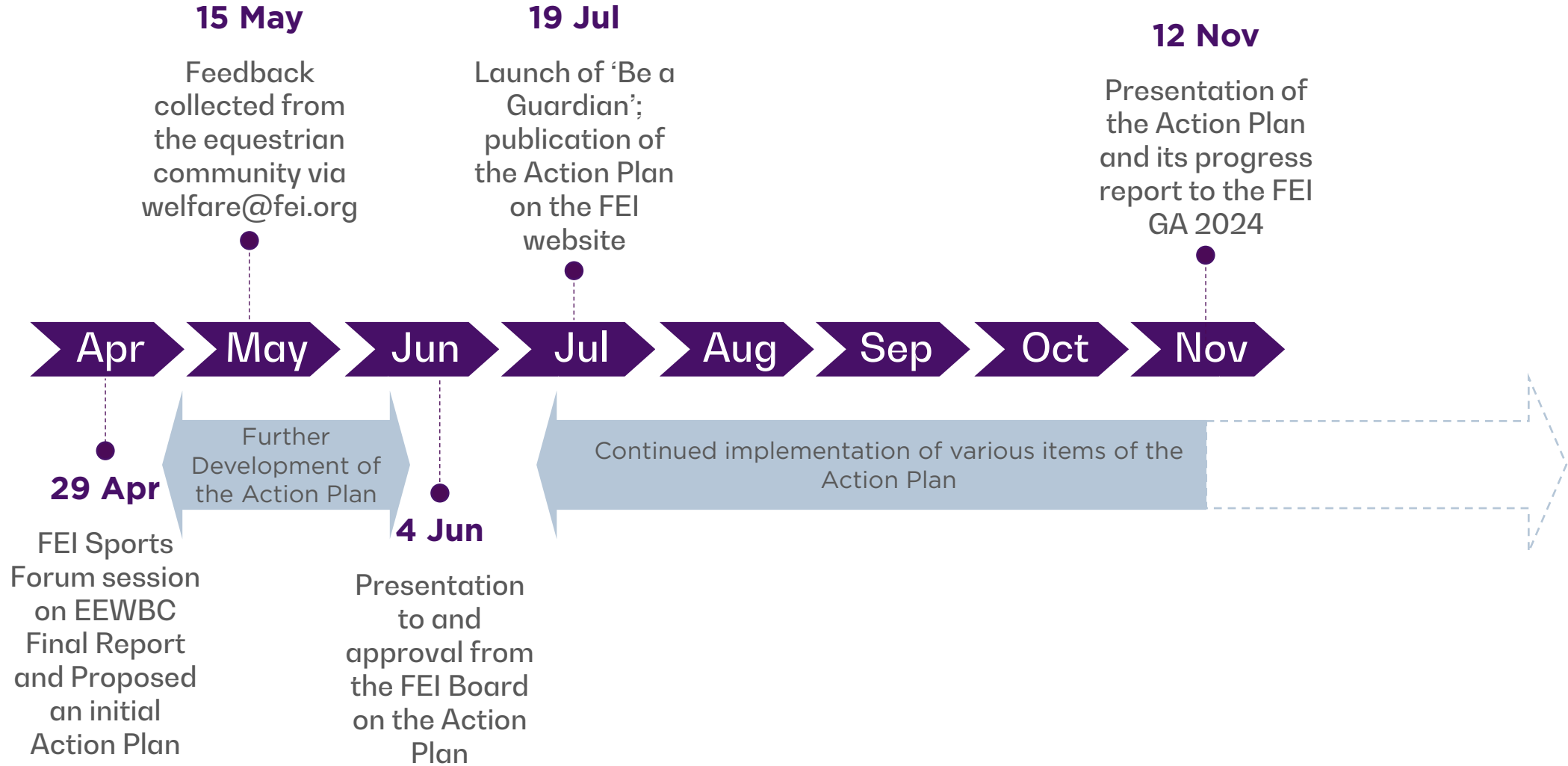




FEI™
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ABU DHABI (UAE) 10-13 NOVEMBER 2024

