



FEI™
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ABU DHABI (UAE) 10-13 NOVEMBER 2024

Dressage Stakeholders Meeting
01 October – Update

Session 1



Participants

- International Dressage Riders Club (IDRC)
- International Dressage Trainers Club (IDTC)
- International Dressage Officials Club (IDOC)
- Dressage Organisers (DO)
- European Equestrian Federation (EEF)
- Pan American Equestrian Federation (PAEC)
- FEI Dressage Technical Committee (DTC)
- FEI Para Dressage Committee (PETC)
- FEI Veterinary Technical Committee (VTC)
- FEI Dressage Steward General
- FEI Team



Key Discussion Areas

- Dressage Social Licence to Operate
 - Current status, public opinion / sentiment regarding Dressage
 - Dressage over recent decades
- What is the Dressage we aspire to?
 - Object of Dressage
- Framework / next steps
 - Collective responsibility

Dressage Social Licence to Operate



FEI Equine Welfare Strategy

Welfare vision:
A Good Life for Horses
To acknowledge and respect the natural needs of horses within the context of international equestrian sports

Welfare mission:
We serve as the guardians of FEI horse welfare with the overall mission to lead, drive and develop the highest standards of equine welfare in equestrian sport globally.
We do this by formulating and implementing rules, guidelines, educational programs and other initiatives, and if necessary, applying sanctions to ensure the standards we expect.

Paris Olympic Games 2024



Dressage & Animal Welfare

1. General Sentiment

2. Key Areas of Criticism

- Training Methods
- Judging and Scoring
- Specific Incidents

3. Focus on Individual Athletes

4. Content Sensitivity

5. Public Perception and Transparency

During Paris24

- 24 allegations of horse abuse
- 19 of which were for Dressage
- 20'000 photographs sent to FEI for review

Petitions to the IOC to ban equestrian sport– during and post Paris24

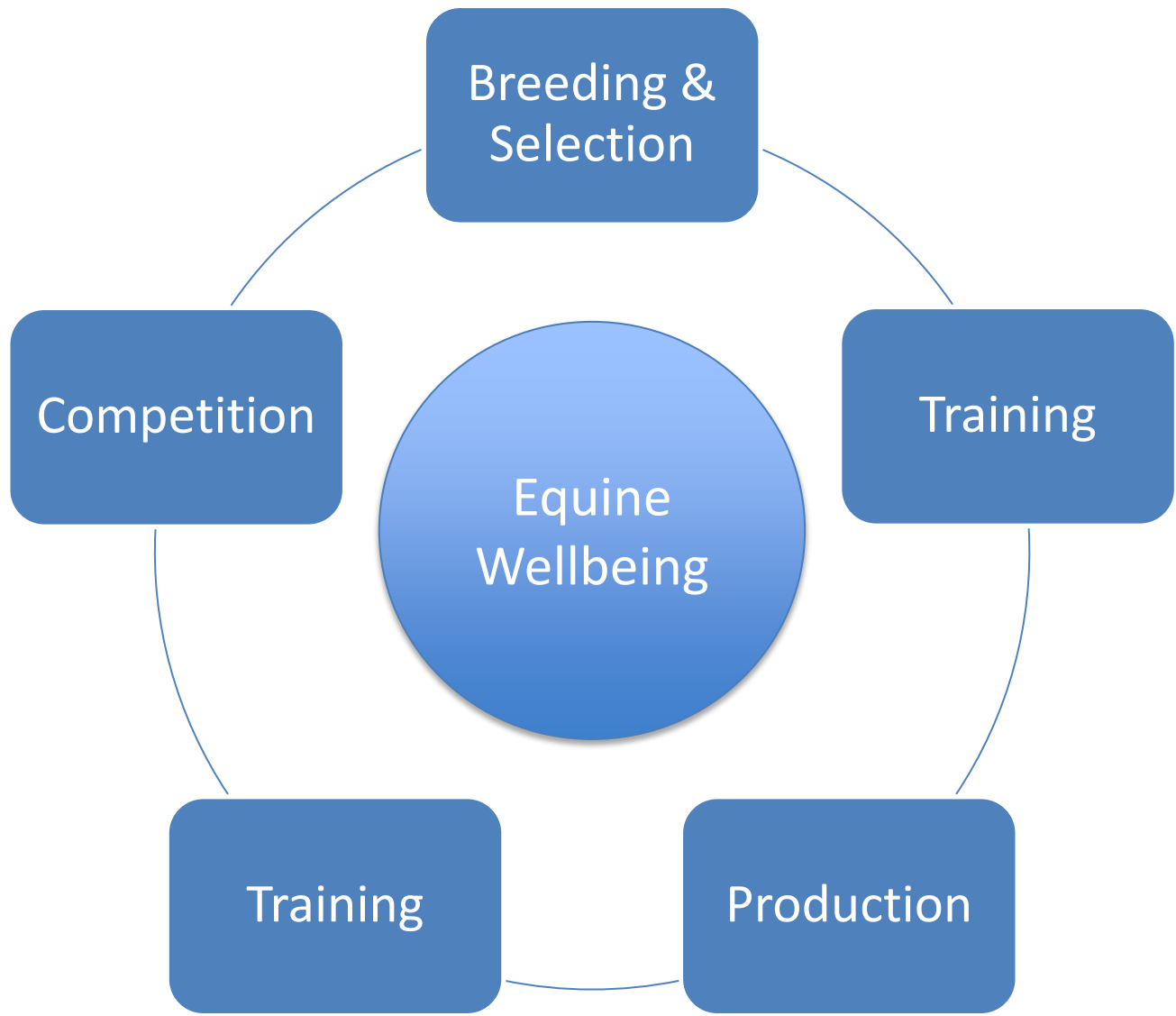
- 83,510 [PETA](#) (approximately 30K in one week only!)
- 59,693 [Care2petitions](#)
- 40,264 [Change.org](#)
- 9,629 [The Animal Rescue Site](#)
- 1,459 [petition Shaunak All That Breathes](#)

