



Vaulting Seminar – Salzburg 3-5 November 2023

Veterinary Rules and processes

# FEI Veterinary Department – Reminder



Equine Welfare



Fair Play



Public Perception

# Equine Welfare



Meeting biological & behavioural needs within the context of equestrian sport



# Key element – Horse Inspections

- **Purpose – assessment of fitness to compete**
  - General condition
  - Injury or illness that might become worse and/or cause pain and/or suffering?
  - Social Licence to Operate (SLO)
- **Conducted by Inspection Panel consisting of VD or VC and one member of the GJ**
- **GJ takes decision based on advice from VD/VC**



# Horse Inspection

## Performed by an Inspection Panel

- No more than 24 hours before the start of competition in all disciplines
- Common sense approach to fitness and safety
- Holding Box for doubtful cases



# Horse Inspection Area

- Firm, level, clean and non-slippery surface
- Minimum 30m (outdoors) & 25m (indoors)
- Barrier between Horse Inspection area and public
- Collecting area
- Holding Box area
- Stewarding
- Timetable and order of presentation of horses
- Public address system



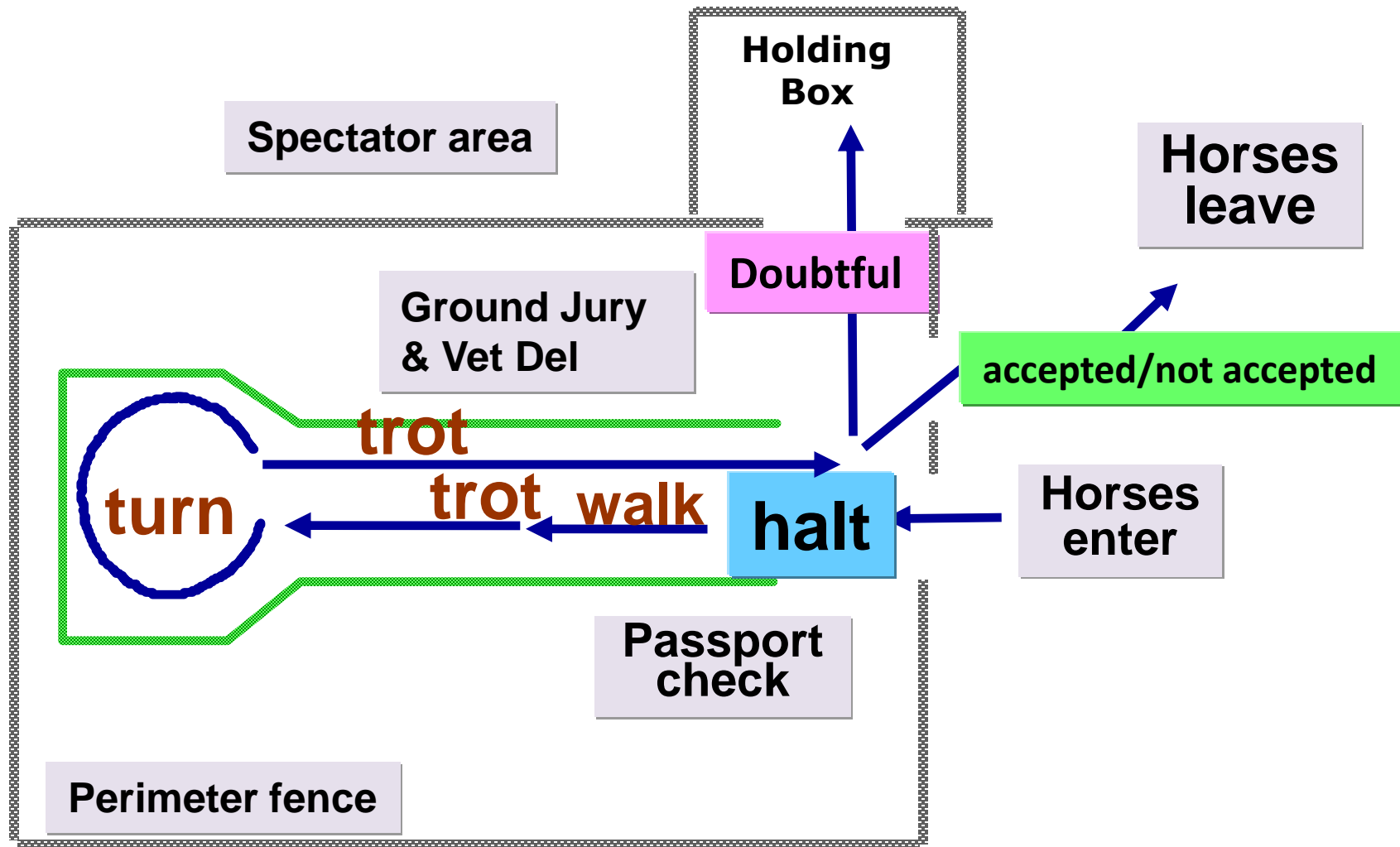


# Horse Inspection

- Visual inspection of the horse
- VD evaluates the horse's from the centre of the track:
  - Handler on the horse's left hand side
  - Walk the horse for a short distance
  - Trot on a loose rein to the end of track
  - Walk the horse and turn in a clockwise direction
  - Trot back to the starting point
- Horse accepted, not accepted, Holding Box



# Horse Inspection





# Holding Box Examination

Performed by a member of the VC (PTV where only 1 VD is present)

- Close to Horse Inspection, but out of public view & hearing
- Stewarding to restrict access
- Accessible to Handler/PR/Groom/Chef d'Equipe/PTV associated with the Horse
- The Holding Box Veterinarian must be a member of the VC (where a VC is appointed)



# Holding Box Examination

- Lameness evaluation on hard and soft surface including trotting in a circle
- Visual inspection
- Palpation of limbs
- Use of hoof testers
- No active flexion tests!



# Holding Box Examination

- Holding Box Veterinarian:
  - Must provide clear clinical information
  - Must not provide their opinion on the horse's fitness to compete
- GJ must explain any reasons for not accepting the horse
- GJ's decision is final and cannot be appealed



# Morning Re-Inspection

In Dressage, Para-Dressage, Jumping, Driving & Vaulting

- Re-Inspection of horses may be permitted in the morning of the first competition
- Not permitted after the second Horse Inspection that takes place before final competitions
- Same horse inspection procedure is applied
- Horses accepted may undergo EADCMP sampling
- If a horse is clearly unfit to compete and no member of the GJ is present, the VD may recommend that the President eliminates the horse without further re-inspection
- No further re-inspections allowed!



# Training & Warm-up

- FEI Stewards and VD/VC oversee training and warm-up
- A horse can be examined at any time during the Period of the Event
- Should a horse present signs of not being fit to compete, the Steward/VC/VD is obliged to alert the GJ immediately
- In some countries authority appointed veterinarians may carry out controls and have superior jurisdiction to any FEI Official



# In the arena

## FEI GRs Article 141 - Protection of Horses

In cases of illness or injury during an Event, the Ground Jury will decide, after consulting the Veterinary Delegate or Commission, whether the Horse may continue in that or subsequent Competitions.



# PRs responsibilities

Follow FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse

Competing a lame horse may have severe legal consequences

## Article 142 -Abuse of Horses

1. No person may abuse a Horse during an Event or at any other time. “Abuse” means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse, including, but not limited to:

.....(v) To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured Horse;...

# The future...

- Does the current system cover all aspects of fitness to compete?
- High enough quality?
- Global harmonisation?
- Discipline specific?