SESSION 1

Equine Welfare Strategy Action Plan



Equine Welfare Strategy Action Plan

37

ACTIONS

Actions – By Focus Areas

1. Training, Riding, Tack & Equipment 6 Actions

2. Recognizing physical and emotional stress 6 Actions

3. Accountability, enforcement and knowledge 5 Actions

4. The other 23 hours 2 Actions

5. Competitive drive/the horse as a number/object 2 Actions

6. Not fit to compete/masking health problems 2 Actions

Other Areas 11 Actions

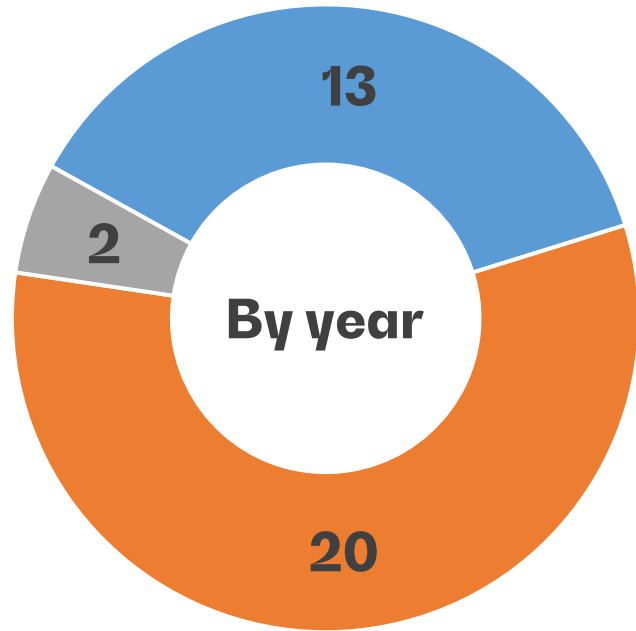
Actions have cross-functional dependencies

Legal – 15 of the 37 Actions

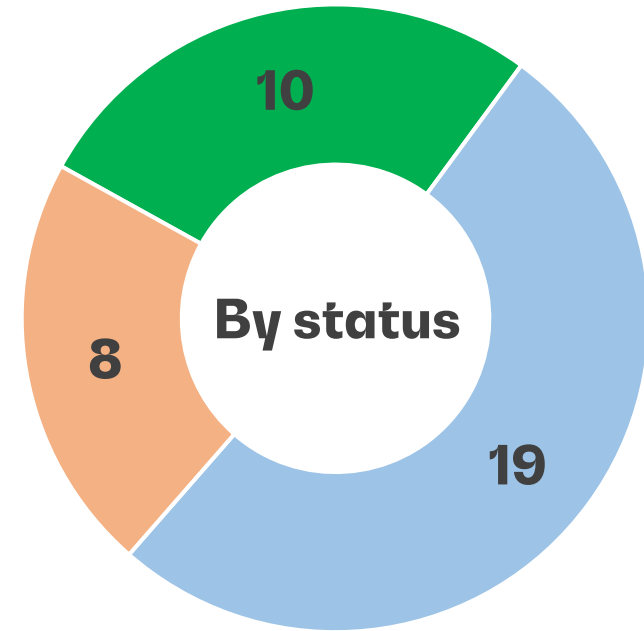
Veterinary – 29 of the 37 Actions

External experts – 11 of the 37 Actions

Actions – By aimed year of completion and by status



■ 2024 ■ 2025 ■ 2026-2027



■ Completed ■ Ongoing ■ To be initiated

Actions – Summary including progress status

FOCUS AREAS	ACTIONS										
1. Training, Riding, Tack & Equipment	Ethical Training Methods		Hyperflexion/ Rollkur		Tack & Equipment (Bits)		Tack & Equipment (Double Bridle)		Tack & Equipment (Nosebands)		Tack & Equipment (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	Veterinary Department	IAC	KERs	Horse App and Database	Transport Legislation	Welfare Hub	Comms Strategy	EWG	Project Funding	Reporting Mechanism

WBFSH: World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses

EPSL: Equine Prohibited Substances List

IAC: Independent Advisory Committee

KERs: Key Event Requirements

EWG: Education Working Group






Equine Welfare Strategy Action Plan – On FEI Website

1.1 ETHICAL TRAINING METHODS

 What?	 Why?	 When?
<p>Registration of Trainers</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Check what NFs currently do 2. Definition of Trainers to be set 3. Pilot phase to set framework and purpose 	<p>EEWBC Recommendation</p> <p>#4 Promote only ethical and evidence-based equestrianism</p> <p>#11 Ensure ‘zero-tolerance’ towards any practice that compromises equine welfare and safety during and outside of competition</p>	<p>Aug 2024-Dec 2025</p> <p>Aim: FEI General Assembly 2025 Rule Amendment</p>

