

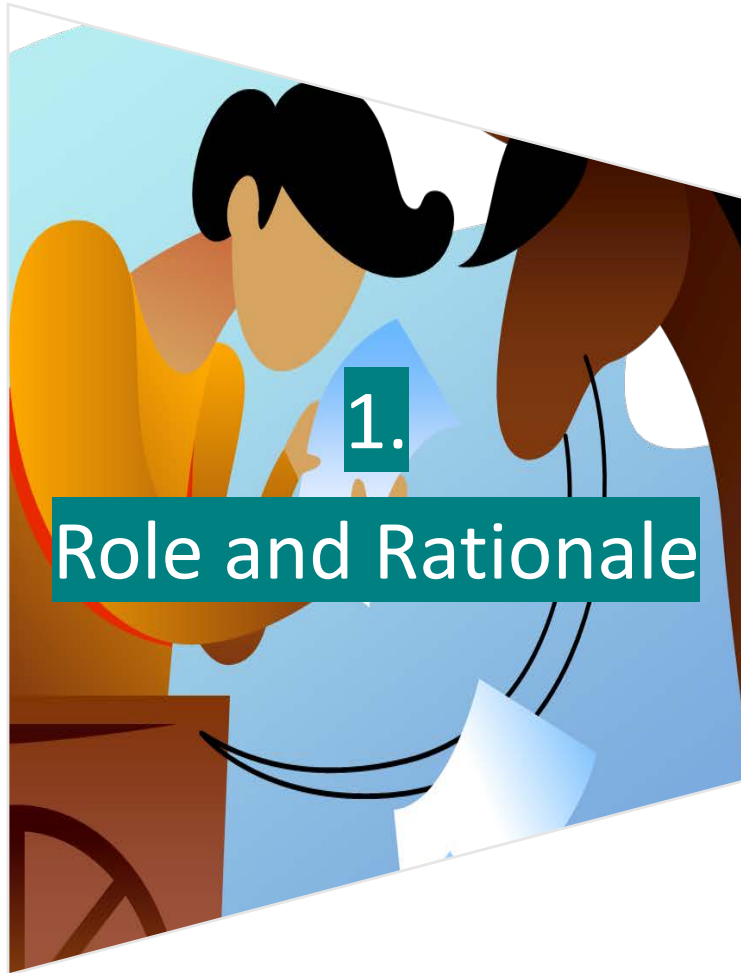


Interim Report to the FEI Sports Forum
April 2023

Professor Nat Waran

on behalf of the Commission members

Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission - Interim Report



Commission - Role and Rationale



Why did the FEI establish an Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission

To ensure the future involvement of horses in sport.

'Equestrian sport and the FEI's activities are more than ever under public scrutiny and through the Commission we want to embrace that scrutiny to drive change and shine the spotlight on our number one stakeholder – the horse'

(Ingmar De Vos President FEI).





Who are we ? - 'Critical Friends'

External



Nat Waran (Chair)



Kathalijne Visser



Camie Heleski

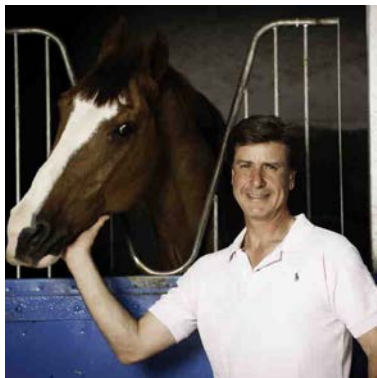


Jessica Stark



Madeleine Campbell

Internal



Cayetano Martíne de Irujo



Ken Lalo



Theo Ploegmakers



Cesar Hirsch

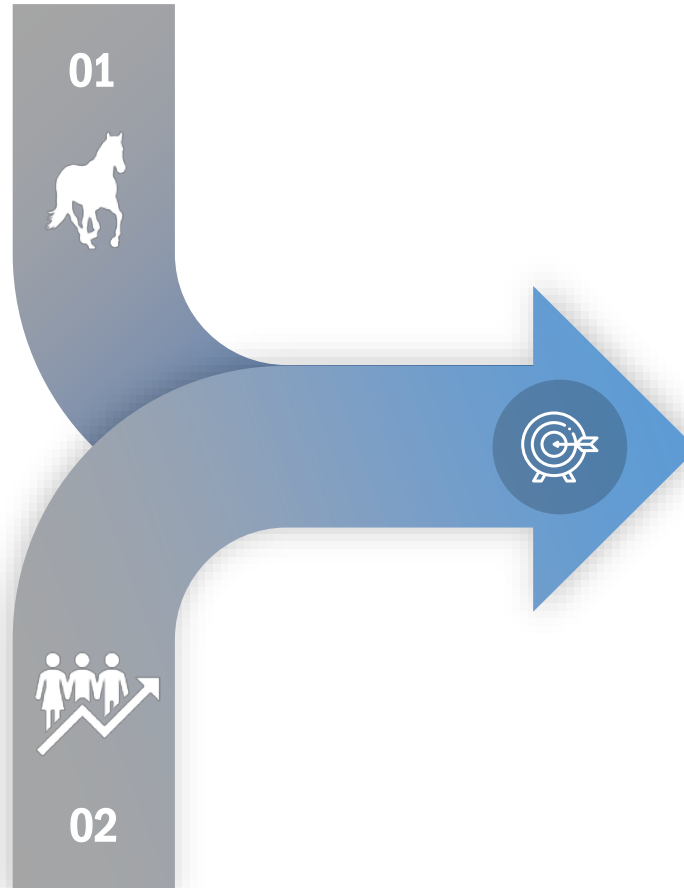


Sabrina Ibáñez

EEWB Commission - Objectives

Positive welfare

To ensure that horses involved in sport can experience positive welfare throughout their lives



Social Licence to Operate

To ensure continued social acceptance of the involvement of horses in sport

Guide FEI

To guide FEI regulations, policies and practices and inform wider-reaching advocacy and information

The Commission's role in relation to the FEI

To provide independent objective advice regarding equine ethics and wellbeing to the FEI Board.



Develop a strategic approach to help guide decision-making within the FEI in relation to Equine Ethics and Wellbeing.



Provide recommendations to address issues of SLO to the FEI Board for their consideration.



The FEI receives recommendations and advice from the Commission, and decides on the course of action (if any) to address the recommendations.

What are we addressing?

'Social Licence to Operate'

An unwritten 'social contract' between the public/society and an industry/organisation

Many industries - and sports - seeking to protect and strengthen their social licence

Issues in sport include sustainability, integrity, safety, doping, etc.

Equestrian sport is unique – more vulnerable to negative public opinion - because it involves use of an animal

Why is SLO important ?

Social
Licence

Social
Control

Public
Acceptance

Approval

Self – Regulation

Freedom to
Operate



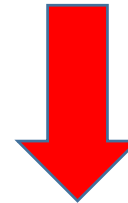
Social Licence plays a significant role in which industries thrive, and which ones fail

Berger 2011

Rejection

Legislation

Banned



Tipping point

Loss of SLO



'Left unattended or only partially addressed, social licence issues quickly become very expensive to rectify'
Dr W Parker as CEO Scion (Forestry)



"Public patience has finally run right out and the corporate dairy industry is now trying to catch up and rescue its credibility."
M. Taylor as CE Fish and Game



"This is a very clear signal, I believe the clearest signal that's been given to this industry... it is either things improve, or they risk their social licence to exist."
G Robertson, exRacing Minister on Greyhound racing in NZ 2021.

Horse Racing – Response to Risk to SLO

“the principal question emerging from evolving social norms and values... [is] whether thoroughbred racing is ethically justifiable, and if so, how it can be conducted so that it is socially acceptable”

Bergman 2015

Racing’s social license to operate: The evolution of public attitudes

Daniel Ross | APRIL 26, 2021 | 11

SHARE    



This photo of Gordon Elliott sitting astride a dead horse prompted widespread and unanimous condemnation and disgust. But was that consistent v attitudes expressed on other incidents?



<https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339493592> Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare through the Lens of 'Social License to Operate-With an Emphasis on a US Perspective [accessed Apr 14 2023].

Is there a problem with Social Licence for Equestrian Sports?

Society's views on using horses in sport must be acknowledged, says charity boss

November 22, 2017 | Horsetalk.co.nz | 0 Comments



The winning amateur picture in the 2014 FEI Solidarity World Photo Grand Prix. © FEI



Journal of Veterinary Behavior

Volume 36, March–April 2020, Pages 40–47



Equine Research

An investigation into equestrian spur use in the United Kingdom

Chloe Lemon, Victoria Lewis, Lucy Dumbell, Hielke Brown

Home / News

'Outrageous' decision to allow pre-competition equine sedative



Eline van den Broek
20 September, 16:53 (p.1)

Sports **REUTERS**

PETA calls on IOC president to remove equestrian events from Games



Photo: Horse and Hound magazine



Opinion

Equestrian sports have an animal cruelty problem – dressage should be banned from the Olympics

In my experience, the most distressed horses are always those who come from the horse racing industry



PETA steps up call for equestrian events to be banned from Olympics as FEI probes German video footage

EQUESTRIAN

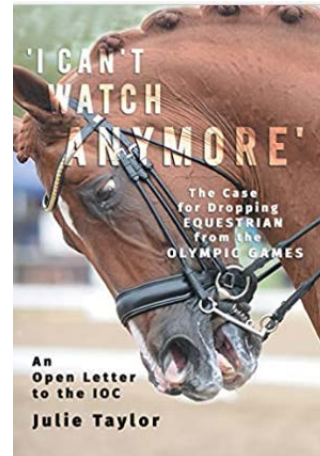
Equestrian: NZ Olympic great Sir Mark Todd apologises after social media video emerges of horse being whipped with stick

13/02/2022 | Alex Powell



New rules on horse nosebands needed to prevent distress, say researchers

Study found horses' heart rates increased and they struggled to chew when nosebands were over-tightened, leading to calls for stricter regulations on use



Why now?

Increase in research publications related to equine welfare

Review > [Animals \(Basel\)](#). 2022 May 5;12(9):1186. doi: 10.3390/ani12091186.

Champing at the Bit for Improvements: A Review of Equine Welfare in Equestrian Sports in the United Kingdom

Tim Q Holmes ¹, Ashleigh F Brown ²

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 355656

Free PMC article

Open Access Review

Changing Hearts and Minds in the Equestrian World One Behaviour at a Time

by Inga A. Wolframm ^{1,*}, Janet Douglas ² and Gemma Pearson ^{3,4}

¹ Applied Research Centre, Van Hall Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Larensteinselaan 26-A, 6882 CT Velp, The Netherlands

² World Horse Welfare, Anne Colvin House, Snetterton, Norwich NR16 2LR, UK

³ The Horse Trust, Slad Lane, Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire HP27 0PP, UK

⁴ Easter Bush Campus, The University of Edinburgh, Midlothian EH25 9RG, UK

* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Animals 2023, 13(4), 748; <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani13040748>

Received: 23 December 2022 / Revised: 5 February 2023 / Accepted: 17 February 2023 /

Published: 19 February 2023

(This article belongs to the Special Issue Advancing Equestrian Practice to Improve Equine Quality of Life)

> [Animals \(Ba](#)

How Happy Are Equine Athletes? Stakeholder Perceptions of Equine Welfare Issues Associated with Equestrian Sport

Tamzin Furtado ¹, Liane Preshaw ², Jo Hockenhill ³, Jennifer Wathan ⁴, Janet Douglas ⁵, Sue Horseman ³, Rebecca Smith ¹, Danica Pollard ⁶, Gina Pinchbeck ¹, Jan Rogers ², Carol Hall ^{7,8}

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 34827960 PMID: PMC8614509 DOI: 10.3390/ani11113228

Free PMC article

Abstract

The international governing body for equestrian sports, the Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI), states that the welfare of the horse must be paramount and never subordinated to competitive or

Open Access Review

Thoroughbred Racehorse Welfare through the Lens of ‘Social License to Operate—With an Emphasis on a U.S. Perspective

by Camie Heleski ^{1,*}, C. Jill Stowe ², Julie Fiedler ³, Michael L. Peterson ⁴, Colleen Brady ⁵, Carissa Wickens ⁶ and James N. MacLeod ⁷

¹ Department of Animal and Food Sciences and UK Ag Equine Programs, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506, USA

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* Author to whom correspondence should be addressed.

Sustainability 2020, 12(5), 1706; <https://doi.org/10.3390/su12051706>

Received: 13 December 2019 / Revised: 14 February 2020 / Accepted: 15 February 2020 / Published: 25 February 2020

(This article belongs to the Special Issue Sustainability in the Equine Industry)

View Full-Text

Download PDF

Citation Export

Abstract

This review addresses the question of whether Thoroughbred horse racing is sustainable in the context of current social values, recently acknowledged framework, known as ‘Social License to Operate’ (SLO), provides us with a lens through which to view a assess racehorse welfare. In multiple surveys of the general public, the horse owning public, and university students, the primary topics of concern regarding Thoroughbred racing show considerable concordance: concern about catastrophic injuries—particularly as related to track surfaces; concern over the racism of two-year-olds; win use by jockeys; drug/medication policies

sel). 2021 Jun 9;11(6):1725. doi: 10.3390/ani11061725.

An Ethical Framework for the Use of Horses in Competitive Sport: Theory and Function

Madeleine L H Campbell ¹

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 34207809 PMID: PMC8230307 DOI: 10.3390/ani11061725

Free PMC article

Abstract

PREV RESULT: Ethical concern about equestrian sport is reflected in publications by regulatory authorities, 5 of 100 charities, and the lay press; and in government debate and social media. However, attempts by regulators and stakeholders to address ethical issues in equine sport have been discipline specific and

Review > [Animals \(Basel\)](#). 2022 Aug 5;12(15):1987. doi: 10.3390/ani12151987.

Social Licence to Operate: What Can Equestrian Sports Learn from Other Industries?

Janet Douglas ¹, Roly Owers ¹, Madeleine L H Campbell ²

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 35953977 PMID: PMC9367437 DOI: 10.3390/ani12151987

Free PMC article

Abstract

The concept of ‘social licence to operate’ (SLO) is relevant to all animal-use activities. An SLO is an intangible, implicit agreement between the public and an industry/group. Its existence allows that industry/group to pursue its activities with minimal formalised restrictions because such activities have widespread societal approval. In contrast, the imposition of legal restrictions-or even an outright ban-reflect qualified or lack of public support for an activity. This review discusses current threats to equestrianism’s SLO and suggests actions that those across the equine sector need to take to justify the continuation of the SLO. The most important of these is earning the trust of all stakeholders, including the public. Trust requires transparency of operations, establishment and communication of

> [Animals \(Basel\)](#). 2021 May 10;11(5):1352. doi: 10.3390/ani11051352.

Symbiosis or Sporting Tool? Competition and the Horse–Rider Relationship in Elite Equestrian Sports

Rachel C Hogg ¹, Gene A Hodgins ¹

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 34068606 PMID: PMC8151029 DOI: 10.3390/ani11051352

Free PMC article

Abstract

The horse–rider relationship is fundamental to ethical equestrianism wherein equine health and welfare are prioritized as core dimensions of sporting success. Equestrianism represents a unique and important form of interspecies activity in which relationships are commonly idealized as central to sporting performance but have been largely unexplored in the sport psychology literature. Horse–rider relationships warrant particular consideration in the elite sporting context, given the tension between constructions of “partnership” between horse and rider, and the pragmatic pressures of elite

Why now? Documented rise in public concerns



Figure 3
51% of the respondents against the use of tack, such as whips and spurs. Only 9% support their use

FIGURE 1 - Do you think there is support in Dutch society for equestrian sport in the Netherlands?

A lot of support
Some Support
Not sure/don't know
No support
Absolutely no support

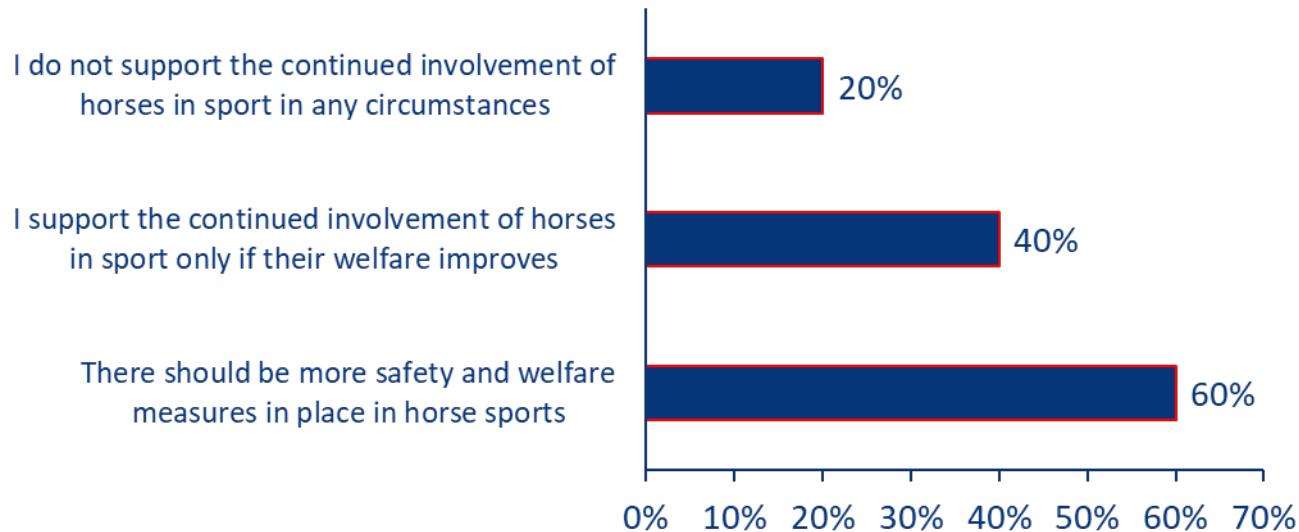
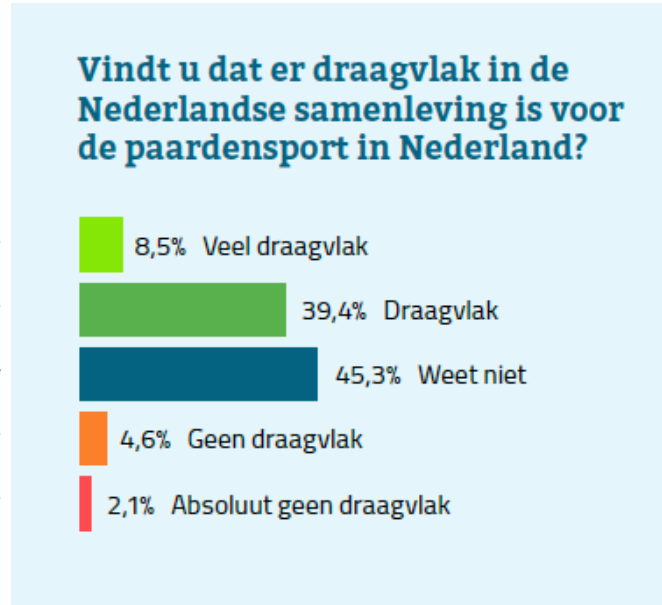
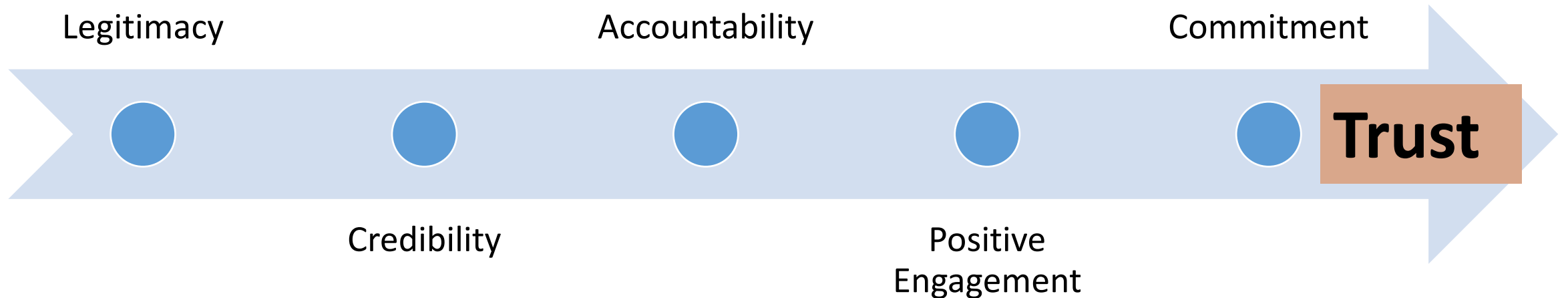


Figure 2 (World Horse Welfare Survey (YouGov research conducted in UK 20-22 May, 2022))



Establishing and maintaining trust is a key element of social licence to operate (SLO)



‘Social licence can never be self-awarded, it requires that an activity enjoys sufficient trust and legitimacy, and has the consent of (the public) and those affected..’

