

Annex 9 - FEI GJ member CES Valencia report

Lanaken 22 March 2021

Subject : Rhino outbreak Valencia week 28/21 February 21

Referece : my presence at member of the ground jury in these week

Dear All,

I lik to give my account of the rhino1 outbreak in week 4 Valencia primtour, where I was member of the Ground jury in week 4.

At Friday 19 February , after the end of the tests in the second arena where I worked, about 5 pm, I heard anxiety from several athletes about a sick horse from Kim Bost FRA in his stables in France.

The horse had returned home after the third week Valancia and was stabled with a real fever, there was rhino pinned and via Philippe Rosier (FRA) a picture of these sick horse went arround.

That evening, after the classes, there was a little meeting at the secretariat where were present, the OC, the FEI vet, the Président and the Foreign Judge. About the content of the meeting there was no communication, not with the other officials, not with the athletes or owners.

In the hotel I heard from some atheletes and trainers that there were four horses with fever in the stable area and that the horse from Hofmann GER was transfered tot he universitary veterinary clinic with fever and twitching.

At saterday 20 February in afternoon I spoke with the FEI Vet. I asked him if there were more horses with fever, he answerd four or five horses. When I asked him what was tob e done, he answered that everything was normal and under control. From the OC, President and FJ no communication.

In the evening I learned that samples had been taken from several horses, the FEI Vet confirmed that there were more horses with fever. He said the caus was unknown. I asked the Vet, P en FJ whether any measures should be taken. She got the answer that there was contact with the FEI Veterinarian Org. And that the competition could continue as usual.

At Sunday 21 February, during the GP, at 12.06 am there came suddently of the FEI by mail the order to finish immediate the competition.

In afternoon I heard from the FEI Vet that 17 from 52 token samples ware positif and that the cause was not known.

Among participants, grooms and owners was mention rhino as the cause.

Still no action had been token and the most of participants left the competition area as quicly as possible.

At Monday 22 February the remaining 150 horses were placed in quarantaine, separated (??) from the sick horses. A lot of horses were transported tot he Veterinarian clinic.

Quarantaine for 3 weeks with obligation to PCR tests.

The competition area were closed and guarded by the Guardia Civil.
The most officials left Valencia at 22 February.
Meanwhile the horse of Mr Hofmann (Ger) had died in the clinic.

Ar Thursday 24 February I heard that the results of the tests had come back from the lab in Madrid and that rhini 1 had be told.

At Friday 25 February in the morning I learned that a delegation of those affected athletes had contacted the Local Ministry of health. Here thye were not up to date of the rhino outbreak. And were surprised not to know this. They would immediatly go tot he competition area and path from then on, but to leat, the action is accelerated.

I leaved Valencia at Friday 25 February at 5 pm.

We complain that there was no communication, no interaction between OC/Veternarian/ Preésident, Foreign judge, members of the Ground Jury, Chief Steward, stewards, athletes , grooms and owners.

Such situations are really not longer possible in 2021!

In the meantim I received many questions from foreign FEI Veterinarians. Bij lac of own insight I have only been able to give a limited answers about the truth I know with certainty.

Finally Y would like to do some propositions fort he future:

- All competition horses are obliged tob e vaccinate against Rhino 4 weeks before participation.
- Compulsory veterinarian control of the health , vaccinations and temerature from all horses
Before they are allowed to enter the competition area and/of the stable area.
- For every competition enough isolation stables far enough from the normal stable area and outside the competition area.
- Compulsory meeting between the OC/President/Foreign judge/Chief steward/ Foreign Steward/Fei Vet - before the start of the horse inspection themed by everyone's responsability, obligated communication, exchange of information, interaction and teamwork.

Kindly,

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