2.4 ARTICLE 142 GRs “ABUSE OF HORSES”

 What?	 Why?	 When?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement new (existing) horse abuse reporting form and welfare@fei.org 2. Online Reporting Mechanism streamline 3. Create model rules and urge NFs to integrate it in their legal system (Rules Session during GA24) 4. Strengthen Sanctions 5. Inform CAS about Horses Cases 6. Review Horse Abuse Definition (unethical use?), also out of Competition 	<p>EEWBC Recommendation</p> <p>#11 Ensure ‘zero-tolerance’ towards any practice that compromises equine welfare and safety during and outside of competition</p>	<p>In progress</p>

Update on Completed Actions

Update – Completed Actions

1.6 TACK & EQUIPMENT (SPURS)

Spurs not to be compulsory in any discipline

At the FEI General Assembly 2023 new Article 431.4 (Dressage) was approved, and spurs are now optional for all Disciplines

Update – Completed Actions

2.2 FATALITIES

Post Mortem Reports

1. Already Included in the Veterinary Regulations the obligation of submitting Post-Mortem (PM) Protocols for all Disciplines with a sanction in case of non-compliance
2. Create a PM protocol template for NFs
3. Urge NFs to share PM Protocols from National Events

- PM protocol template produced and will be possible to download from the Welfare Hub
- New provision in art. 1089 of the VRs to be voted at the 2024 FEI General Assembly: “*NFs should share any post mortem reports from any fatal injury or illness sustained by Horses arising from participation in national events.*”

Update – Completed Actions

3.1.1 & 3.1.2 FIELD OF PLAY REGULATIONS

3.1.1) Rules harmonisation across Disciplines:

FEI General Assembly 2022:

Jumping 241.4

FEI General Assembly 2023:

Para Dressage 8421.5, Endurance 853.5

Driving 933

Promote these Rules

3.1.2) Focus on Jumping:

Create and implement educational material

See for example art. 241.4 of JRs: “The President of the Ground Jury (...) may, in their sole discretion, ring the bell (or instruct another Ground Jury member to ring the bell) to eliminate an Athlete/Horse combination while a round is ongoing if the President of the Ground Jury (or their designee) decides that this would be in the best interest of the wellbeing and/or safety of the Horse and/or Athlete. (...)”

Update – Completed Actions

4.1. OUT OF COMPETITION TESTING PROGRAMME

Introduce provisions for
Out of Competition Testing in
the EADCMRs

- Detailed Out of Competition Testing provisions to be voted at tomorrow's FEI General Assembly
- Summary of key principles/requirements will be discussed during the Rules Session later today

Update – Completed Actions

6.5 ARTICLE 14.1 EADCMRs

1) Urge NFs to implement article 14.1

2) Ask NFs to provide data (number of tests, positives cases, etc) and suspension for implementation at international level

3) To be mentioned at the rules session at the FEI General Assembly 2024

14.1 Statistical Reporting

National Federations shall report to the *FEI* at the end of every year aggregated and anonymous results of all *Doping Controls* within their jurisdiction. The *FEI* may periodically publish *Testing* data received from *National Federations* as well as comparable data from *Testing* under the *FEI*'s jurisdiction.



Update – Completed Actions

7.4 KEY EVENTS REQUIREMENTS (KERs)

Key Events Requirements (KERs) System

- 1) OC self control system, reported upon by FEI Officials at events (implemented as of 1 Jan 2024; FEI GR Appendix L)
- 2) Additional welfare requirements should be added

- Launched in January 2024
- Has added considerable speed in follow-up on the 14 event aspects across the entire international calendar

Update – Completed Actions

7.5 HORSE APP & DATABASE

1) Collecting, e.g., injury statistics, owner changes, rider changes, big injuries