J Morrison 2014

Response



What is the current situation with SLO?

Two Surveys to understand the viewpoints of public and equestrians **inside and outside** the FEI

- Survey among Equestrian community (almost 28,000 respondents)
- Survey among Public (over 14,000 respondents)



There are different lenses



Equestrian and Public Survey - Who are the respondents?

Three 'Stakeholder Groups' within which there are a variety of views



Equestrian (Internal)

- FEI Board
- National Federations
- Riders
- Trainers
- Officials
- Employees

Equestrian (External)

- Non FEI Equestrians
- Event and Rider Sponsors
- Event Organisers
- Equine Welfare Organisations
- Veterinarians
- Farriers

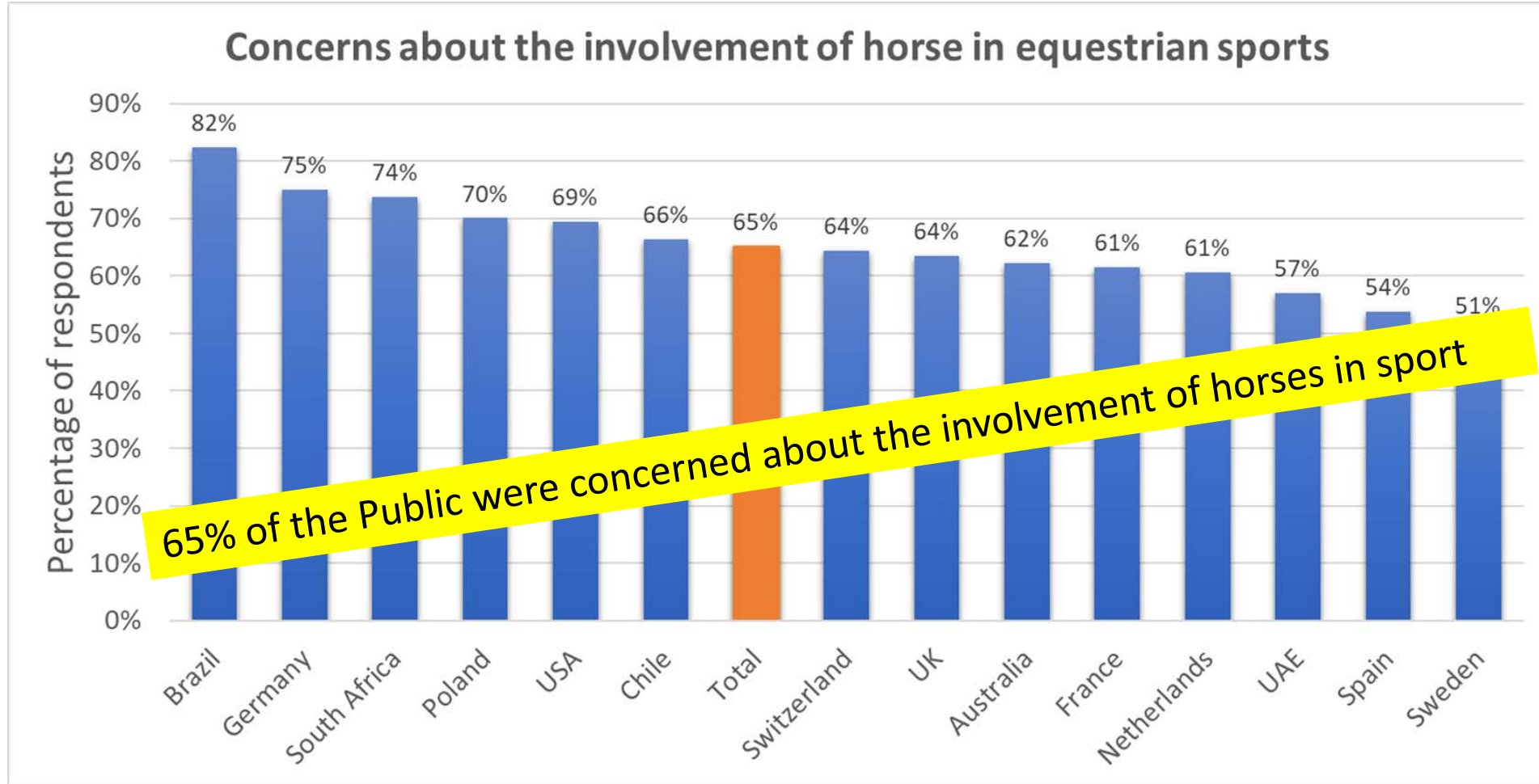
Non- Equestrian (Public)

- Members of the Public with no investment or history with horses



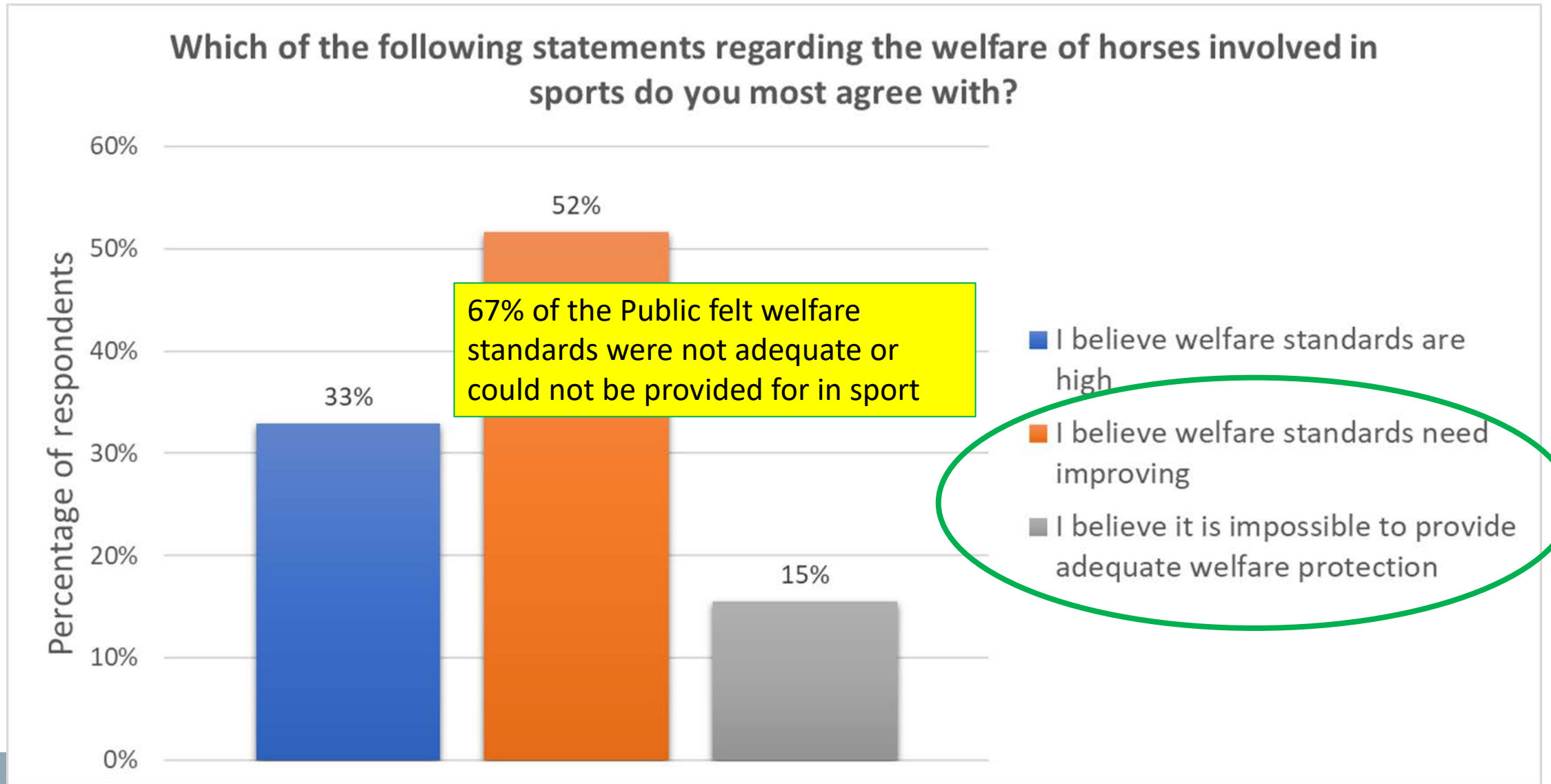
Equestrian Community

The Public are concerned

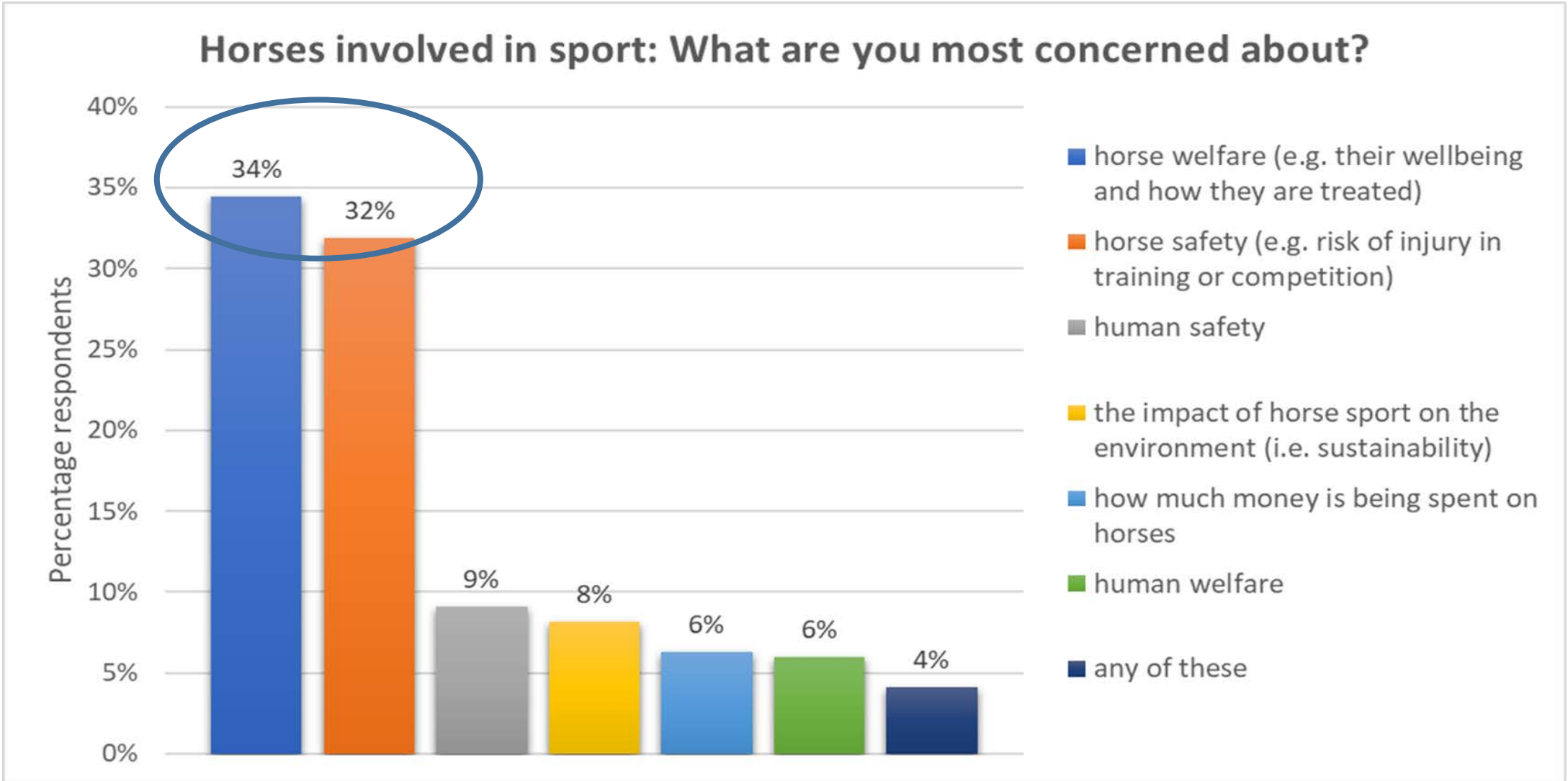




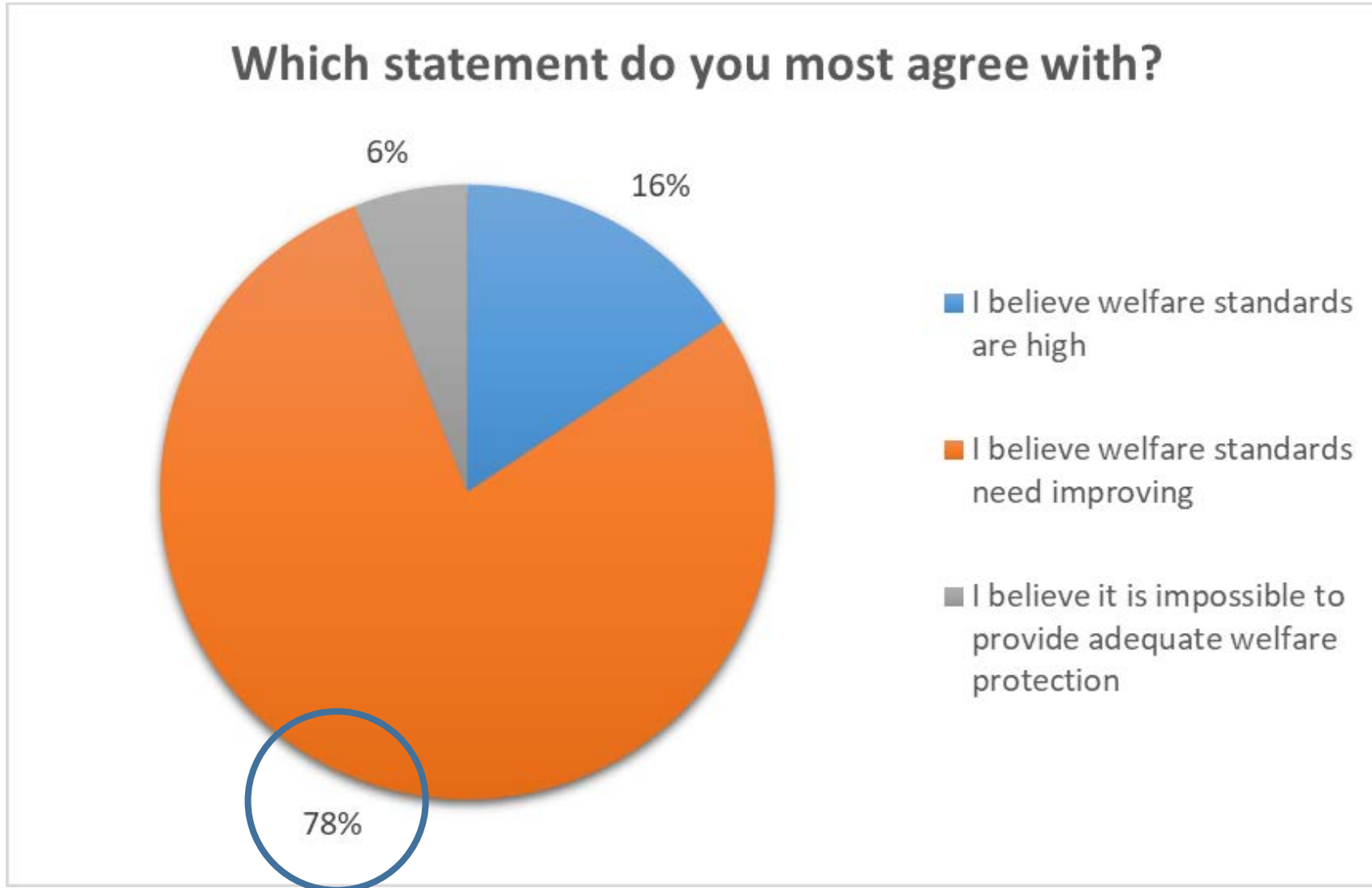
This is the public perception



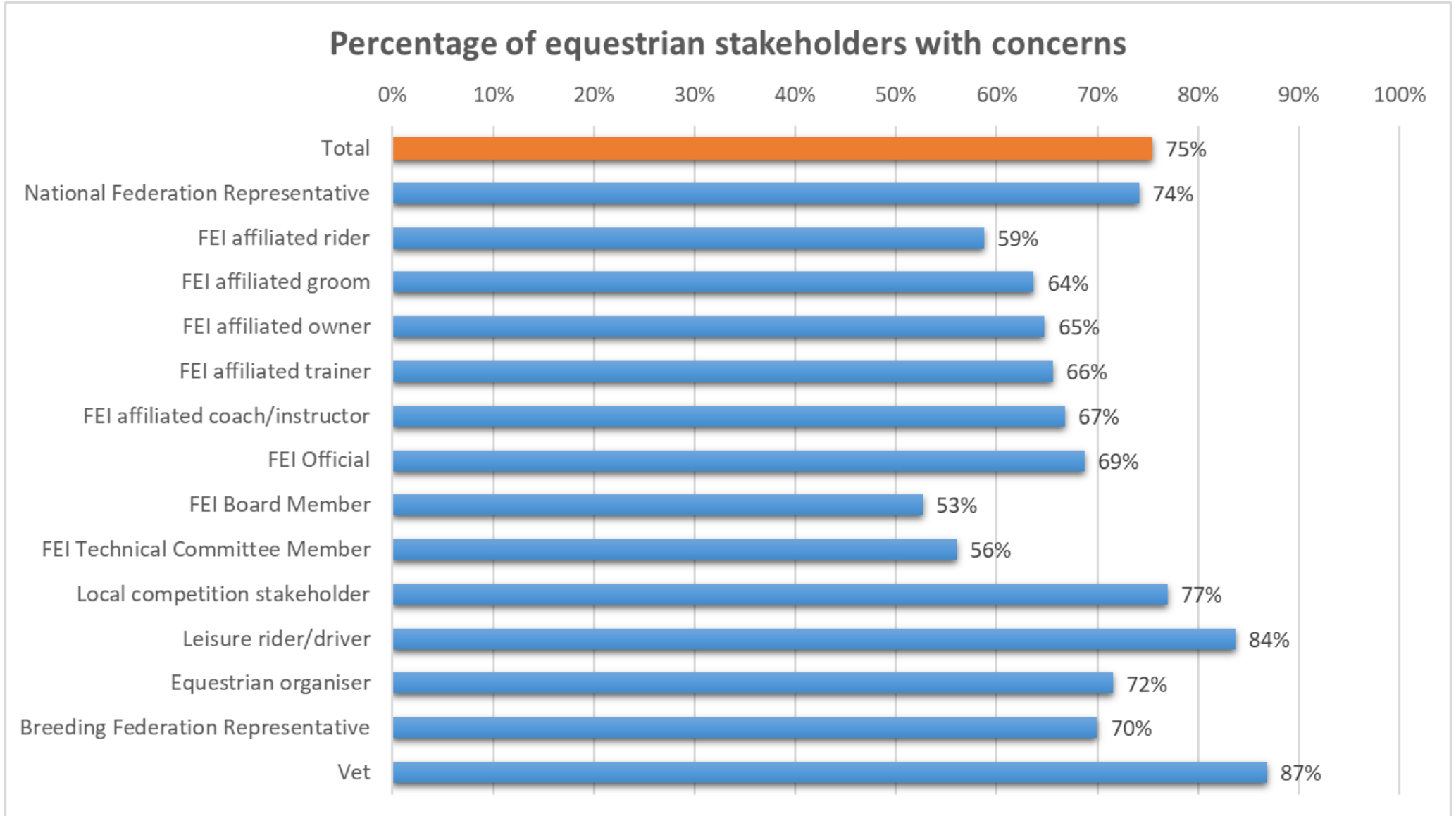
These are the main concerns of the public



Equestrian stakeholders also feel welfare standards need improving.

