

13 January 2012

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


Dear Professor McGreevy

ISES position statement on restrictive nosebands

The RSPCA is opposed to the use of animals any form of sport, entertainment, recreation or work, or training associated with such use, where injury, suffering or distress is likely to be caused. We advocate an ethical, humane approach to equestrian sport that aims to progressively improve the welfare of horses through the application of equitation science and other research which contributes to our understanding of horse welfare. Where evidence indicates that particular practices have poor welfare outcomes for horses, it is our view that those responsible for governing equestrian sport have a responsibility to act to review the rules of equestrian competition.

It is clear from the available evidence that the fitting of tight nosebands on horses is unacceptable as it subjects horses to significant stress, discomfort and potential injury. The ISES recommendation regarding the loose fitting of nosebands would remove these adverse outcomes. This is a clear example of where a small change to the rules of competition would clearly benefit horses without compromising their ability to compete.

Yours sincerely



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