2) Benchmark: Racing Horses

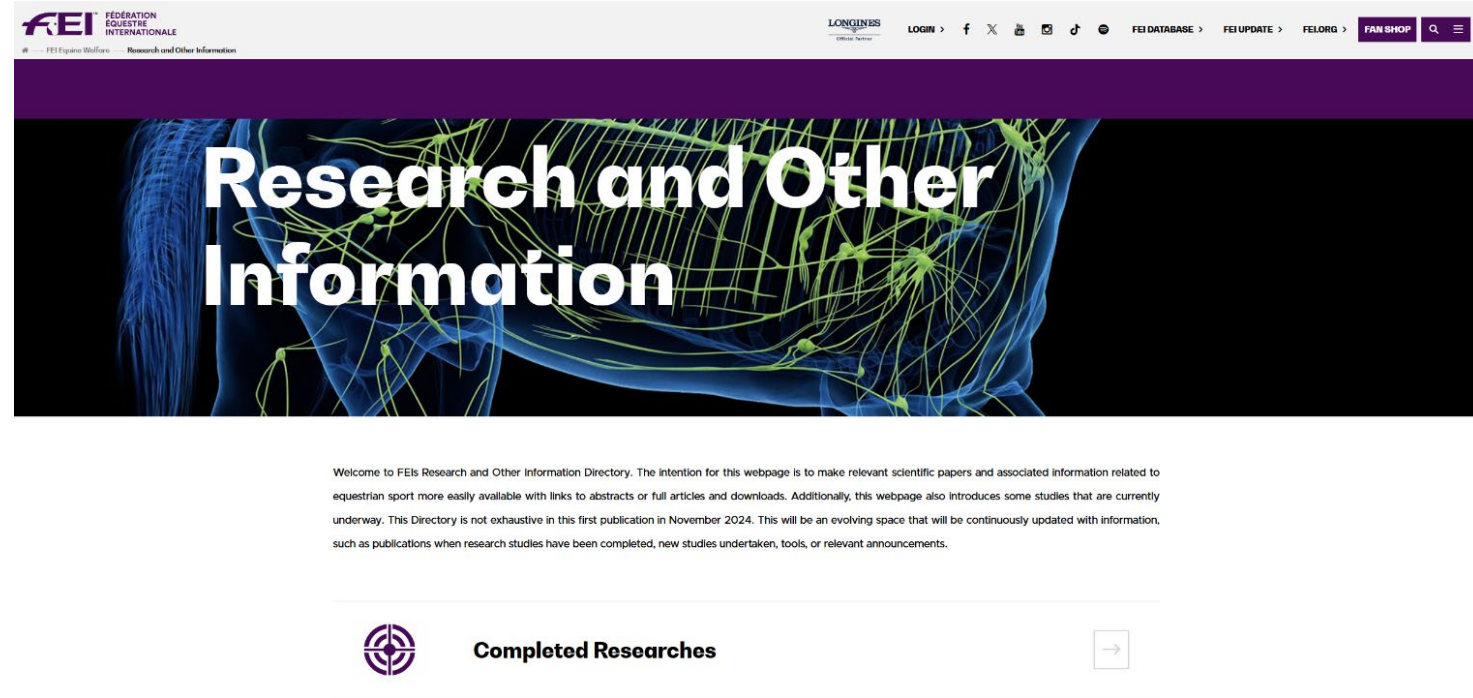
- The FEI Digital Passport can be designed to contain lifecycle information
- Available data is being compiled for catastrophic injuries and fatalities from 2014 and onwards. Evaluation to start with Eventing

Update – Completed Actions

7.7 WELFARE HUB

1) Collecting, e.g., injury statistics, owner changes, rider changes, big injuries

2) Benchmark: Racing Horses





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Research and Other Information

Welcome to FEI's Research and Other Information Directory. The intention for this webpage is to make relevant scientific papers and associated information related to equestrian sport more easily available with links to abstracts or full articles and downloads. Additionally, this webpage also introduces some studies that are currently underway. This Directory is not exhaustive in this first publication in November 2024. This will be an evolving space that will be continuously updated with information, such as publications when research studies have been completed, new studies undertaken, tools, or relevant announcements.

 **Completed Researches** 

Update – Completed Actions

7.7 WELFARE HUB

Ongoing Research



Can objective gait analysis be a decision support during the horse inspections in Eventing Long Format?