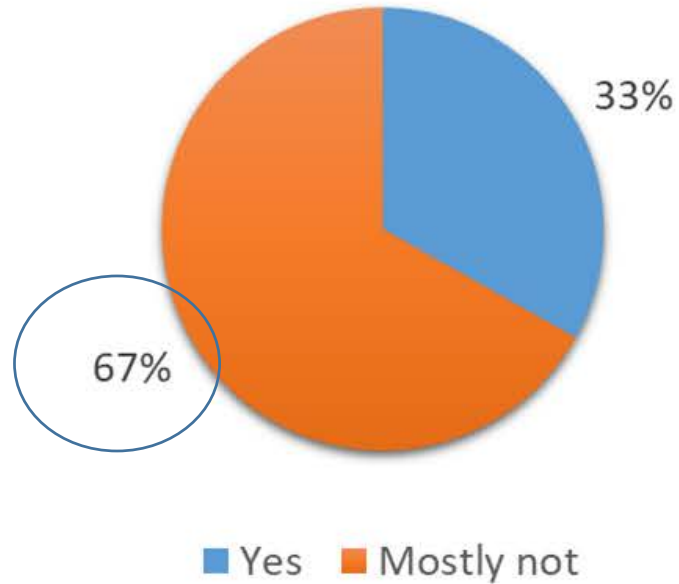


Variation between equestrian stakeholders in their concern

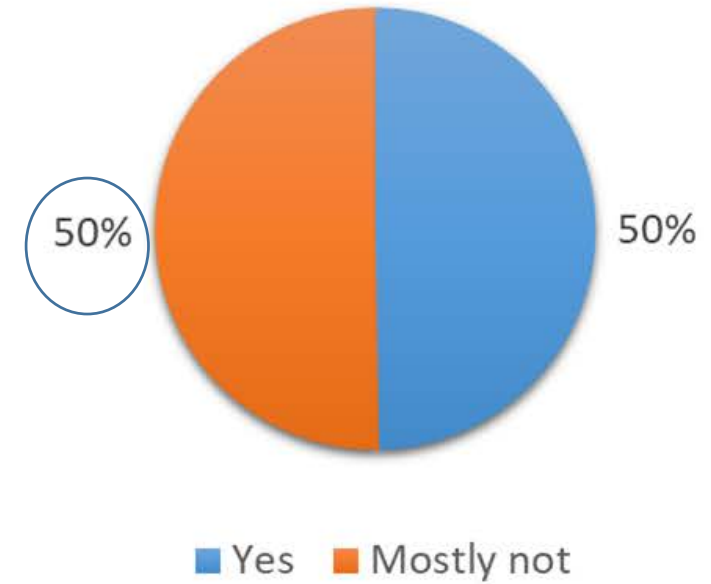


Different lenses but similar conclusion

Public: Do you believe horses enjoy being involved in sport?



Equestrians: Do you believe horses enjoy being involved in sport?













Results

There are 6 priority focus areas for SLO

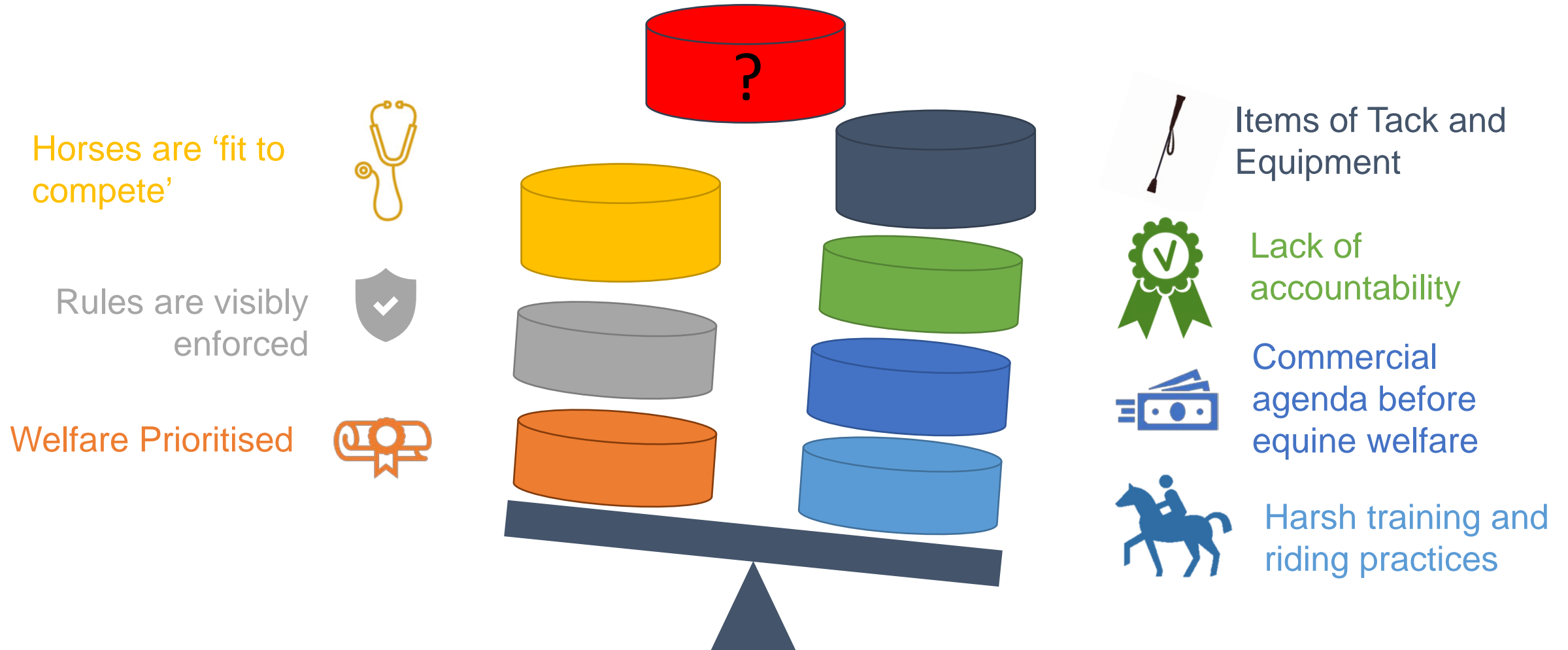


Within the equestrian community – Different levels of concern (*different lenses*)

	FEI affiliated respondents	Non FEI affiliated respondents
Tack and equipment, Riding and Training Practices		
Recognizing physical and emotional stress		
Accountability, enforcement, knowledge		
The other 23 hours		
Competitive drive, horse as a number		
Not fit to compete, masking health problems		

Is there a problem with Social Licence?

Tipping Point?



Recommendations



Basis for Commission Recommendations

- ✓ **Public and Equestrian Survey Results**
- ✓ **External related information** – External reports, information from animal welfare organisations, independent survey results
- ✓ **Research evidence** - Reviewing research publications related to equine wellbeing and ethics. Identifying gaps in knowledge, making recommendations for where research is needed.
- ✓ **Consultation with Equine welfare experts** – consultation regarding specific concerns and potential solutions with different groups involved with equine welfare and use of horse in sport
- ✓ **EEWB Advisory/Working Groups** –Scientific Advisory Grp, Education Working Grp, Legal Working Grp, Communication Working Grp.



6 Early Recommendations to the FEI

Horsemanship Courses
Available to FEI Officials at all times, recommended to them frequently



FEI

Tack and Equipment – 3 recommendations

- **Double bridles** should not be mandatory
- **Spurs** should not be mandatory
- **Nosebands** should not be tight – A uniform method of measurement including an agreed definition of ‘too tight’, should be used based on the available science.

Regulation – 1 recommendation

- Include in the FEI General Regulations a rule to apply consistently to all Disciplines to allow elimination on horse welfare grounds

Others – 2 recommendations

- Establish an Education Focus Group to review existing modules in FEI Campus and propose new ones
- Establish a Research Fund to address gaps in current knowledge regarding Equine Welfare

24 Further Recommendations (*draft*)

Grouped into Five Key Areas

The FEI will:

01

Be a Leader

02

Be Trusted

03

Be Transparent

04

Be ProActive

05

Be Accountable

1. The FEI will be a Leader



Objective: To ensure that the FEI plays a critical role in advancing equine welfare globally by setting an example that others aspire towards.

5 Recommendations:

1. Develop a future focussed 'Good Life for Horses' Vision and Strategy
2. Commit to ensuring a Good Life for Horses in Sport
3. Develop an equine centric approach to management of FEI events
4. Promote ethical, evidence based equestrianism
5. Place horse interests before those of a human or the sport



Recommendation 1: Develop a FEI Good Life For Horses Vision and Strategy

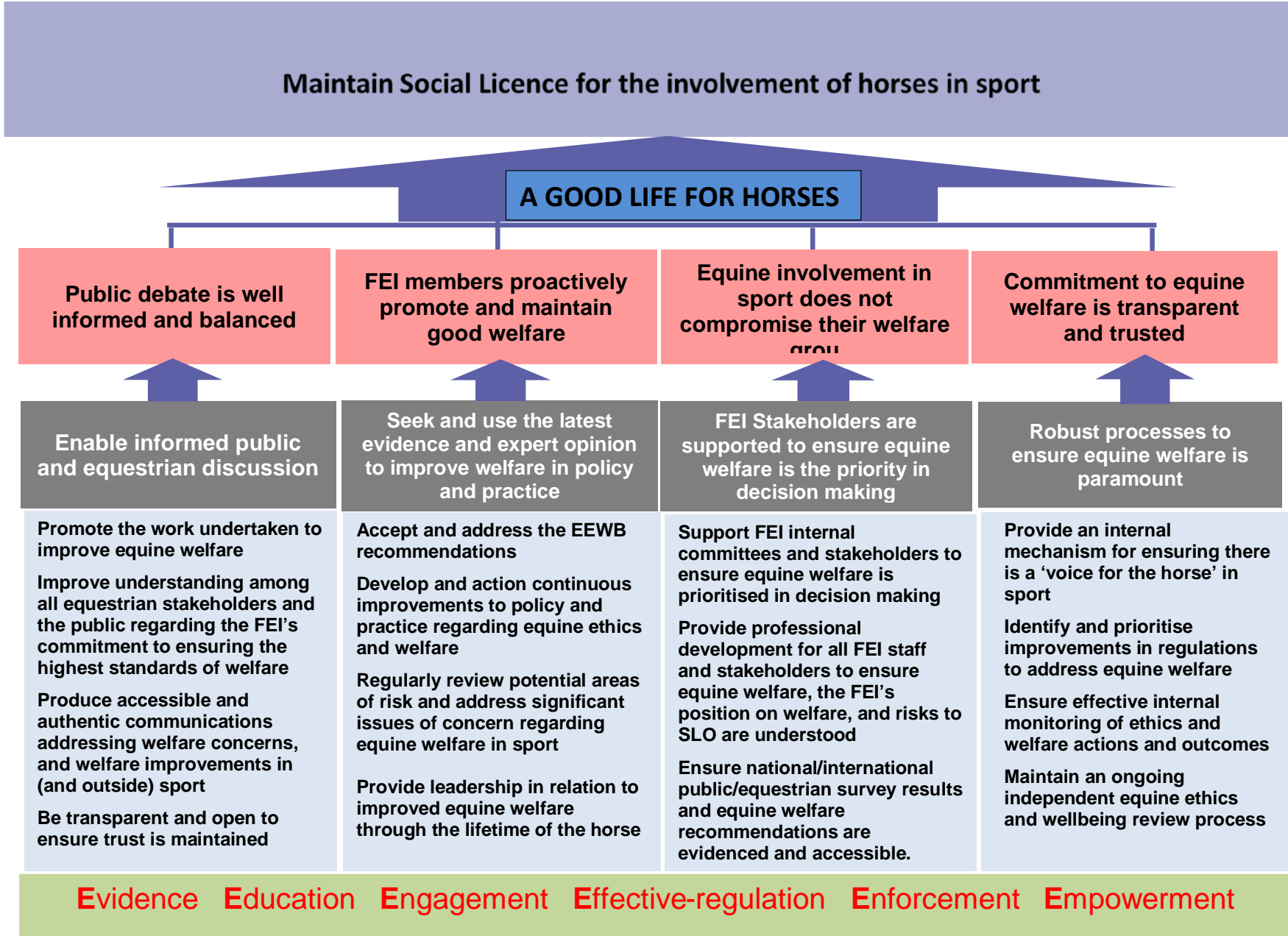
1. Promote the concept of a 'Good Life for Horses'

- Ensure a Good Life for all horses is the fundamental tenet of the FEI Equine Welfare Strategy
- and
- Horses engaged in recreational and sporting activities should be provided with care, management, training and performance conditions to ensure positive physical, mental, behavioural and social outcomes.

2. Maintain and Strengthen Social Licence to Operate

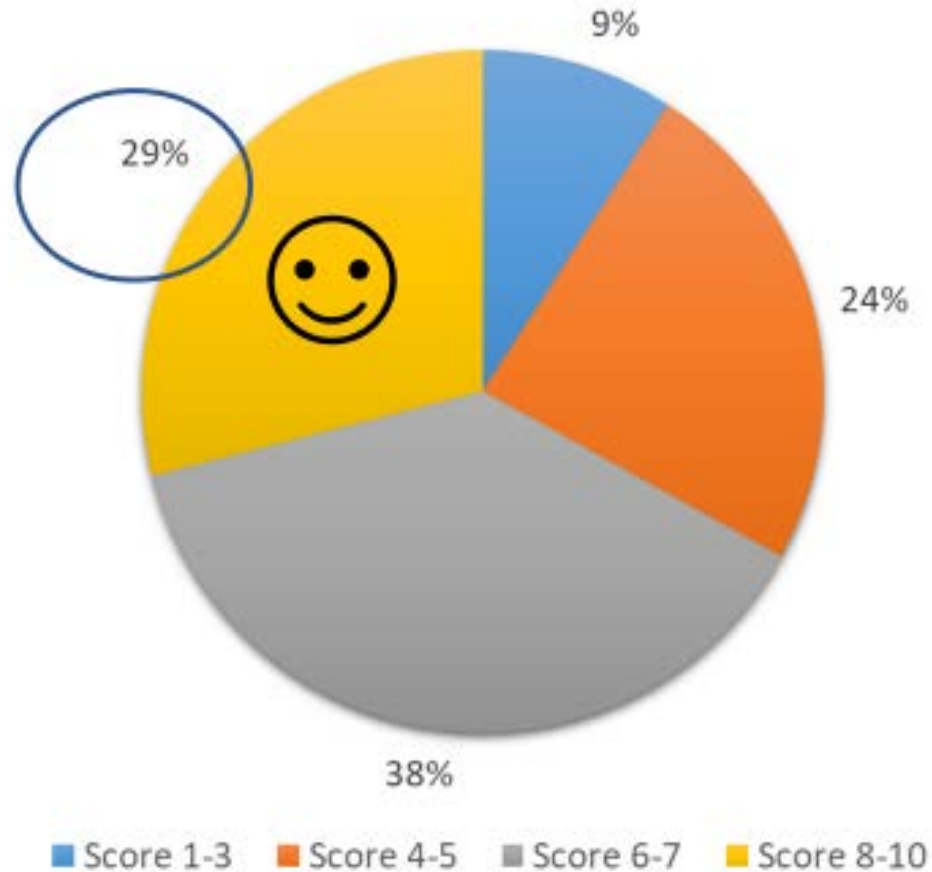
- Explicit in the FEI Equine Welfare strategy is an appreciation of the need to maintain and enhance the reputation of the FEI and the equine sports industry
- and
- To demonstrate commitment to addressing equine ethics and wellbeing concerns to ensure an ongoing social licence for the involvement of horses in sport

Strategic Approach to address Core Objectives



Be a Leader

Score for Quality of life

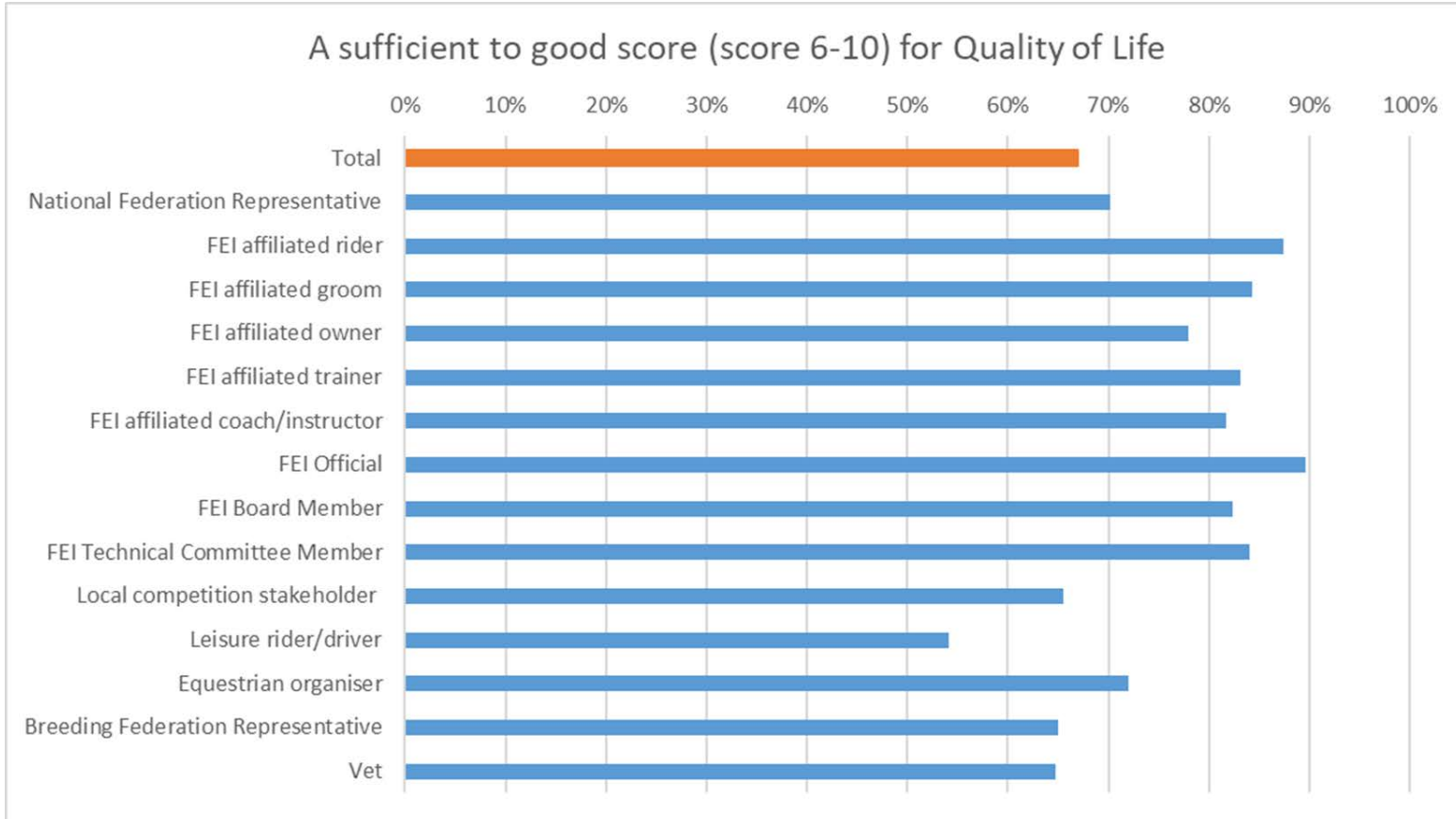


Recommendation 2

Publicly commit to defining, promoting and ensuring a **Good Life** for horses as the fundamental tenet of the FEI Equine Wellbeing Strategy.

