

ANNEX Pt 24.1

17 November 2021, Antwerp (BEL)

Committee name	VETERINARY
Chair	Jennifer Hall (GBR)

Committee Report	
Pt.	Subject
1.	INTRODUCTION
2.	MEETINGS The Veterinary Committee has had six WEBEX meetings.
3.	VETERINARY REGULATIONS Following requests from National Federations it is proposed that stabling may be allowed outside the FEI stables under certain conditions for lower level FEI Events in Driving and Eventing. New and risk based rules are proposed to improve the control of biosecurity measures at FEI Events. Other changes are proposed to ensure harmonization with the sports discipline rules and to clarify.
4.	EDUCATION The Veterinary Department has developed the Education System in order to simplify and minimize bureaucracy for Veterinary Officials, National Federations and the Veterinary Department. Online education for Official Veterinarians has been introduced. One course for Level 4 Official Veterinarians has been held.
5.	BIOSECURITY A major outbreak of neurological Equine Herpes Virus type 1 (EHV-1) resulting in the deaths of at least 18 horses occurred at the tour in Valencia in February. This was followed by several secondary outbreaks and cases in nine European countries and Qatar. The Veterinary Department was provided additional resources to manage the workload. FEI Headquarters led the work to manage the outbreaks and prevent further spread and almost 4000 sick or in-contact horses were blocked in the FEI Database. Competitions were stopped between 1 March and 11 April in mainland Europe. The FEI Epidemiology Group with leading experts was formed and advised the Veterinary Department. A combination of structural and human factors are likely to have caused the outbreak. A report is in preparation.

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	<p>EHV-bylaws were introduced to further improve biosecurity and allow competitions to restart on 12 April. The FEI HorseApp was introduced to support a safe return to competition.</p> <p>Six months after the return to competition there have been no new outbreaks or cases related to the Valencia outbreak confirmed at FEI Events. The following factors have been important in achieving this successful outcome:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Team spirit and hard work within FEI Headquarters - Additional personnel and financial resources allocated to the IT- and Veterinary Departments - Close liaison and cooperation with affected National Federations, European Equestrian Federation, International Riders Club, Equestrian Organisers, Federation of European Equestrian Veterinary Associations, and relevant veterinary authorities - Efficient communications – The FEI EHV-1 hub and webinars - Introduction of the FEI Epidemiology Group - Introduction of the HorseApp - Buy-in from Athletes and Organising Committees. <p>Work is ongoing to further improve biosecurity at FEI Events also outside mainland Europe as prevention of a similar outbreak ever happening again is a key priority.</p>
6.	COMPETITIONS IN HOT AND HUMID CLIMATES
	<p>Protocols, educational material and resources for safe competitions in hot and humid climates were provided before and during the TOKYO 2020 games in a joint operation between FEI departments and technical committees. The measures were successful and no horses or riders suffered from climate related illness during the games.</p>
7.	EQUIPMENT EXPERT GROUP
	<p>The Veterinary Department is playing a key role in this group including contracting the appropriate leading scientific expertise to support its decision making</p>
8.	CLEAN SPORT
	<p>Equine Anti-doping and Control Medication Program has due to Covid-19 and the EHV-1 outbreak taken fewer samples than normal years.</p> <p>Laboratory of Racing Chemistry (LRC) was appointed as FEI Approved Laboratory and successfully analysed all samples related to the TOKYO 2020 games. There were no positives from the Games.</p> <p>The introduction of the protocol for Atypical Findings is working well. The Veterinary Chair and Veterinary Director are members of the ATF Panel.</p>

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	<p>The FEI Hyposensitivity Control System (HCS) was launched during 2020 and 2021. HCS has been well received by the Endurance community and the results as a preventive deterrent for nerve-blocking are promising.</p>
9.	INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF HORSES
	<p>The Veterinary Director led the International Horse Sports Confederation's (IHSC) taskforce for the European Animal Health Law and Brexit. The taskforce reached the highest levels of politics and managed to get the horse industry's items onto the agenda of the Brexit negotiators. Provisions for digital passports for intra-union horse movement was introduced in the Implementation Acts of the EU Animal Health Law following a proposal from the taskforce.</p> <p>Together with the OIE, IHSC follows up and supports the activities set out by the Roadmaps from the six OIE-IHSC Regional Workshops. Particular progress has been made in FEI Group VII and Group VIII.</p>