[joint letter](#) from “One voice”, “PAZ”, “L214”, “Peta France” and “Gaia” to the IOC,

Dressage over recent decades

- History of Dressage in the Olympic Games
- Evaluation and Assessment of the sport
 - Numbers and positioning of judges
 - Format and duration of the competition
 - DoD and GPFS
 - New technologies - AI
 - Judging of young horse classes
- Impact of Breeding and Genetics





What is the Dressage we aspire to?

- The object of Dressage is the development of the horse **as a happy athlete in a positive mental & physical state** through **harmonious** education. **Allowing** the horse to be **calm, supple, loose and flexible**, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.
- These qualities are revealed by:
 - The **freedom and regularity** of the paces.
 - The **harmony, lightness and ease of the movements**.
 - The **lightness of the forehand** and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion.
 - The **acceptance of the bridle, with thoroughness without any tension or resistance**.

Equine Welfare Strategy Action Points

A.
EEWBC-REPORT

24+6(early)
Recommendations

6 Areas of priority
32 Key issues
(Fig 1 p. 10)

B. Suggested approach
(Fig 12 p.25)

EQUINE ETHICS & WELLBEING COMMISSION

C. Tools for action:

I) The Five Domains
(Mellor et al., 2017, 2020)

II) The 6 Enablers
(fig 7 p. 19)

| Evidence: | Education: | Engagement: | Effective Regulation: | Enforcement: | Empowerment: |
|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Promoting credibility through living research led | Promoting effective knowledge transfer to ensure continued standards of equine welfare | Securing transparency through clear and lively communication | Safe guarding equine welfare especially where there may be competing agendas | Ensuring clear understanding of the rules and effective compliance by all associated with society horses | Promoting a culture of personal responsibility for equine welfare and welfare |

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

FEI Equine Welfare Strategy

| FOCUS AREAS | ACTIONS | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Training, Riding, Tack & Equipment | Ethical Training Methods | | Hyperflexion/ Rollkur | | Bits | | Double Bridle | | Nosebands | | Spurs |
| 2. Recognising Physical & Emotional Stress | Safety | | Post-Mortem | | Equestrian Charter | | Article 142 GRs | | Code of Conduct | | Physical & Emotional Stress |
| 3. Accountability, Enforcement & Knowledge | Field of Play Regulations | | Accountability & Enforcement | | Video Simulation Training | | Lack of Vet or Steward Checks | | Tradition Vs Scientific Knowledge | | |
| 4. The Other 23 Hours | Out of Competition Testing Programme | | Self-Control Programmes | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Competitive Drive/Horse as a Number/Object | Career Profiling of Jumping Horses | | WBFSH Study | | | | | | | | |
| 6. Not Fit to Compete/Masking Health Problems | Veterinary Delegate Seminar | | Oral Cavity Project | | Make Use of Good Examples | | EPSL | | Article 14.1 EADCMRs | | |
| 7. Other Actions | 5 Domains | Vet Dept. | IAC | Welfare Hub | KERs | Horse App & Database | Transport Legislation | Comms Strategy | EWG | Project Funding | Reporting Mechanism |