*This is the score for quality of life from the **equestrian community**. 29% scored as it should be for a Good life. 38% of the respondents thought the quality of life was sufficient to good. The other 33% thought it was insufficient.*

Opinion varied regarding QoL for horses



Recommendation 2

Publicly commit to defining, promoting and ensuring a **Good Life** for horses as the fundamental tenet of the FEI Equine Wellbeing Strategy.

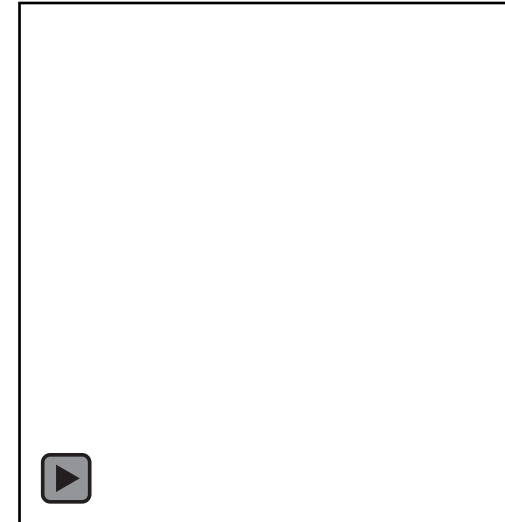
There was large variation between different stakeholders. Leisure equestrians, breeders and vets giving the lower scores. The FEI riders and FEI officials gave horse QoL a higher score (resp. 87 – 90%) gave 6 or higher.

Define and Promote 'A Good Life for Horses'

Positive Experiences – Positive Welfare

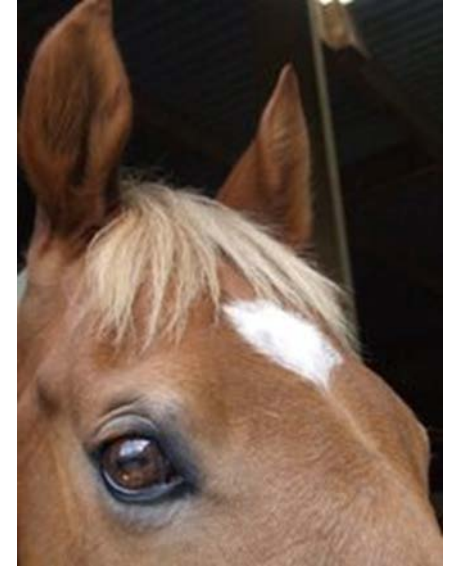
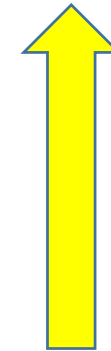
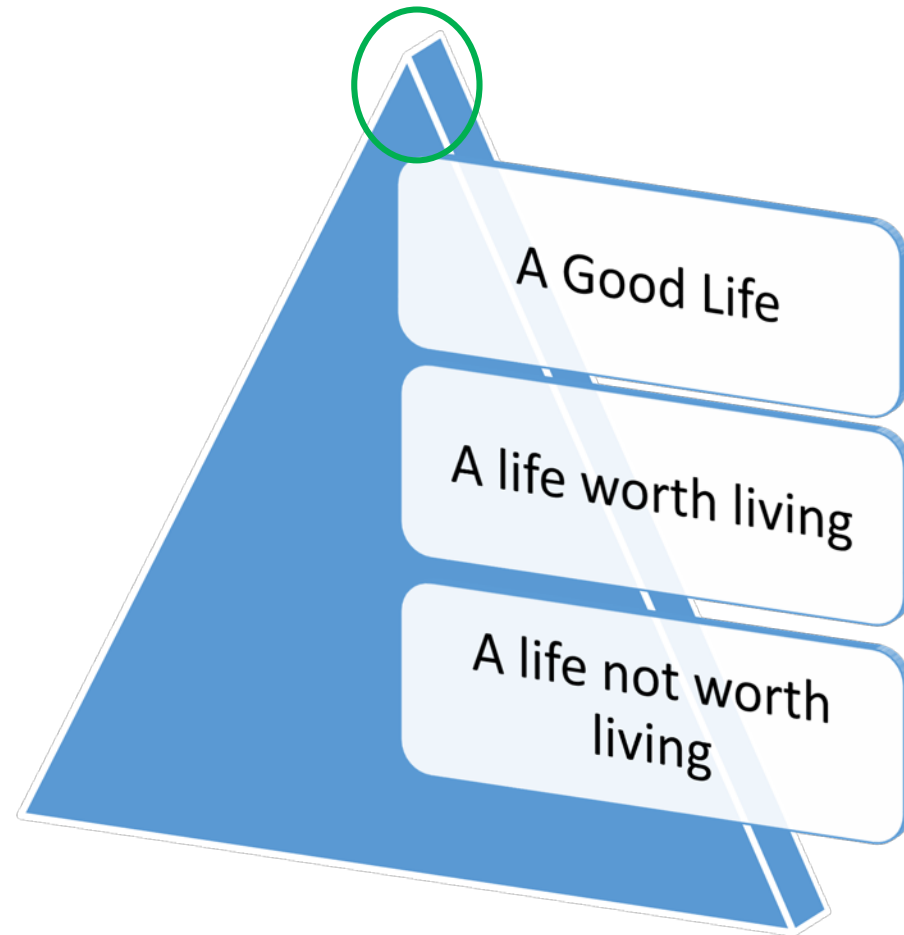
'It is generally accepted that if an animal is experiencing pleasure or happiness, or is in a positive emotional state, then its needs are being met, and its welfare is good'

(Boissy *et al.*, 2007).



● = Amygdalae - *Motivation, Emotions, Memory*

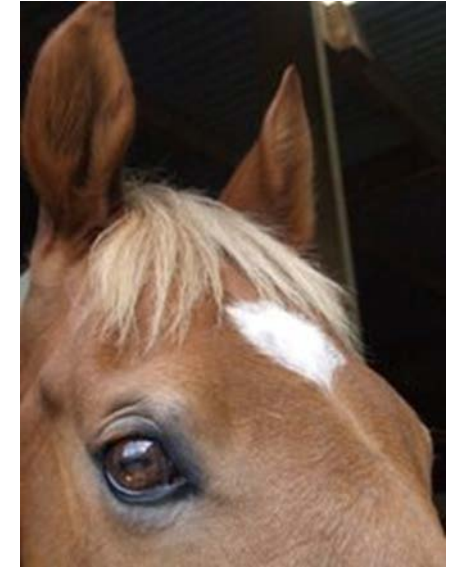
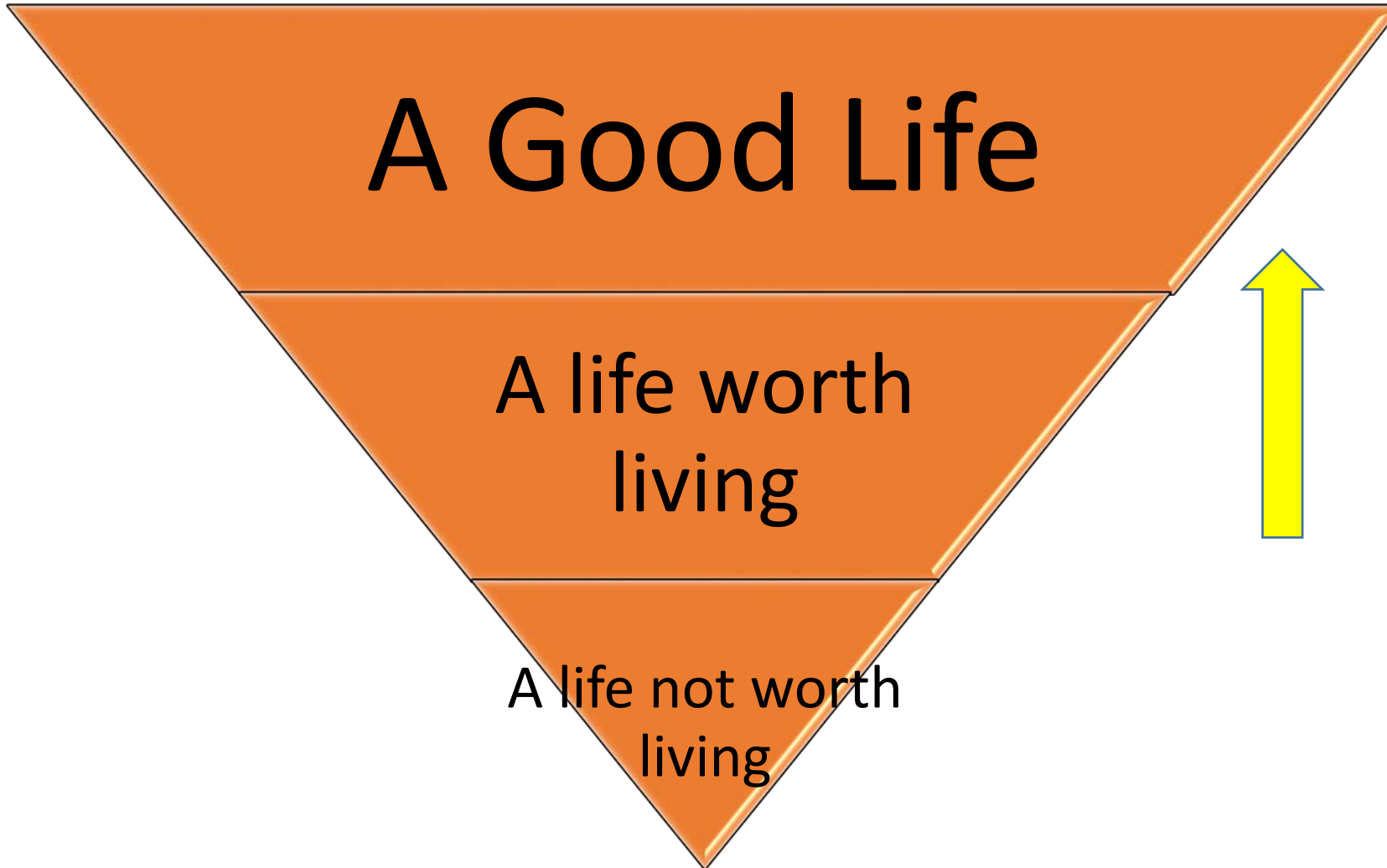
Equine Quality of Life





Be a Leader - Raising the Bar

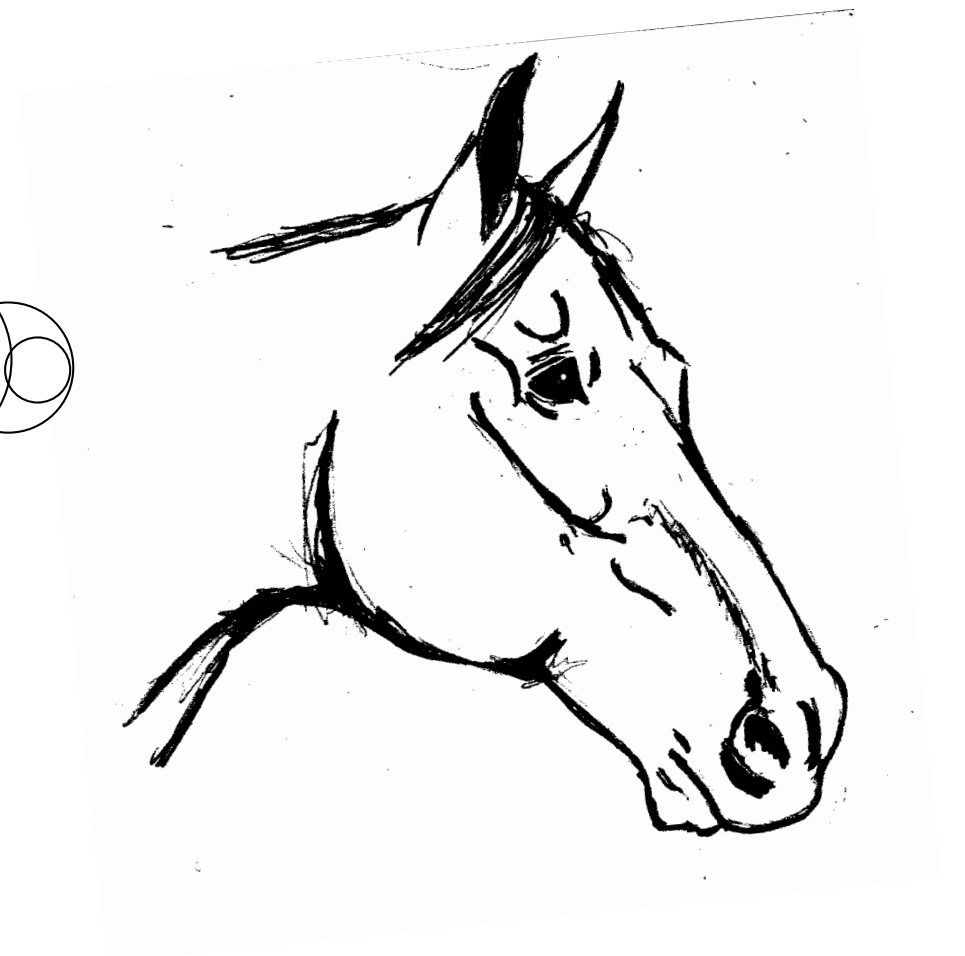
Defining and Promoting A Good Life for Horses



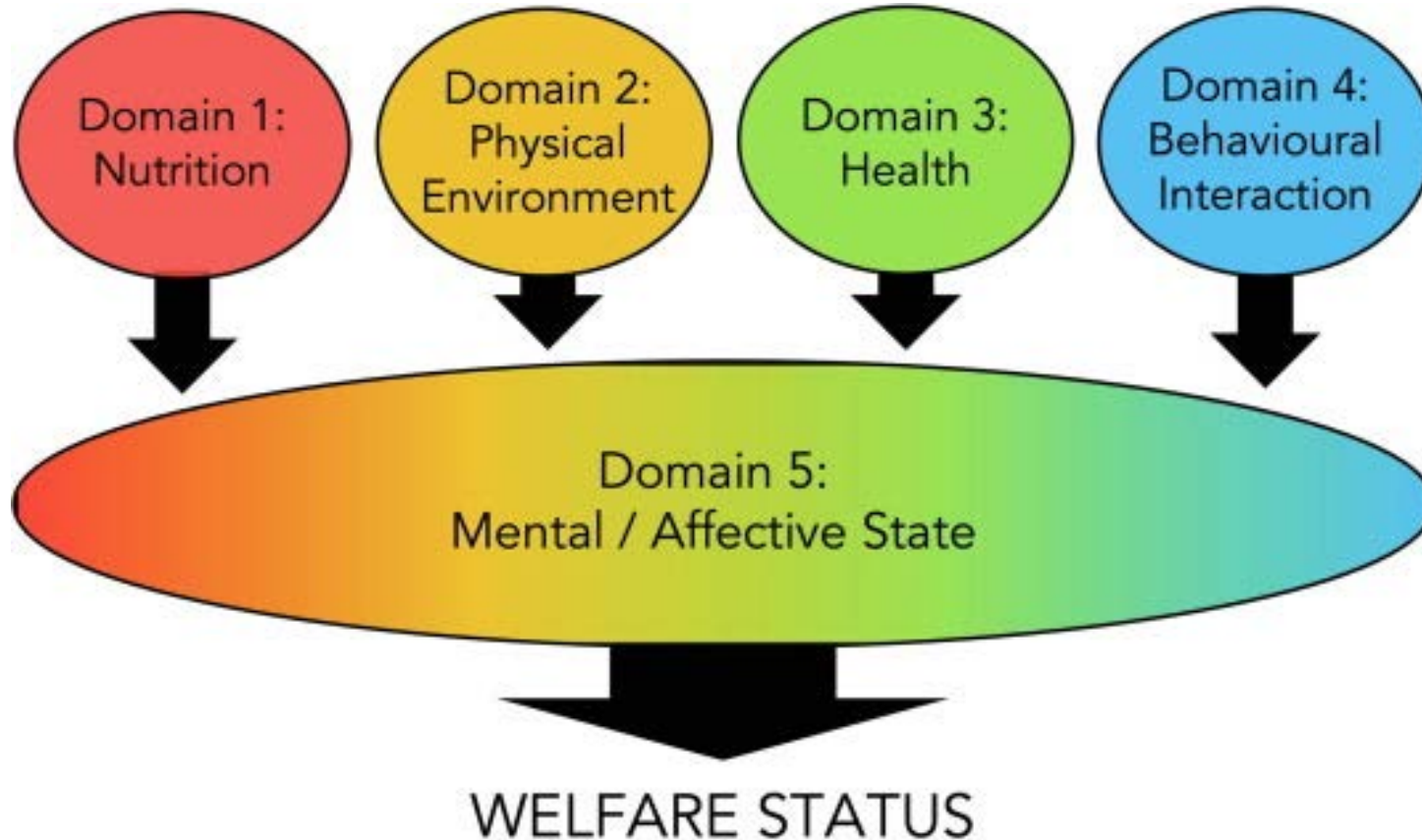


A Good Life

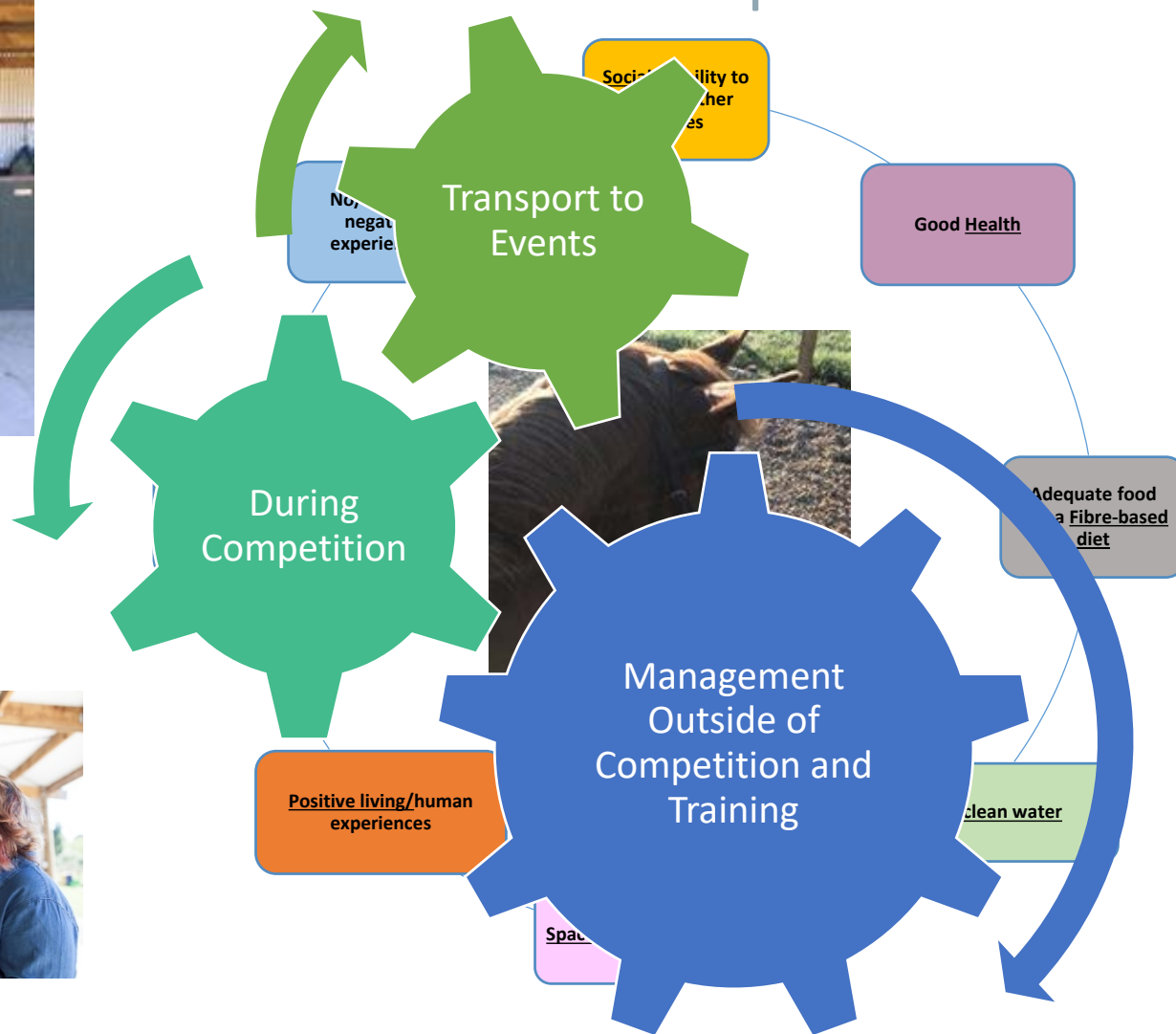
Horse Centric - *From the Horse's Point of View*