Correlation between footing and forces in horse's limb and their correlation to injuries



Volume kinetics in horses

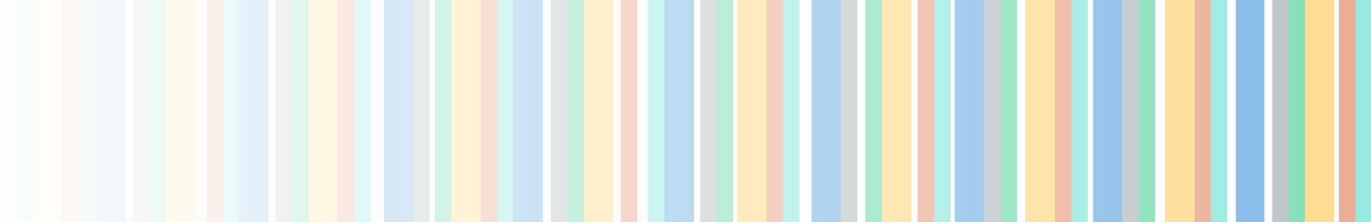


Establishing an FEI Detection Time for ophthalmic administration of Timolol



Development of a FEI protocol and procedures for





Update – Completed Actions

7.7 WELFARE HUB



Development of a FEI protocol and procedures for inspection of horses for oral lesions related to use of bits



Development of a FEI protocol and procedures for inspection of horses for oral lesions related to use of bits

Author	Dr Mette Uldahl, Dr Inga Wolframm, Dr Ylva Rubin, FEI Veterinary Department
Description	<p>The overall purpose of the project is to increase knowledge and awareness of oral cavity health in all FEI disciplines. One of the objects is to design a protocol and related procedures concerning inspection for oral lesions in relation to use of bit and rider aids, to govern horse welfare and to ensure that horses are fit to compete.</p> <p>The protocol is dependent on the cooperation and support of the involved stakeholders,</p> <p>In addition to the development of the protocol, the project aims to work with principles of human behaviour change, behavioural economics, stakeholder engagement, and appropriate communication on strategies.</p>
Status	<p>Phase 1 – literature study is finalised.</p> <p>Phase 2 – A pilot study was conducted in October 2024 with FEI Veterinarians, Judges, Riders and Grooms</p>

Update – Completed Actions

7.10 PROJECTS' FUNDING

FEI fund to underpin decisions related to horse welfare

On 4 October 2022 the FEI Board agreed to set aside a research fund to address evidence to underpin decisions that relate to Horse Welfare

CHF 1 Million allocated to the implementation of the FEI Equine Welfare Action Plan, including research. (In addition to the FEI Veterinary Research Fund)

Update – Completed Actions

7.11 REPORTING MECHANISM

Reporting process
to be changed in
2024

See 2.4. Article 142
FEI GRs “Abuse of
horses”

(welfare@fei.org,
online reporting tool)

FEI Reporting Hub



Horse Welfare



Horse Welfare is the foundation stone of the FEI, and the collective responsibility of everyone involved in equestrian sport. Just like humans, horses have a right to be safe and treated with respect, and the FEI is committed to ensuring that these principles are upheld at all times. This is why, we encourage everyone to speak up and report any suspicion of horse abuse.

To report any concerns or incidents relating to Horse Welfare, please click on the button below and fill out the online report form.

[Online Report Form](#)

Questions on Completed Actions?

Update – Ongoing Actions

1.3 & 1.4 TACK & EQUIPMENT

Enhance clarity on approved bits

1. Create Working Groups for each Discipline with experts from FEI and the scientific community
2. Move references to approved tack/bits from FEI Rules into FEI TackApp
3. FEI TackApp to be reviewed once or twice a year
4. Define the role of the Equipment Expert Group
5. Review the GER system

Technical Committees have Equipment Working Groups, including Athlete(s) and Official(s) representation. Provide feedback to the Equipment Expert Group prior to decisions on tack/equipment are taken

FEI TackApp

Download the FEI TackApp now!



