



ROYAL NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS INCORPORATED

15 January 2013

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

c/c Alan Wilson  
Robyn Kippenberger

Dear Professor McGreevy

**Re: The use of tight nosebands on horses**

The Royal New Zealand SPCA is opposed to practices in equestrian training and sporting events which cause suffering, pain and distress or cause injury to animals.

We support the recommendations from the International Society for Equitation Science (ISES) for the industry to regulate the use of tight nosebands and propose the use of 'excessively tight' nosebands should be prohibited in both training and competition.

It is apparent that the object of an 'excessively tight' nose band is to suppress resistance behaviours and therefore the potential loss of points in competition. These devices, when used excessively, clearly can cause pain and distress to the horse and also undermine competitors displaying genuine good practice and horsemanship.

In New Zealand the Animal Welfare Act 1999 places a positive duty of care upon owners and persons in charge of animals, and an obligation to ensure that the welfare of those animals is attended to dutifully. This duty of care naturally extends to those who organise competitions where animals are involved.

The ISES recommendations represent a small proactive change to rules that would assist in preventing negative welfare outcomes. They would not compromise the horse's ability to compete and would encourage horsemanship, skilled competitors and benefit the reputation of the sport.

Yours sincerely

Bob Kerridge  
National President

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for the Protection of Animals