Assessing Equine Quality of Life using a *5 Domains approach* after Mellor et al

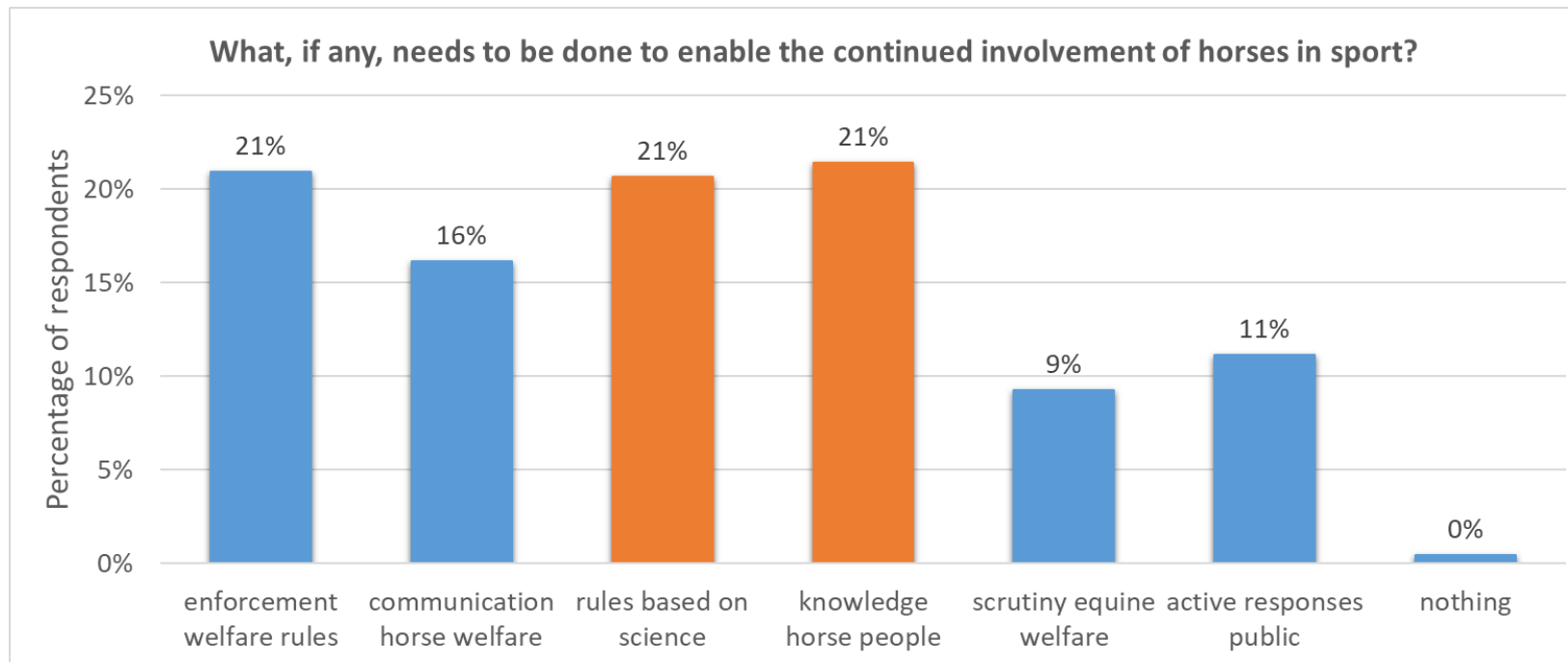


Defining a Good Life for Horses involved in Sport



Recommendation 4

Promote only ethical and evidence-based equestrianism. Ensure ongoing development of an understanding of the importance of utilising ethical, evidence-based practices in horse training, management and performance.

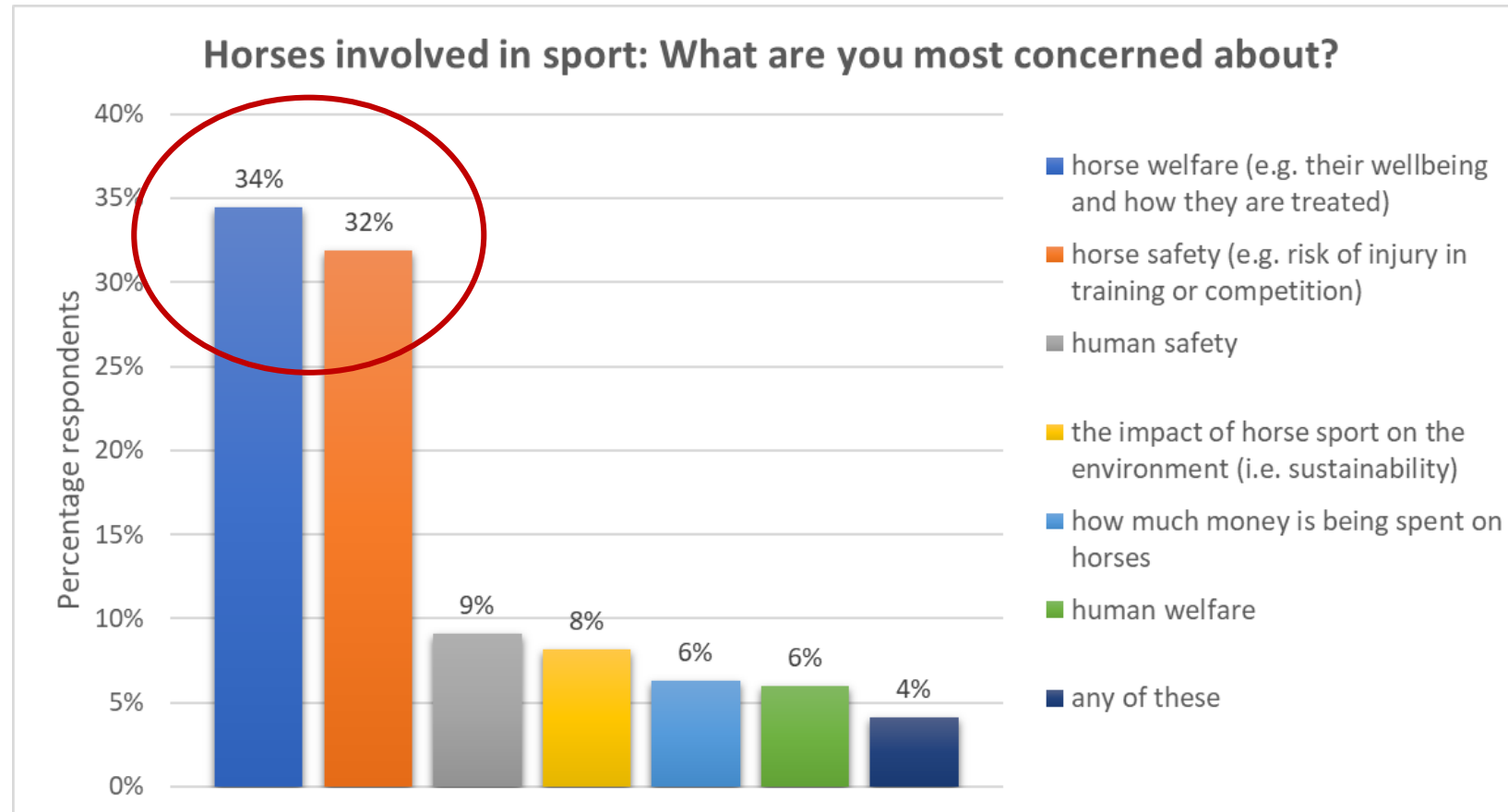


The use of evidence based knowledge is required by the equestrian community:

- *Rules based on science (21%)*
- *Knowledge of horse people (21%)*

Recommendation 5

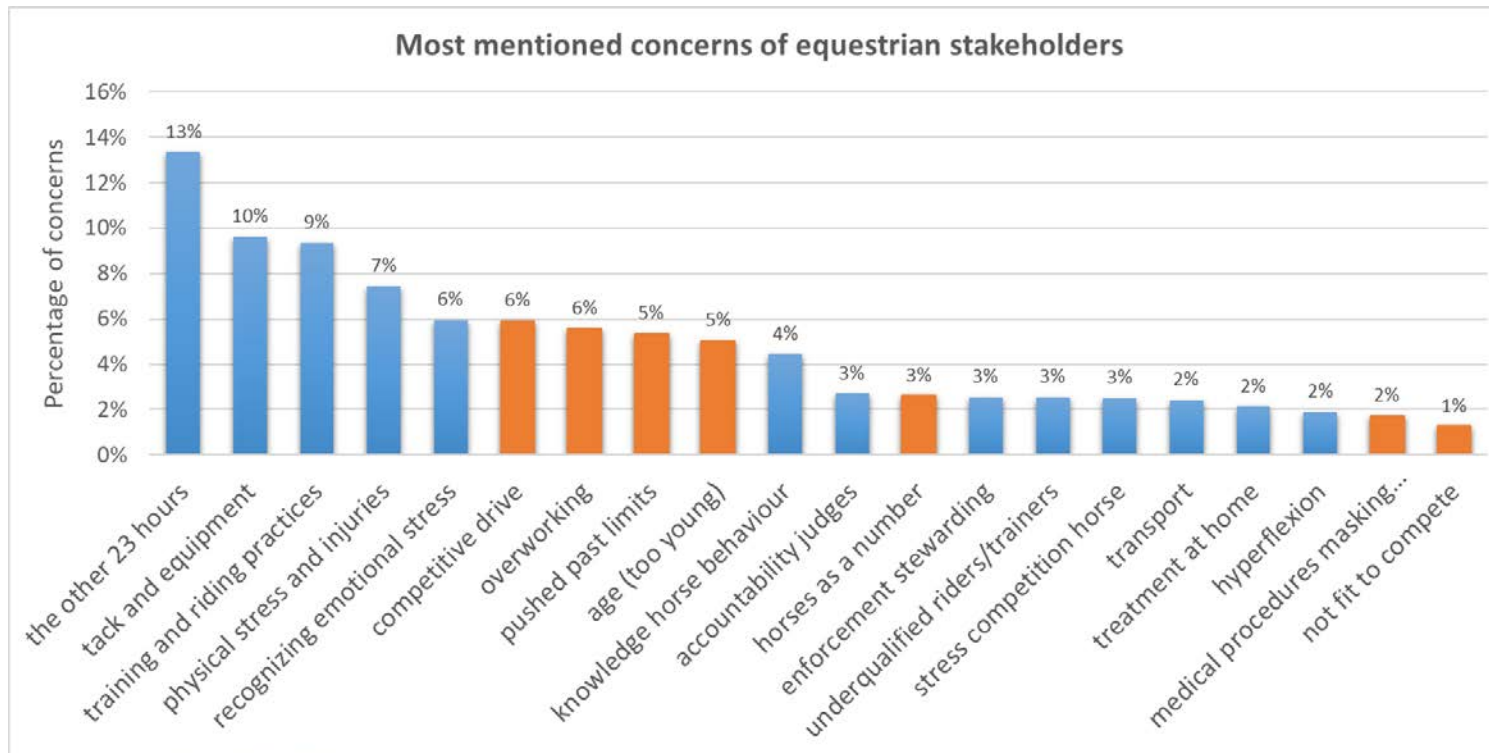
Ensure that the horse's interests are always placed before the interests of the human or sport, and celebrate equestrians who clearly place their horse's interests before their own.



*The **public** was very clear: they are concerned about the horse, not about human.*

Recommendation 5

Ensure that the horse's interests are always placed before the interests of the human or sport, and celebrate equestrians who clearly place their horse's interests before their own.



Equestrian stakeholders were concerned about the horse's interests being compromised in sport:

- **competitive drive** (commercial above horse welfare)
- horses being **overworked** or **overtrained**
- Horses **pushed past their limits**
- Horses started **too young** or going to higher level when still too young
- Horses used **as a number** not a living creature

2. The FEI will be Trusted



Objective: The FEI will embed equine welfare within its structure and ways of working to demonstrate its commitment to prioritising equine welfare in both policy and practice.

6 Recommendations:

1. Create an internal body/office as a *'voice for the horse'*
2. Be sure equine welfare is prioritised in decision making and practice
3. Adopt a transparent and evidence-based approach for assessing welfare impacts of new and existing Tack and Equipment
4. Establish a process for checks *'outside the competition'*
5. Ensure effective complaints process and whistle-blowing and empower equestrians as *'active bystanders'*
6. Ensure there is an effective zero tolerance policy

Be Trusted – ‘A Voice for the Horse’

Recommendation 6

Create an internal office solely concerned with ‘equine wellbeing’ to ensure that the horse’s interests are prioritised in decision making and practice.

Provides clear ‘agency’ for the horse

Ensures the horse’s interests can always be considered before any others

Demonstrates the FEI’s ongoing commitment to advancing equine welfare in sport

Ensures ongoing development in relation to new evidence

Provides global leadership through direct and indirect influence

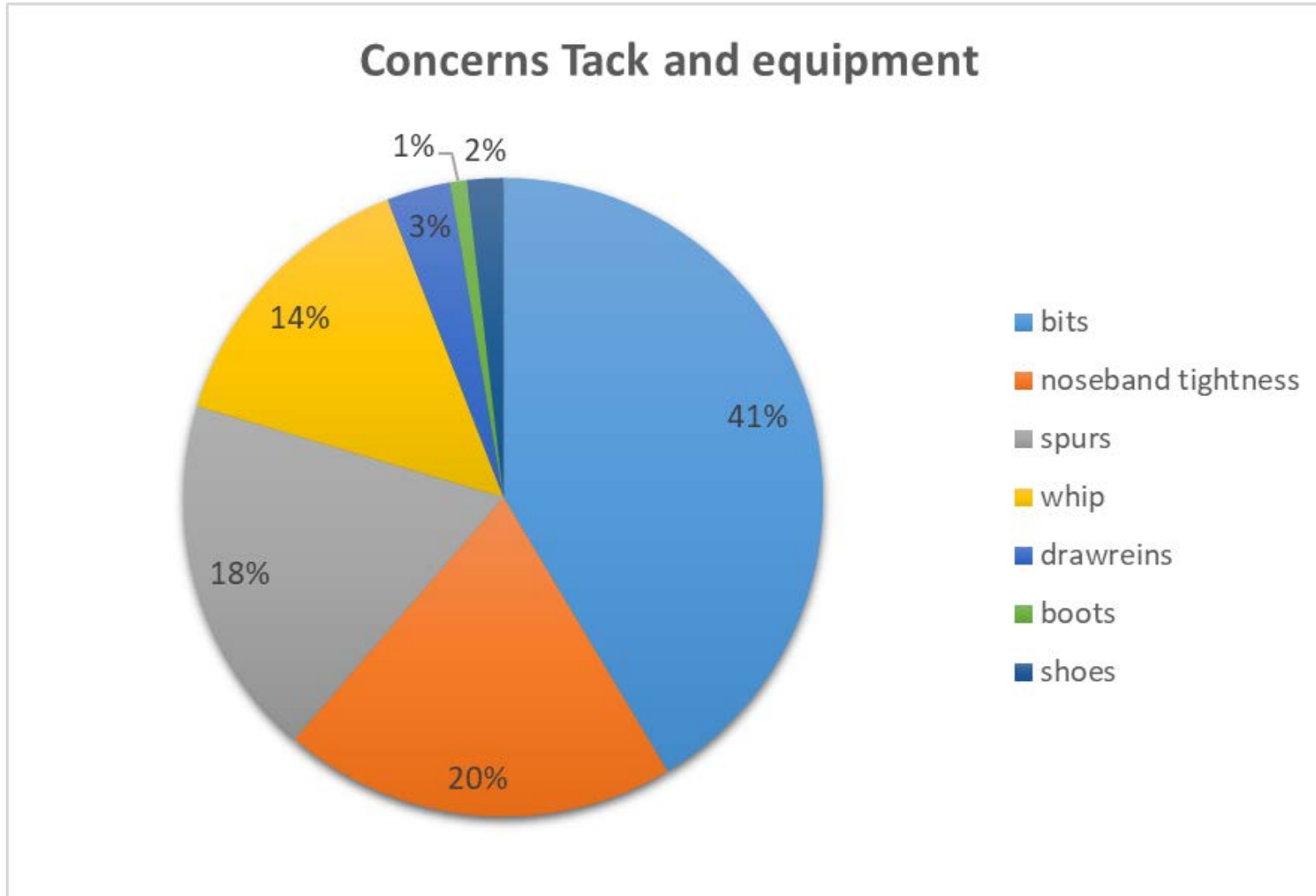
Recommendation 8

Adopt a transparent and evidence-based approach for assessing welfare impacts of new and existing Tack and Equipment



Training and riding practices & tack and equipment was the most important priority area of focus according to the equestrian community.

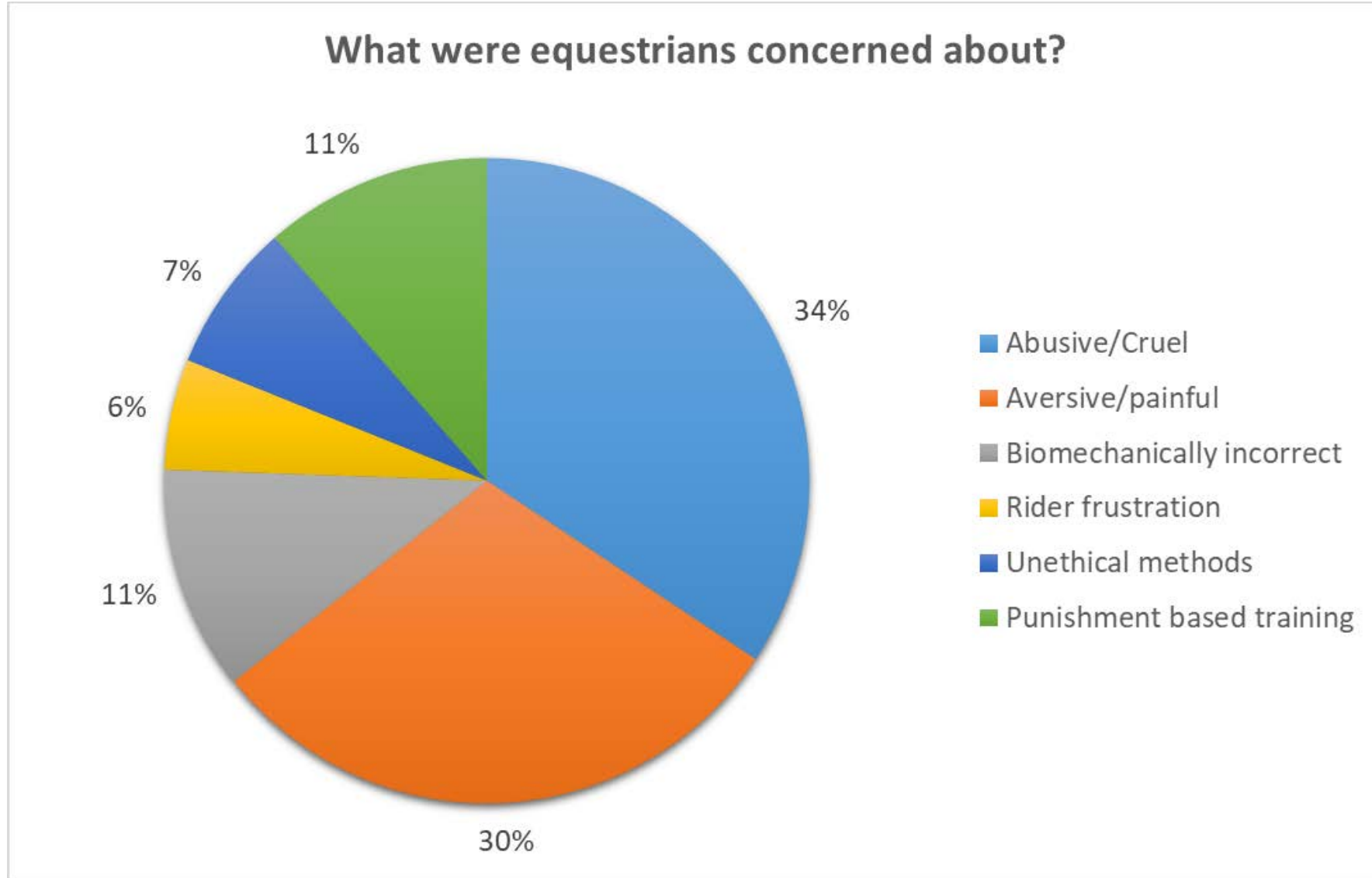
More specific concerns about Tack and Equipment



Recommendation 8 –
Adopt an evidence-based approach for regulating new and existing items of tack and equipment used in training and competition

The area of most concern within Tack & Equipment was bits, followed by noseband, spurs and whip

More specific concerns about Training and Riding practices



Be Trusted – *Outside of Competition:*

Recent Publication - Stakeholder group comments

Recommendation 9: Establish and implement a process for ensuring high standards of welfare and investigating risky practices for horses when **‘outside of competition’**

‘...welfare at competition is only one very small component of sport horses’ lives. This is problematic because yards are perceived as places that are entirely unregulated and mostly untouched by the rules of formal competition’

‘Competitions are a showcase—they’re what you see in the window, what the public sees. But what is happening before that at home and in training? That is more important.’