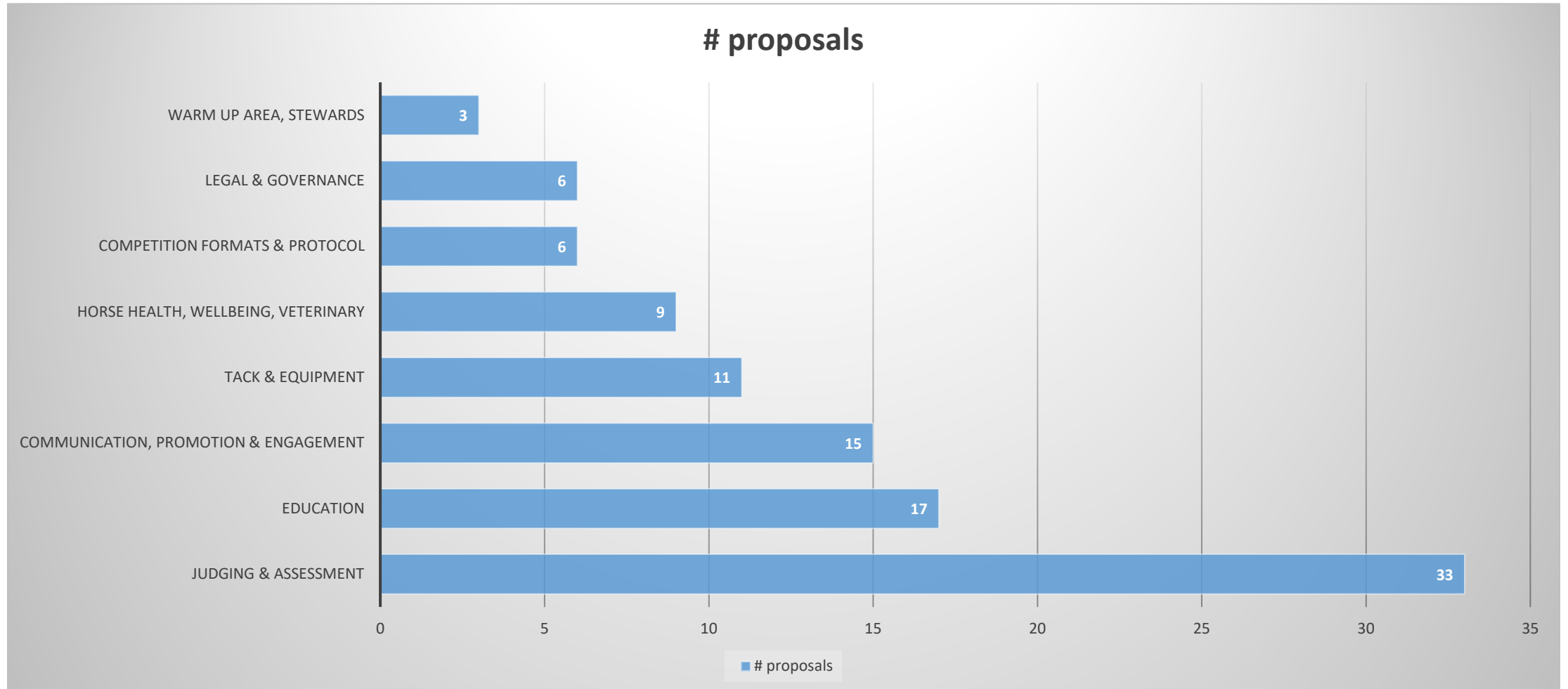
Research & Development

- Oral cavity project
- Noseband measurement
- Noseband field study
- Blue tongue review
- Comparison of rein tension – double bridle and snaffle
- Evaluation of the SLEIP-app as support at CCI L Horse Inspections
- Mette Uldahl – ‘colours of the mucosa in the oral cavity of the horse’

Open Discussion

- Judging and Assessment
- Training
- Stewarding
- Athletes
- FEI Rules
- Communications / Social Media
- Research and Scientific Publications

Summary of proposals received in advance of October 1st meeting



Next Steps / Strategic Action Plan

- Establish the Dressage Strategic Action Plan Working Group.
- Framework of Equine Welfare / Action Plan.
- Utilize the FEI Rules Revision Process for implementation of Rule Changes.
- Launch and communicate the process, timeframes and milestones for delivery.
- Commence process to Identify and assign an FEI Registration number to all Dressage Trainers attending FEI events.
- Code of Conduct Agreement for all Dressage Stakeholders registering from 01st January 2025.

Dressage Strategic Action Plan Working Group

- **Purpose / Task:** To review, coordinate and propose the Strategic Action Plan for Dressage, aligned with the agreed Object of the sport.
- **Composition:**
 - To be finalised with the DTC.
- **Term:** Initial Term 2 years (until 01 Jan 2027)

Rules Revision Process

- **2025 for 2026** (partial Rules Revision Process – fastrack any specific recommendations related to the wellbeing of the Dressage Horse).
- **2026 for 2027** (full Rules Revision Process – Key changes arising from the strategic planning process to improve the sport, e.g. format changes, judging and assessment etc).

Key Dates / Timeline

| Event | Date |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Dressage Stakeholders Meeting | 01 October 2024 |
| IDRC / IDTC / IDOC Meeting (Ermelo) | 4 – 5 November 2024 |
| FEI General Assembly (Abu Dhabi) | 10 – 13 November 2024 |
| 2024 Rules Revision Effective | 1 January 2025 |
| Rule Revision Proposals 2026 | 1 March 2025 |
| FEI Sports Forum (Lausanne) | 31 March – 1 April 2025 |
| FEI General Assembly 2025 | TBC |
| Rule Revision Proposals 2027 | 1 March 2026 |
| 2026 Rules Revision Effective | 1 January 2027 |



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thanks its partners

