the nasal midline as recommended by ISES.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Andrew Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

Barbara Bent
Chair of the Board of Directors

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