Extracted from **Furtado T**, Preshaw L, Hockenhull J, Wathan J, Douglas J, Horseman S, Smith R, Pollard D, Pinchbeck G, Rogers J, Hall C. **How Happy Are Equine Athletes?** Stakeholder Perceptions of Equine Welfare Issues Associated with Equestrian Sport. *Animals*. 2021; 11(11):3228. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11113228>

Stakeholder group comments – Equestrian respondents

Recommendation 9: Establish and implement a process for ensuring high standards of welfare and investigating risky practices for horses when **‘outside of competition’**

*“Concerned how competition horses are schooled **behind closed doors**”*

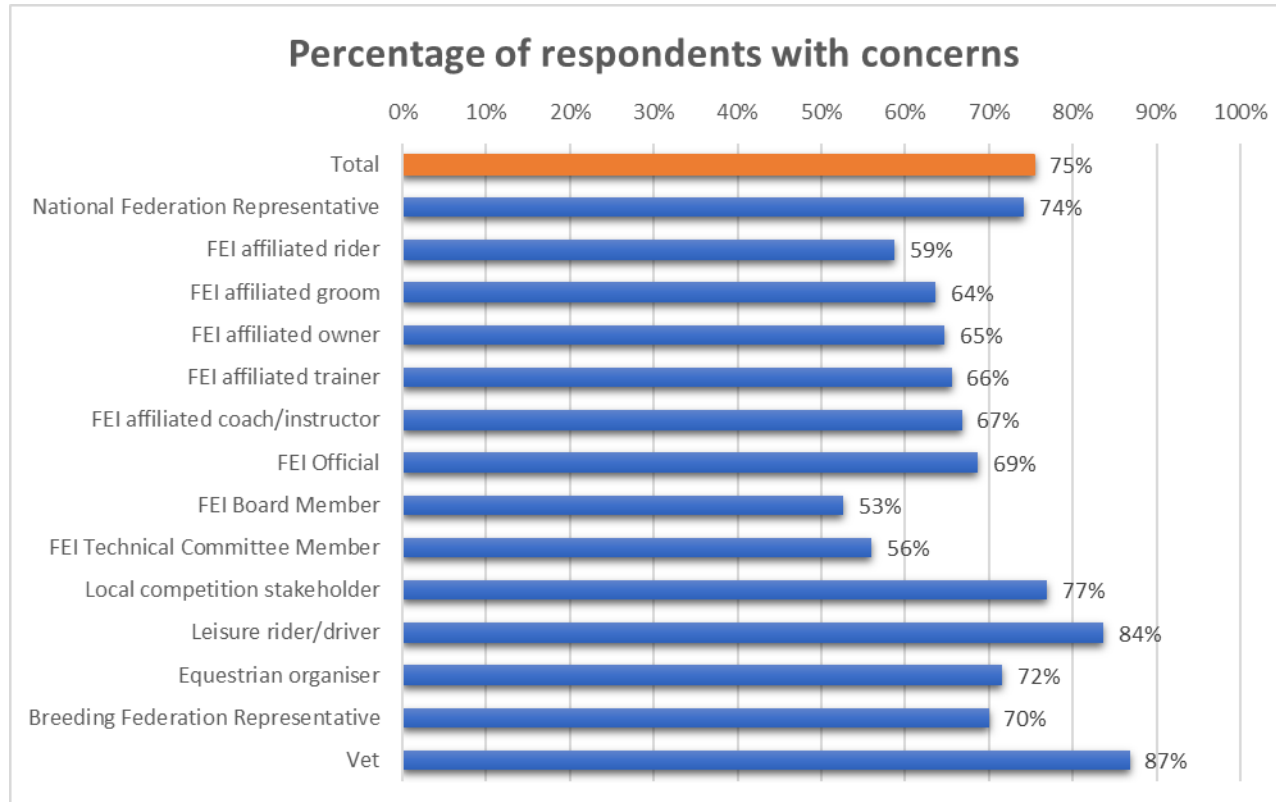
*“**Treatment at home** is the biggest problem as there is no-one watching”*

“Training methods at home, to compete better. For example hitting the horses’ legs with sticks to make them jump higher”

*“**What goes on behind the scenes** (especially after a bad day/ride)”*

Recommendation 10

Ensure the existing Equestrian Community Integrity Unit (ECIU) is trusted and supportive, and there is an effective ‘whistle-blowing’ process for dealing with all FEI related concerns/complaints concerning equine welfare in and out of competition. Empower FEI equestrians to be ‘Active Bystanders’ and to challenge bad practice when they see it.



*75% of the almost
28,000
equestrians had
concerns about
issues related to
horse welfare*

3. The FEI will be Transparent



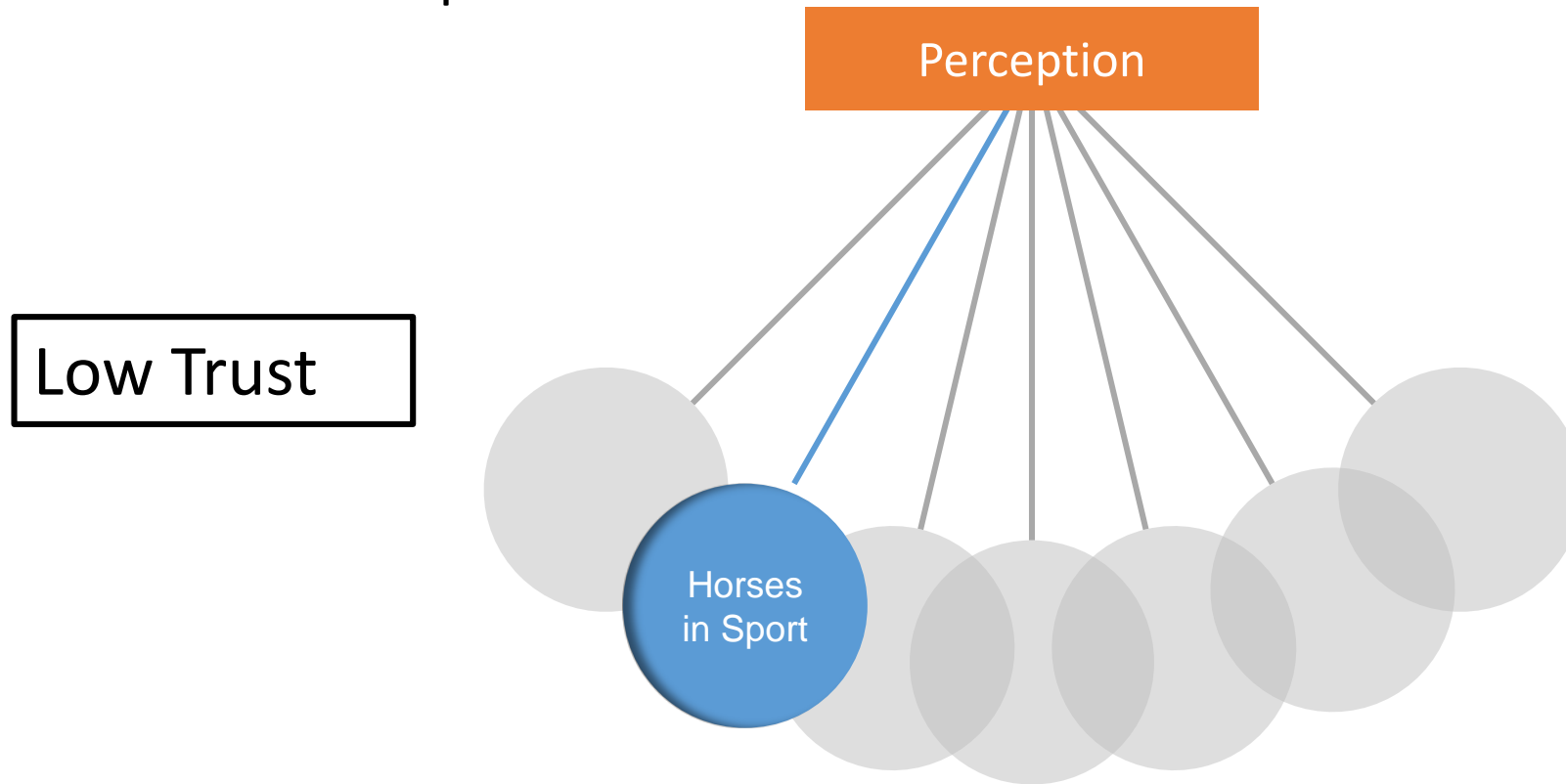
Objective: The FEI will validate its commitment to equine welfare by being proactive in how it communicates, engaging in dialogue and providing credible information.

5 Recommendations:

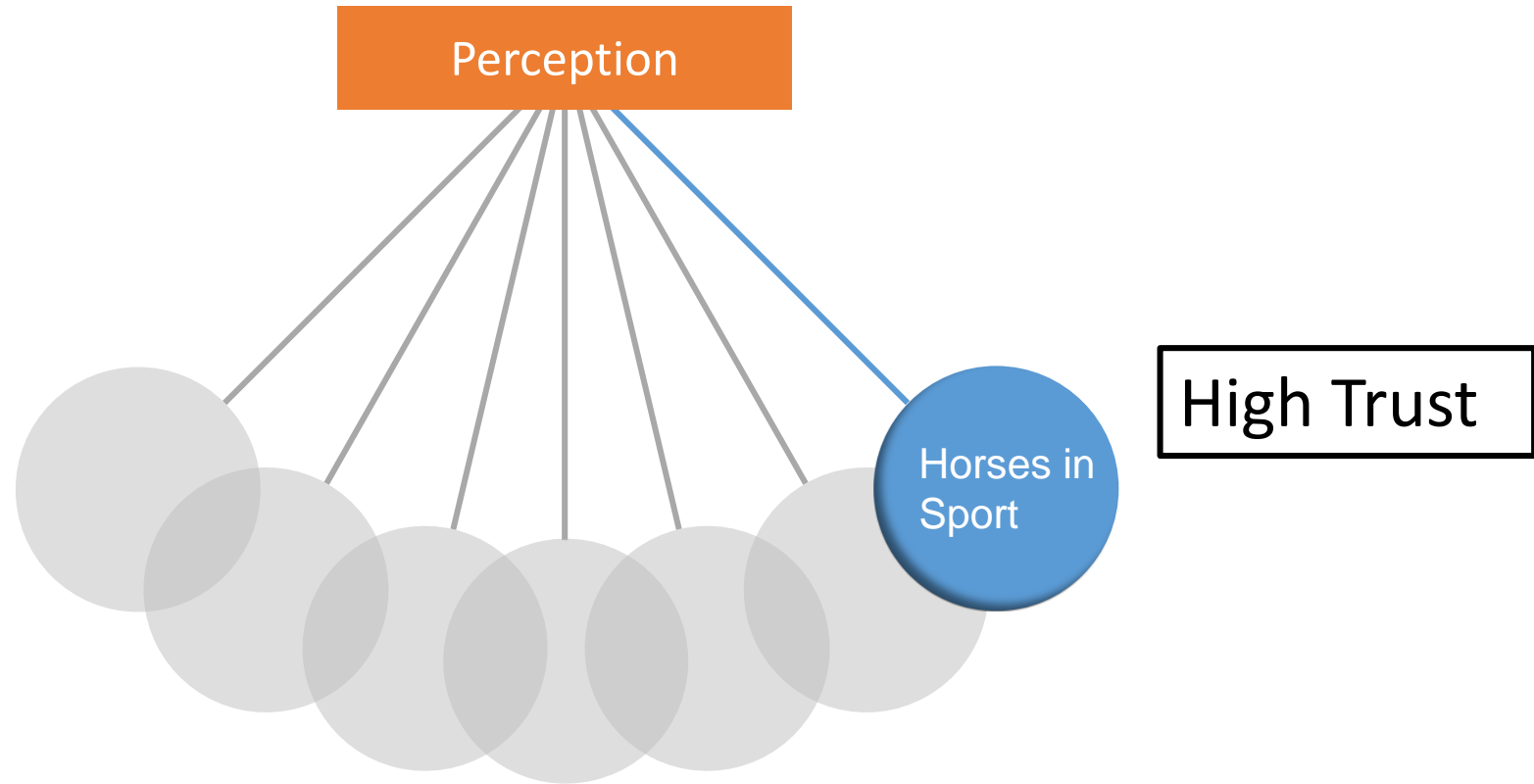
1. Proactively engage with the Public (including all equestrian stakeholders)
2. Use welfare–centric approach/language for describing equine-human interaction in sport
3. Develop Ethics and Wellbeing Position Statements for consistency and shared understanding of standards
4. Monitor SLO, measure progress and pro-actively address any concerns
5. Require collection and publication of lifecycle data for all competition horses

Recommendation 12.

Proactively and positively engage with the public (including equestrian stakeholders) in matters related to equine welfare.



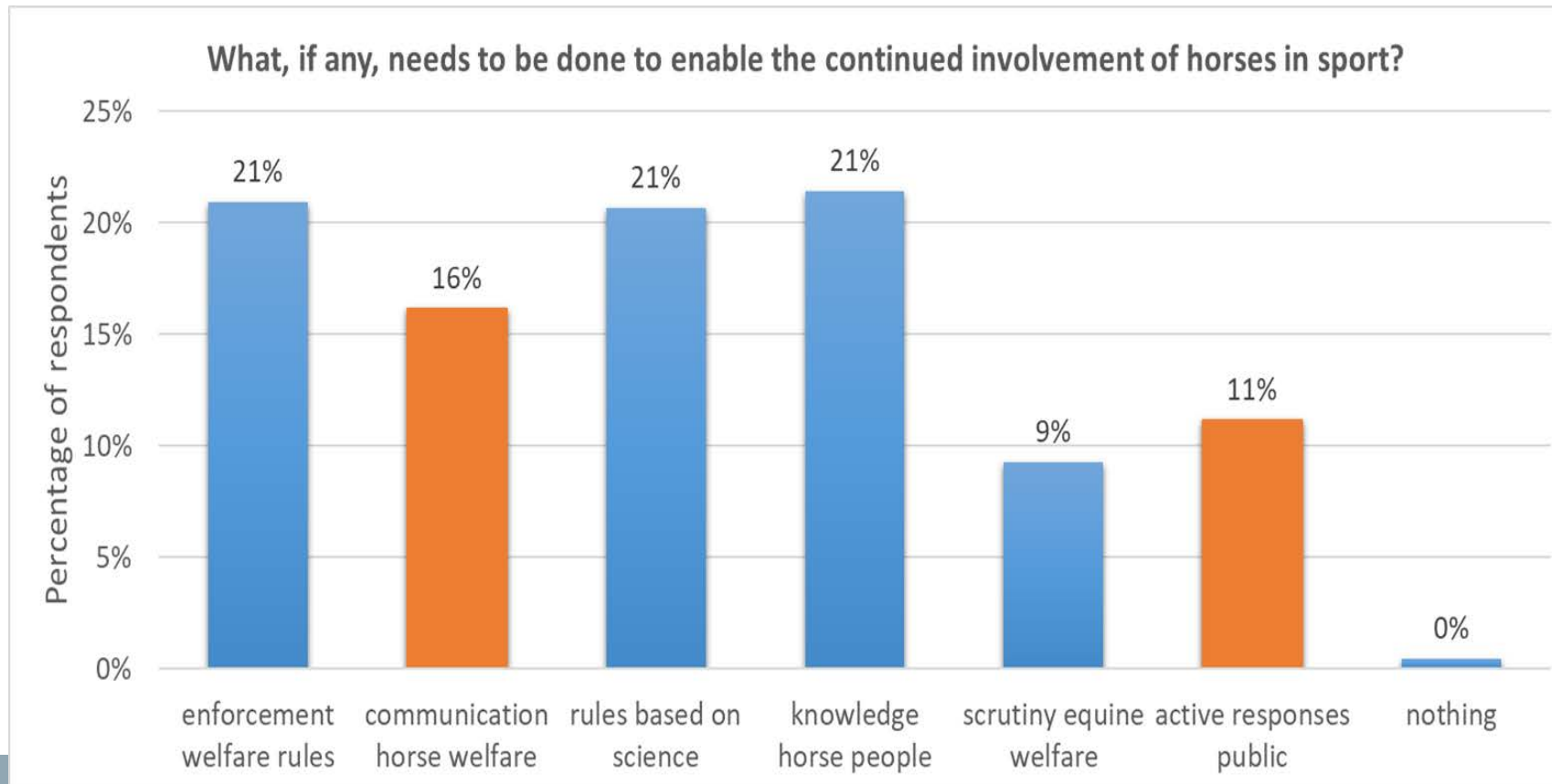
Positive influencers – Positive Engagement



Be Transparent

Recommendation 12.

Proactively and positively engage with the public (including equestrian stakeholders) in matters related to equine welfare.



This figure illustrates the importance of communication about horse welfare and active responses to the public to enable the continued involvement of horses in sport

What do the Public want to know about?

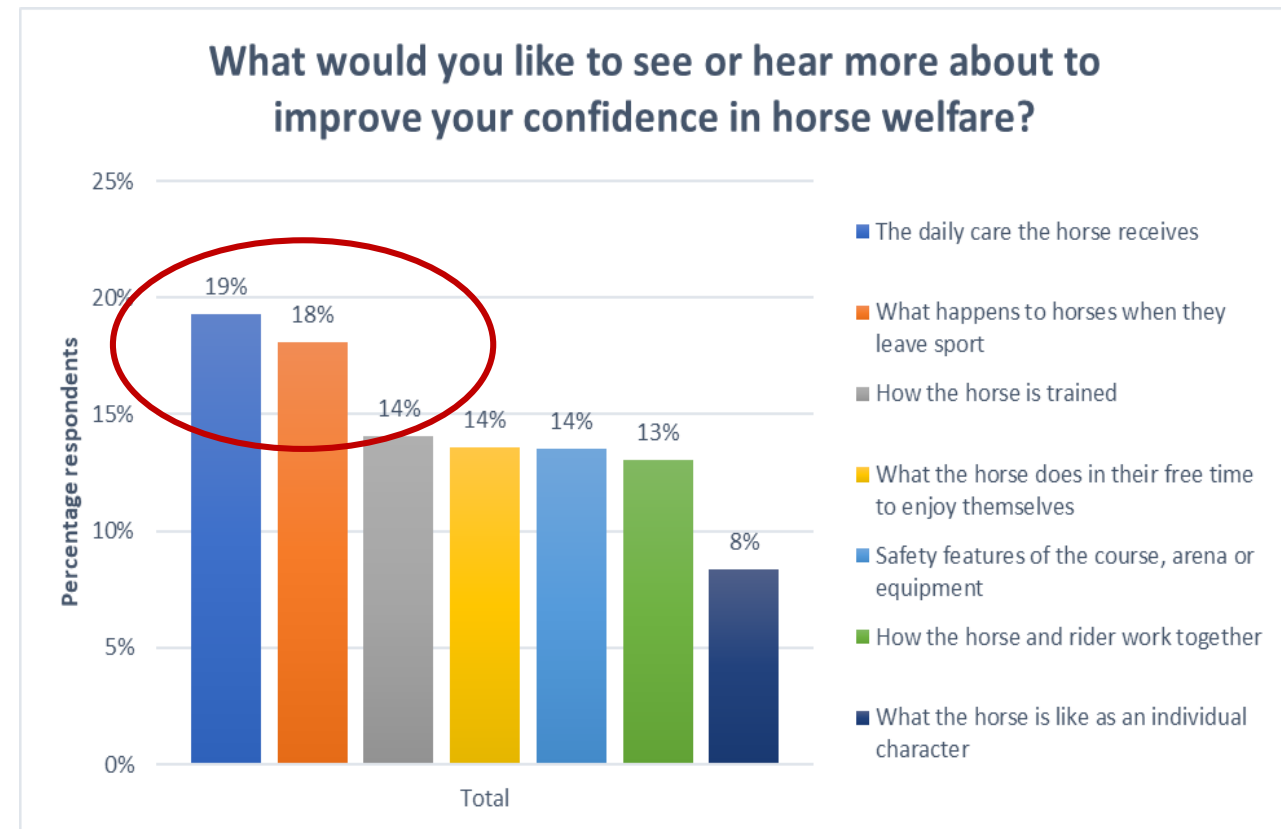
- *How horses are cared for/trained on a daily basis*
- *What happens to horses when they leave the sport*

Recommendation 12

Proactively and positively engage with the public.

