

**From:** [Göran Akerström](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Outbreak Valencia  
**Date:** 21 February 2021 12:05:00  
[image001.png](#)

**Importance:** High

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Dear All,

I'm am very surprised to learn that the event is not yet cancelled. With the current spread of EHV with as far as we are informed around 35 horses, the FEI Veterinary Department considers any further competition on the venue as irresponsible and a violation of FEI regulations. Should the event not be stopped immediately we will consider removing it from the Schedule as well as taking disciplinary actions against the involved officials and OC.

We thank you for your immediate cooperation.

Regards

**Göran Akerström**  
Veterinary Director

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**From:** Göran Akerström

**Sent:** 21 February 2021 10:46

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Outbreak Valencia

**Importance:** High

Dear All,

[REDACTED], thank you for a very constructive phone call. Further to yesterday's communication between the FEI Veterinary Manager, Goncalo Paixao and the Veterinary Delegate Vicente Orts, I would like to express the FEI's deep concern over outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) with neurological signs on the venue in Valencia. **Due to the high number of horses with clinical signs, coming from various parts of the stables, it is critical that the event is immediately stopped to prevent further spread of this potentially lethal infection.** A decision is taken in accordance with Article 109 of the FEI General Regulations:

*12. Subject to the unanimous agreement of the President of the Ground Jury, Technical Delegate and President of the Veterinary Committee in consultation with the Organiser, a Competition (either before or during) can be postponed and/or cancelled, not only due to force majeure, catastrophic occurrences, extreme weather conditions but also for non-compliance with FEI Rules and in specific situations where the welfare or safety of the Horses, Athletes, Officials or the public is compromised.*

Further provisions can be found in the FEI Veterinary Regulations Article 1029 and 1078. Information on EHV can be found in the attached fact sheet.

- We recommend that at least sick horses and their in-contacts stay on the venue to prevent further spread and to also have access to veterinary care.
- Please be aware that the local Spanish veterinary authority may decide to isolate the horses on the venue.
- Major OCs on the Iberian peninsula have been informed of the outbreak. Please see attached email.
- Further to the already sick horses, work is ongoing to identify in-contact horses. Until the list is established by the FEI Veterinary Department ALL HORSES AT VALENCIA TOUR are considered as in-contact horses. (We hope that we will be able to narrow down the number of in-contact horses) Based on this list all in-contact horses will be blocked for competition in accordance with FEI Veterinary Regulations Article 1029.7 "Horses that show clinical signs of neurological Equine Herpes Virus, or have been in-contact with such Horses, will not be allowed access to FEI Events by the VD/VC and GJ. Any affected or in-contact Horse may not be entered in future FEI Events until they have fulfilled health requirements as determined by the FEI Veterinary Department".
- Your main contact in the Veterinary Department is Goncalo Paixao, here copied in.

We understand that this is a very difficult situation for all involved. With the above measures we should together be able to stop the further spreading of EHV on and outside the venue. Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation.

Kind regards  
Göran

**Göran Akerström**  
Veterinary Director

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**From:** Gonçalo Paixão  
**Sent:** 20 February 2021 19:38

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Outbreak Valencia

Dear [REDACTED],

Following our conversation over the telephone and in accordance with Article 109 of the FEI General Regulations:

12. Subject to the unanimous agreement of the President of the Ground Jury, Technical Delegate and President of the Veterinary Committee in consultation with the Organiser, a Competition (either before or during) can be postponed and/or cancelled, not only due to force majeure, catastrophic occurrences, extreme weather conditions but also for non-compliance with FEI Rules and in specific situations where the welfare or safety of the Horses, Athletes, Officials or the public is compromised.

The FEI Veterinary Department would advise that, in face of the current outbreak in the

Valencia venue, the event should be cancelled until all the isolation and monitoring protocols are in place, in order to ensure the safest biosecurity standards and allowing to protect the welfare and safety of the Horses at the venue.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Kind regards,  
Gonçalo

**Gonçalo Paixão**  
Manager  
Veterinary Department

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