Recommendation 16

Require mandatory collection and publication of comprehensive lifecycle information (birth to death health/travel/event attendance/ownership/performance records) and injury statistics for horses involved in sport, alongside a trusted identification registration and traceability system.

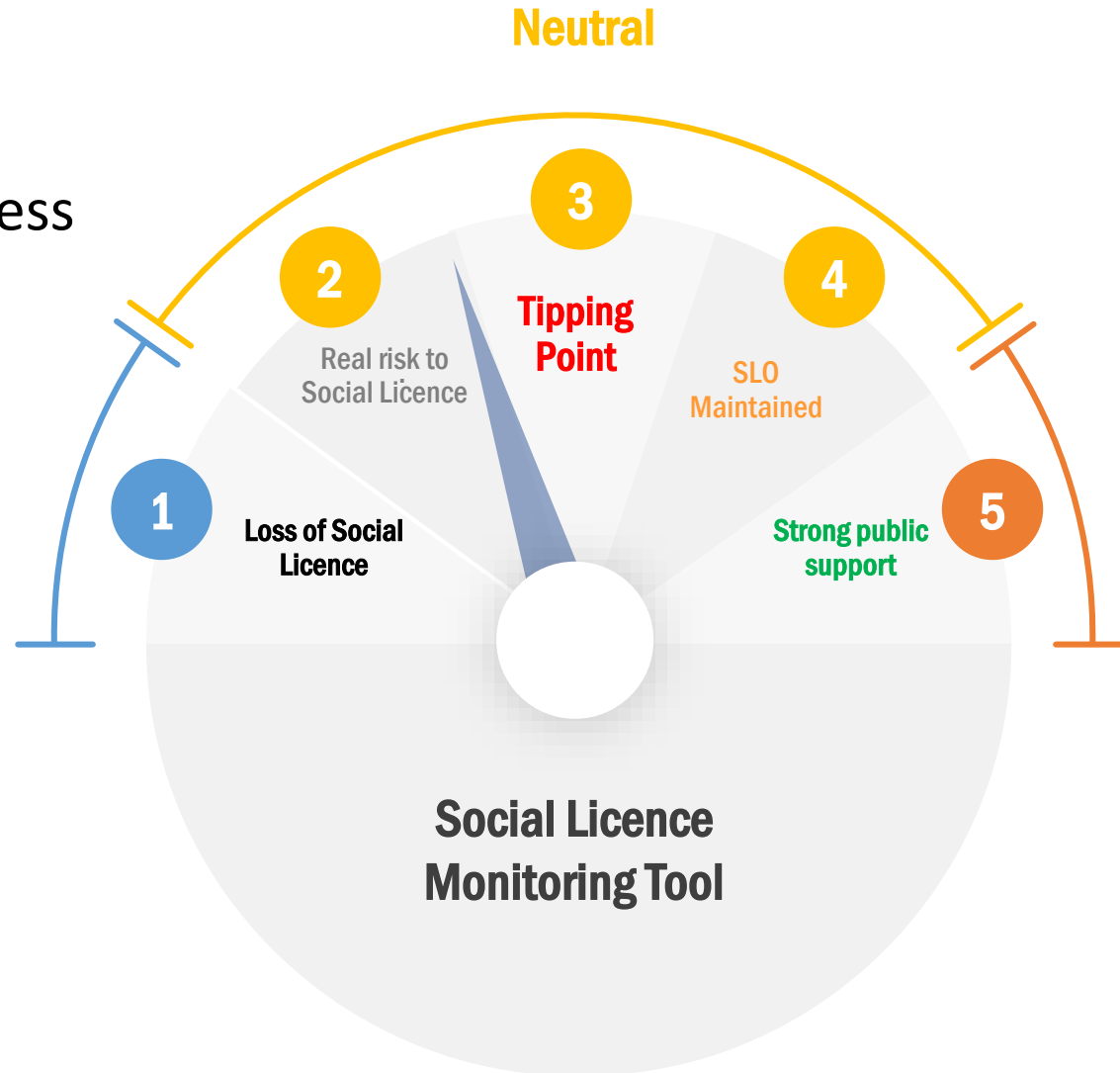


The FEI will be transparent

Recommendation 15

Regularly monitor public opinion, identify areas of concern and measure progress against agreed objectives.

Negative



Positive

4. The FEI will be ProActive

Objective: The FEI must be prepared to challenge the status quo and demonstrate a dynamic path of action towards achieving the highest standards of equine welfare, taking their stakeholders with them.



6 Recommendations:

- 1. Ensure all FEI Equestrians commit to the Equestrian Charter*
- 2. Update the FEI Code of Conduct to reflect the 'Good Life for Horses' Strategy*
- 3. Develop a plan for addressing the 6 priority areas of focus*
- 4. Establish core equine ethics and wellbeing education programme*
- 5. Empower Officials for effective enforcement and make them more accountable*
- 6. Consider transport and recommend acceptable journey frequency and lengths*

Be ProActive - The Equestrian Charter

The FEI Equestrian Charter

Equine welfare involves the physical, psychological, social and environmental well-being of the horse, and all horses involved in sport and leisure activities should be able to live a good life. The FEI requires all those involved in sport involving horses adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct, and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount by pledging to the FEI **Equestrian Charter**.

1. I understand that it is a privilege to involve horses in sport and this comes with responsibilities to the horse.
2. I commit to respecting the horse as a sentient creature capable of feeling both positive and negative emotions, and to ensuring its welfare is always my priority.
3. I undertake to continually develop my understanding of horse behaviour and welfare needs, and to proactively use this knowledge to provide a good life for horses with which I am involved.

Name _____

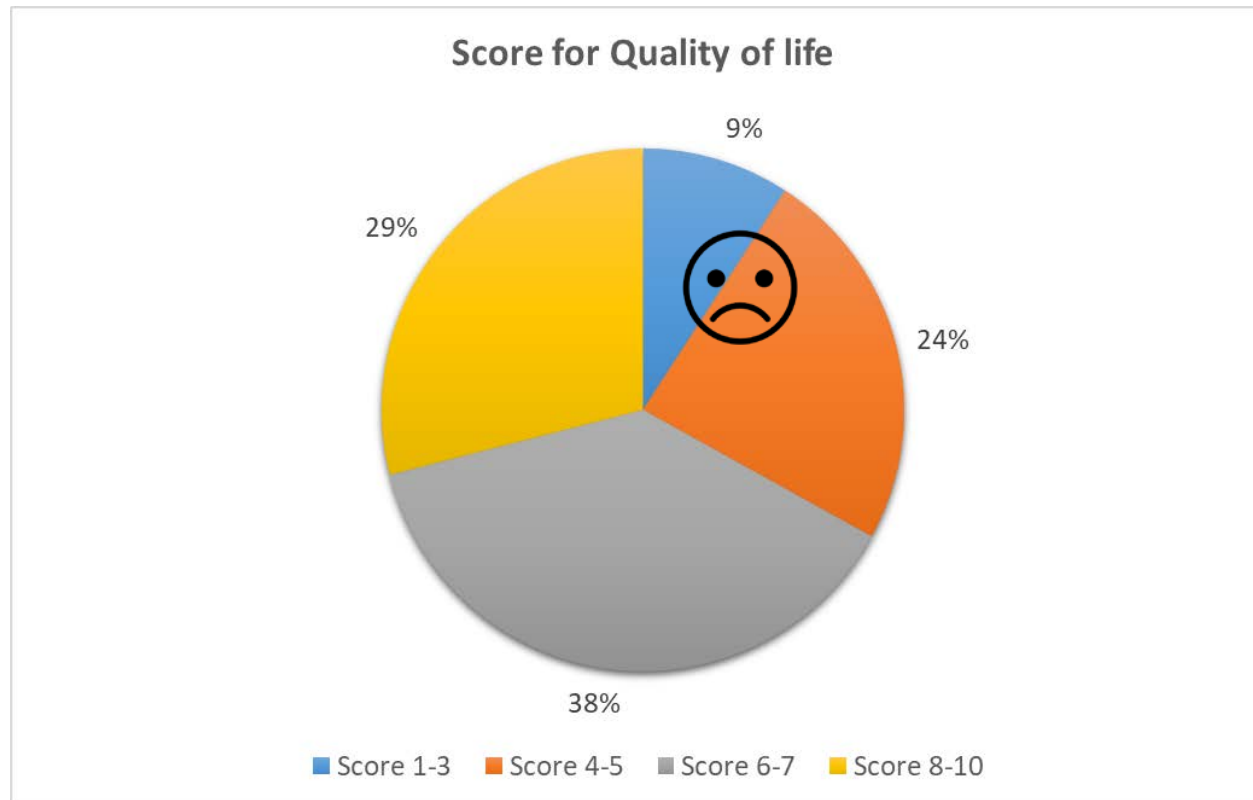
Signature _____

- A clear commitment to the horse, to understanding and carrying out our responsibilities and being accountable for our horses' welfare.

- **What: I Understand my responsibility**
- **Who: I Commit to the horse**
- **How: I Undertake to provide a Good Life for horses**

Recommendation 18

Update the FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse to reflect the FEI's commitment to ensuring all horses have 'A Good Life', underpin the FEI Equestrian Charter, and to define what 'A Good Life' means in relation to the management and working life of horses.



This figure shows that not all equestrians think horse quality of life is sufficient (33% think it is insufficient).

Be ProActive

Recommendation 19

Develop a roadmap to address six priority areas of focus

2023

'A Good Life for Horses'

FEI will develop and Promote the FEI Equine Wellbeing Strategy, *(including Implementation and Communication Plan)*

Strengthen Social Licence

FEI

Equine Welfare
is Paramount



Be ProActive – Use ‘Six Strategic Enablers’ to address the Key Priority Areas of focus



Evidence:

Improving credibility through being research led



Education:

Promoting effective knowledge transfer to ensure optimised standards of equine wellbeing



Engagement:

Requiring transparency, through clear and timely communication



Effective Regulation:

Safe-guarding equine welfare especially where there may be competing agendas



Enforcement:

Ensuring clear understanding of the rules and effective compliance by all involved with sports horses

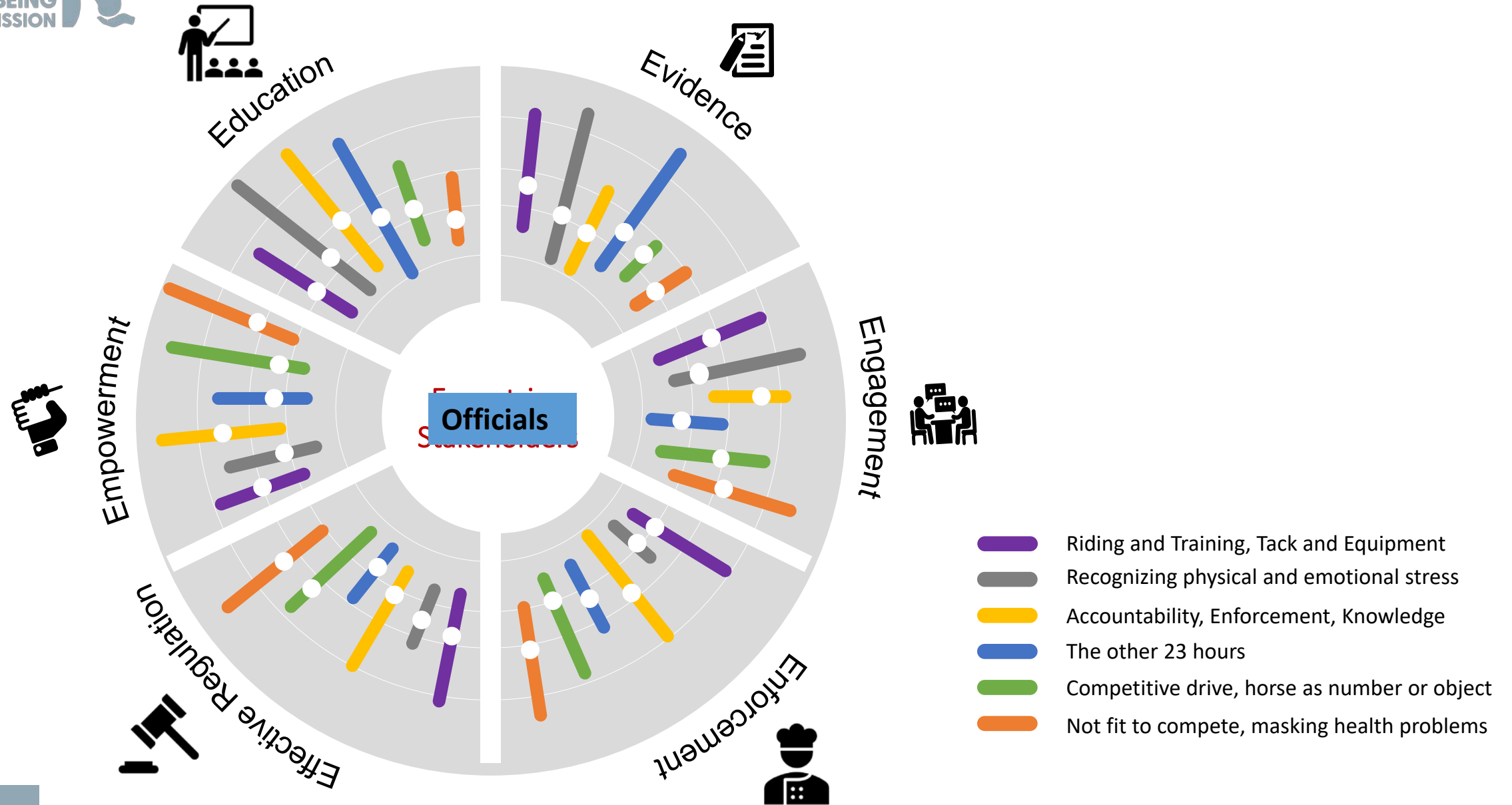


Empowerment:

Promoting a culture of personal responsibility for equine welfare and wellbeing

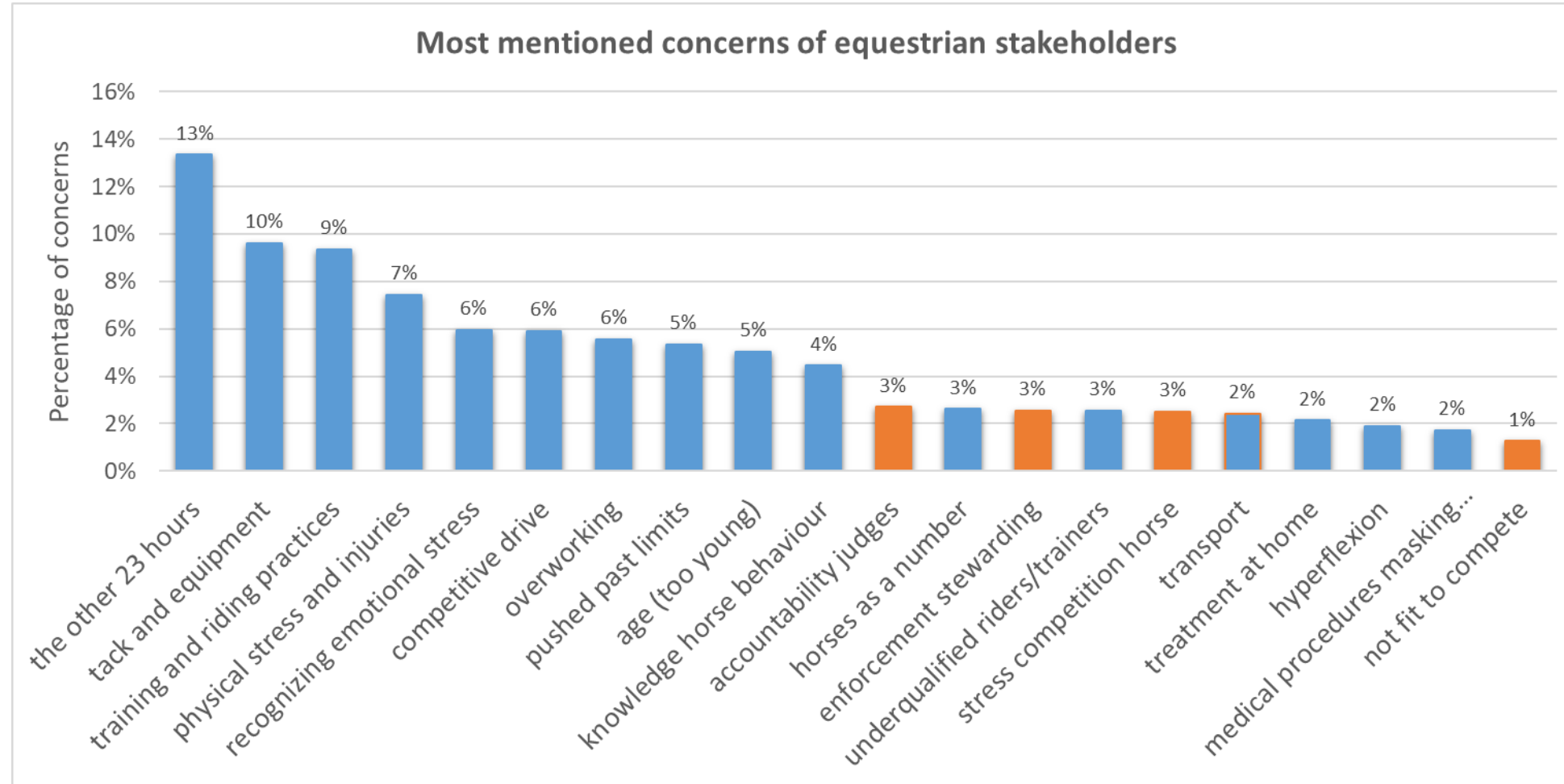
FEI Support / Strong National Federation and International Equestrian Stakeholder Engagement
/ Knowledge of Equine Ethics and Welfare / Consideration of Public Opinion

Be ProActive – Set Goals and Monitor Progress



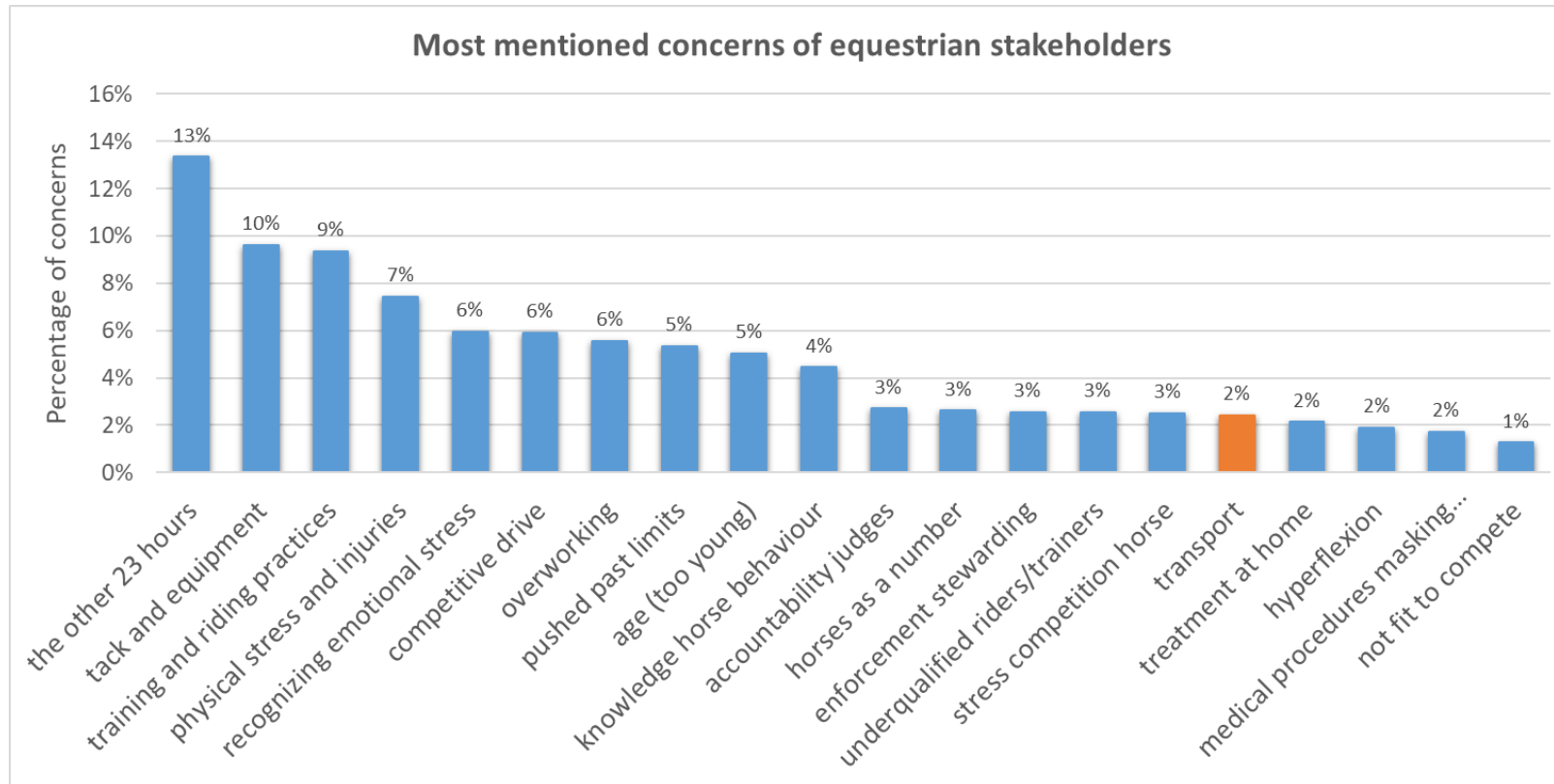
Recommendation 21

Empower officials to ensure welfare is paramount, through improved mandatory training and ongoing professional development, greater support for ensuring effective enforcement and more accountability for achieving high standards of individual horse welfare at all times at an event.



Recommendation 22

Recommend evidence based acceptable transport frequency and journey length for ensuring the welfare of competition horses and sustainability of the sport.



This figure shows that 2.4% of all concerns mentioned were about transport including frequency and length of travelling

5. The FEI will be Accountable

Objective: The FEI will achieve higher standards of welfare and earn trust more sustainably by inviting external scrutiny.



2 Recommendations:

1. Implement additional 'fit to compete' checks using trained professionals and FEI officials
2. Establish a permanent Independent Advisory Committee to act as a 'critical friend regarding matters of equine welfare

The FEI will be Accountable

Open to independent Evaluation



Recommendation 23

Implement additional checks by trained professionals and officials to ensure horses are always *'Fit to Compete'* by investing in more extensive and stricter health and welfare monitoring pre and post competition to prevent horses entering the competition arena if experiencing pain and/or stress.

The FEI will be Accountable

Stakeholder group comments – Equestrian respondents

“Pain indicators in horses are ignored by the judges”

“Promoting combinations demonstrating clear violations of kind/correct training”

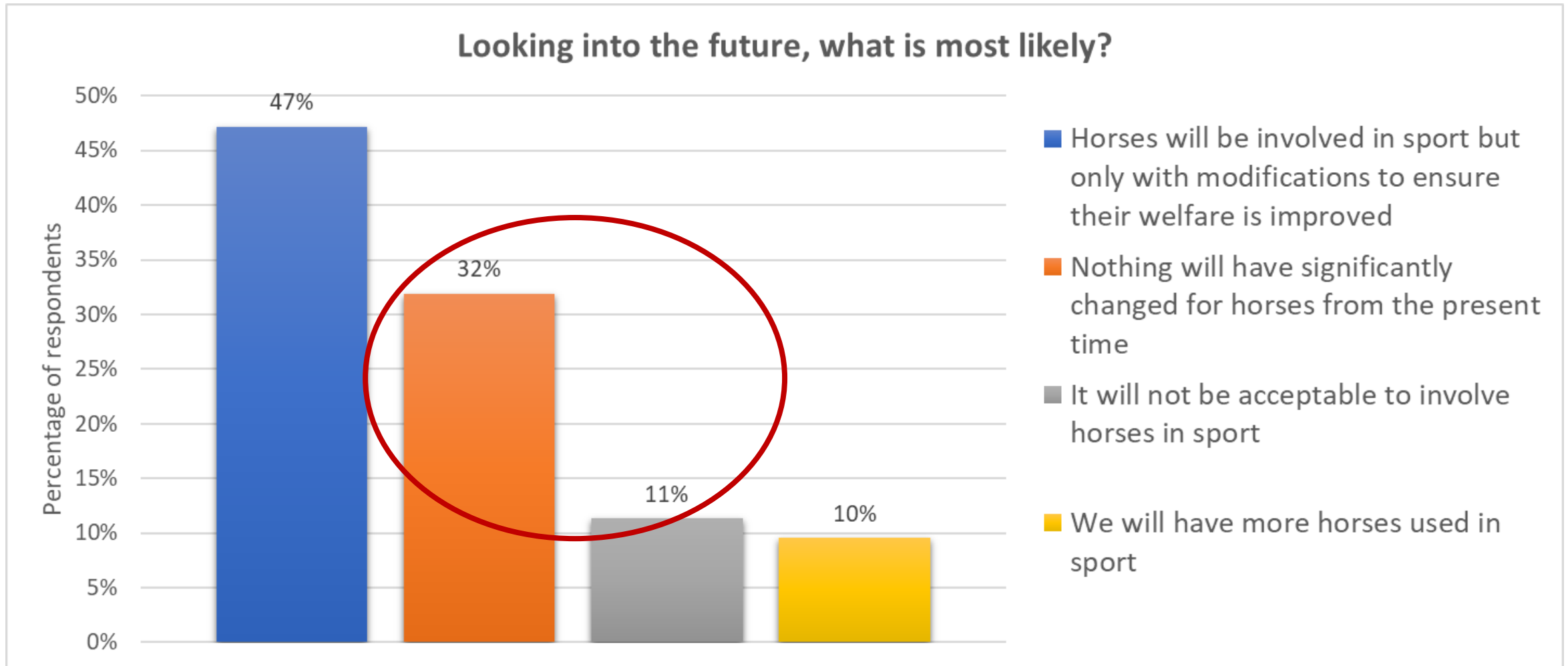
“Unhealthy conformation and movements are prized”

“Judges biased and scoring favorites higher, even for poorer tests”

“Officials feeling pressured to allow ‘horses not fit to compete’ start in a competition”

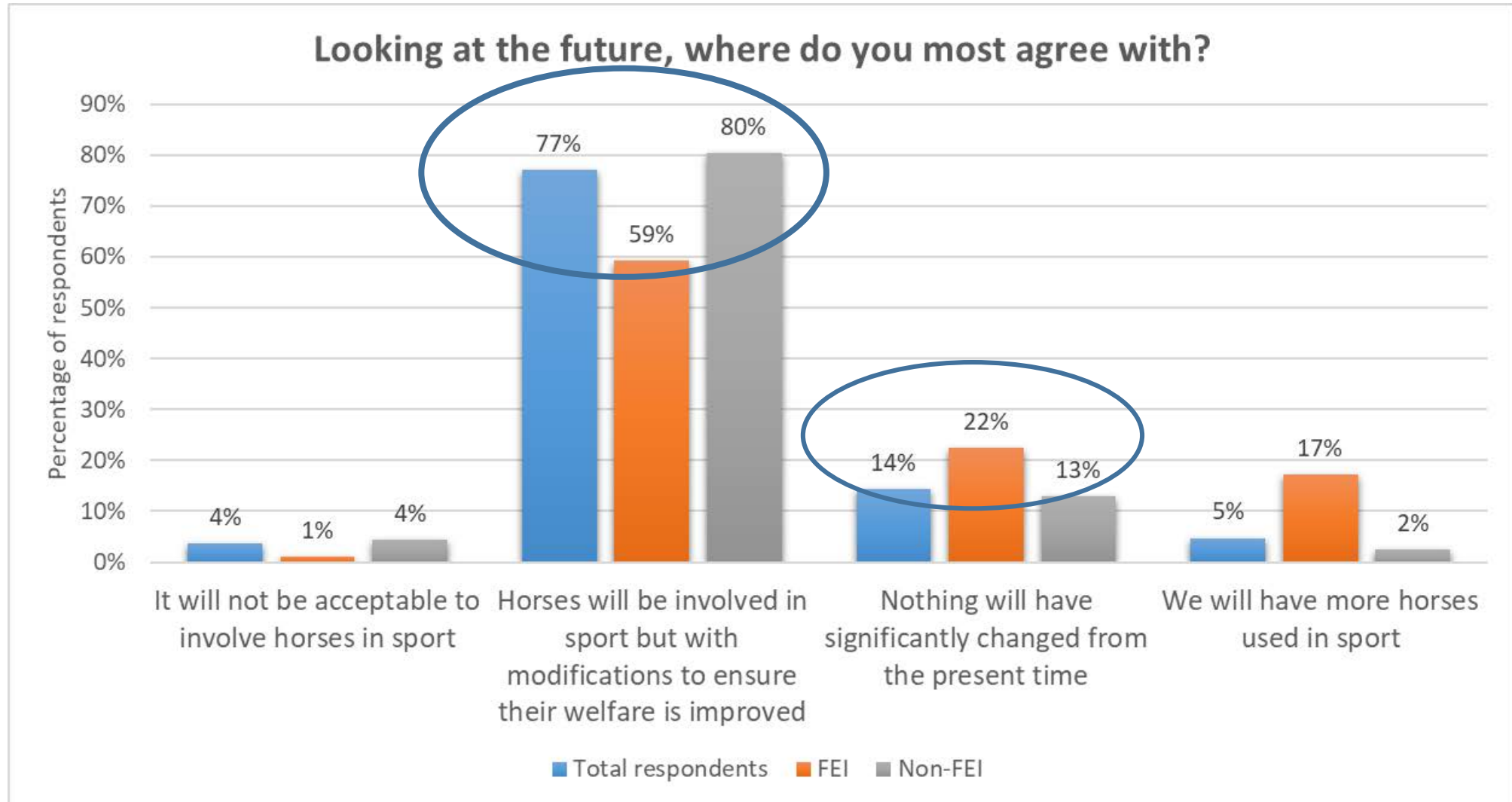
The FEI will be Accountable

Recommendation 24: Looking to the Future - *Regular monitoring of SLO*



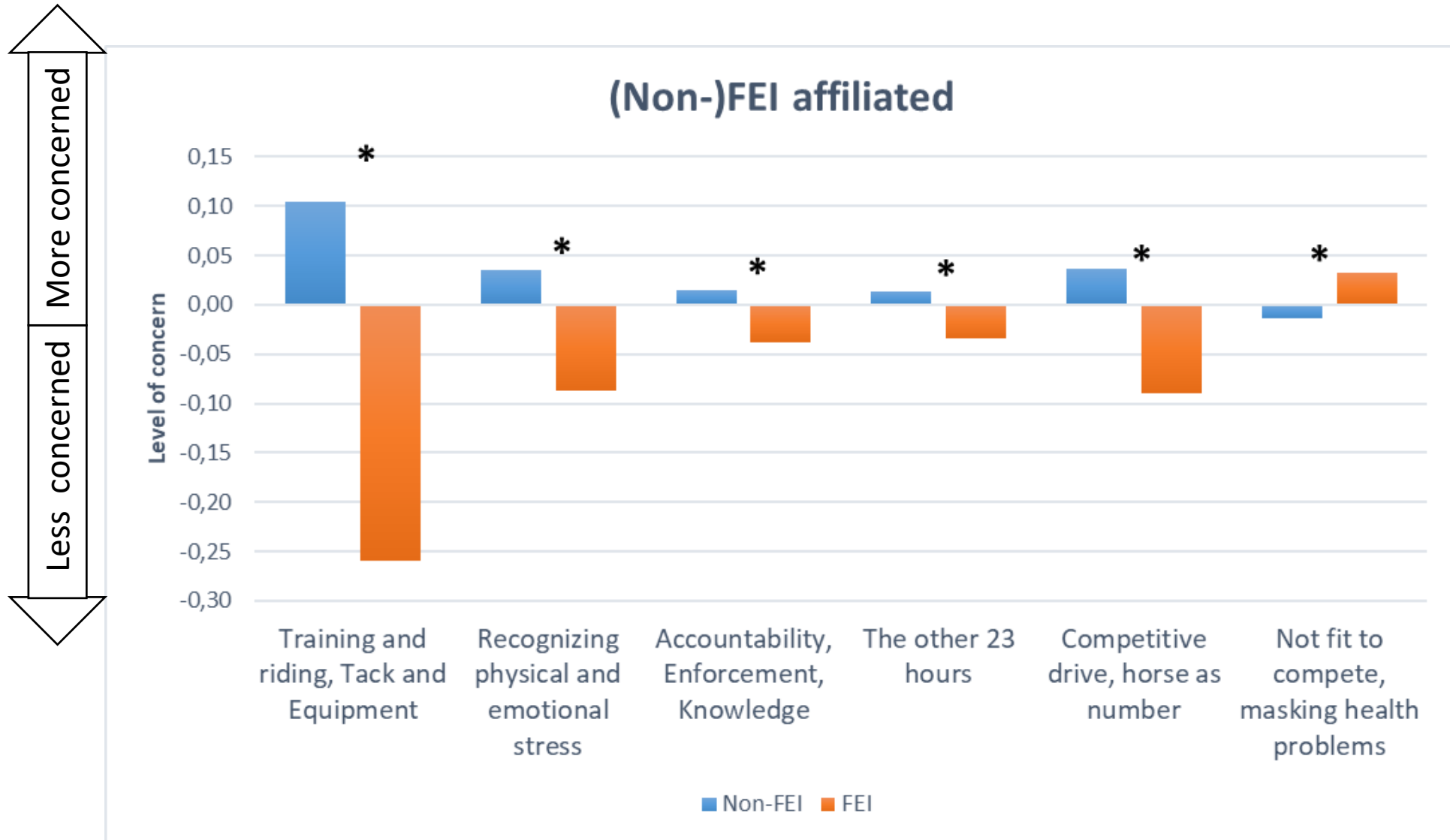
The FEI will be Accountable

Recommendation 24: Looking to the Future - *Regular monitoring of SLO*



Be Open to independent evaluation

Social Licence cannot be self awarded

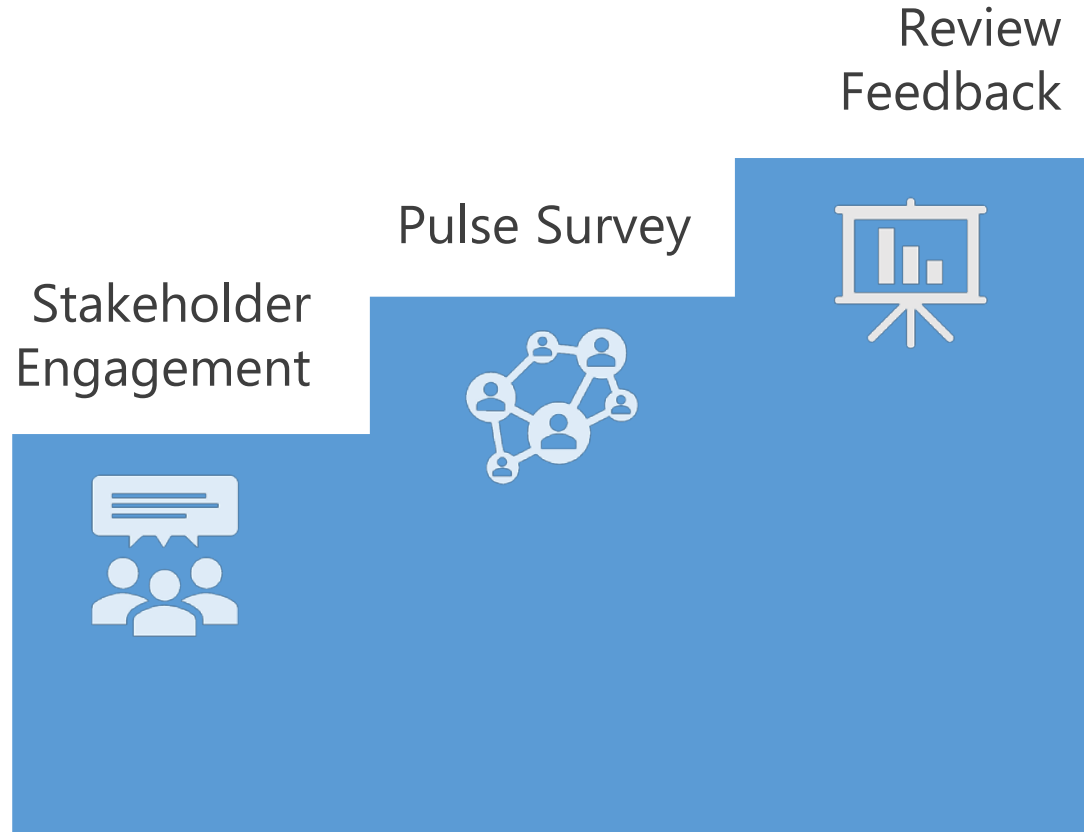


Everyone is responsible for the future of equestrian sports. All equestrians need to optimize and prioritize equine welfare and be seen to be doing so

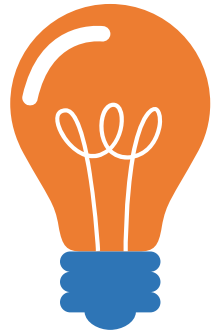
Equine Stakeholders



Commission – Next Steps (Phase 3)



April – July 2023



Finalise
Report for
FEI Board



November 2023

Public Attitudes on the Use of Horses in Sport: Survey Report (November 2022)



Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission

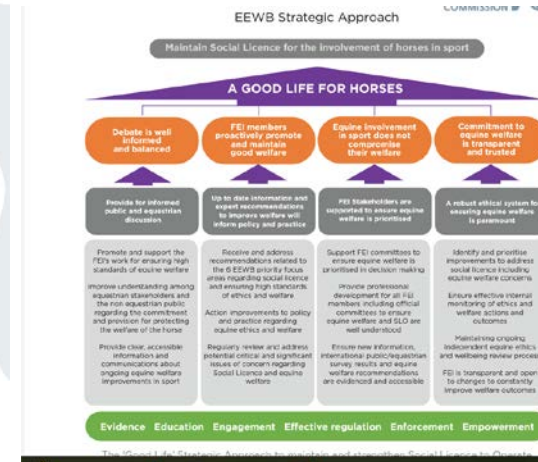
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Opinions of Equestrian Stakeholders on the use of Horses in Sport: Survey Report (November 2022)

What is the Equine Ethics and Wellbeing Commission?

equinewellbeing.fei.org





Thank you

We are grateful to **all** who have generously provided us with support and help in carrying out the Commission's work.



Thank you