ALSO AVAILABLE AT TACK.FEI.ORG

Update – Ongoing Actions

1.5 TACK & EQUIPMENT (NOSEBANDS)

Develop measurement tool and Disciplines' Protocols

- 1. Develop and evaluate tool**
- 2. Develop Protocols**
- 3. Implementation**

Update – Ongoing Actions

2.3 EQUESTRIAN CHARTER

Implement the Equestrian Charter

Ensure that all FEI Stakeholders commit to the 'FEI Equestrian Charter'

1) New appendix (O) in FEI General Regulations approved by FEI General Assembly 2023

2) The charter to be implemented through different actions

New Affiliated NFs to have the Charter in their Rules

- MOUs
- FEI Horse App: to be accepted every year
- Official's Exams Inclusion
- Promotional Video
- Urge NFs to include it in their Rules

- New MOU template for Stakeholders has been approved by the FEI Board. Stakeholders will need to agree and acknowledge that the Equestrian Charter applies

- In addition, Stakeholders to agree to fully support, where relevant, the FEI actions to implement the Equine Welfare Strategy

Update – Ongoing Actions

2.4 ARTICLE 142 GRs “ABUSE OF HORSES”

1. Implement new (existing) horse abuse reporting form and welfare@fei.org
2. Online Reporting Mechanism streamline
3. Create model rules and urge NFs to integrate it in their legal system (Rules Session during GA24)
4. Strengthen Sanctions
5. Inform CAS about Horses Cases
6. Review Horse Abuse Definition (unethical use?), also out of Competition

- Model Rules to be drafted in 2025 as the FEI will also review its provisions of abuse of horses
- Stricter sanctions for horse abuse offences to be voted at the 2024 FEI General Assembly

Update – Ongoing Actions

2.6 PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL STRESS

Review of FEI educational material

1. Review educational material (spec. focus on FEI Campus)
2. To be done through interviews with Directors for FEI Education and Solidarity
3. Implement new material

External expert on equine welfare & behaviour contracted to support the processes

Update – Ongoing Actions

3.2 ACCOUNTABILITY & ENFORCEMENT

FEI Board, Staff and Officials to undergo education on the Five Domains for Sport Horses

Different levels:

1) FEI Board, SG and Directors

2) FEI key staff, Officials

FEI to assign:

1) An overall coordinator, and

2) One key person from each FEI Department to be responsible for equine welfare issues

3) Include in Board and Directors' meeting Agendas "Equine Welfare" specific point

- **Equine Welfare Action Plan Coordinator appointed**

- **External expert on equine welfare & behaviour contracted for the educations**

Update – Ongoing Actions

3.4 LACK OF VET OR STEWARD CHECKS

Review checks to evaluate Horses' fitness to compete

- 1) Suggested Rule change of Vet Regulations 1045.1 - ...allowed to check the horse (now: “leg”) at any point
- 2) Review with Veterinary Delegates and Team Veterinarians

- Rule proposal “*any part of the horse’s body*”
- Preparations ongoing for a workshop to review ‘Fitness to Compete’ in January 2025

Update – Ongoing Actions

3.5. TRADITIONAL vs SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Science-based information not being accessible, or used

- 1) FEI Veterinary Committee to be more active in science review. Possible collaboration with expert organisations
- 2) Additional Vet Member with scientific and/or behavioural expertise?
- 3) Possible use of AI

- FEI Veterinary Committee active in review
- Collaboration with EEF Veterinary Group
- Research Directory on the FEI Welfare Hub
- FEI Veterinary Research Fund
- Welfare Action Plan Implementation Fund
- Science informed decision making

Update – Ongoing Actions

4.2. BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Create a checklist for self-control programme as part of a toolbox

1) Utilise existing model from Swedish harness racing

- Ongoing work to produce a checklist based on the Five Domains
- Draft to be shared with selected stakeholder reviewers before end of 2024

4.2. BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Domain 3 – Health & Fitness			
	Question	Reply	Info
1	Routines in place for checking health & soundness (e.g. temperature, HR, breathing freq.)	Y/N	
2	Routines in place for management of hoof care by educated farrier	Y/N	
3	Vaccination program is applied	Y/N	
4	Horses are dewormed according to national recommendations	Y/N	
5	Invasive procedures are conducted by a veterinarian	Y/N	
6	Therapeutic substances are administered in according to FEI regulations/guidelines	Y/N	
7	Horses undergo annual oral cavity control	Y/N	
8	Routines in place regarding biosecurity	Y/N	
9	Horses are scheduled recovery and rest after and between shows/competition	Y/N	
10	Stable staff are able to identify equine pain and/or stress (signs of discomfort and negative mental state)	Y/N	

Update – Ongoing Actions

5.1. CAREER PROFILING OF JUMPING HORSES

Research project:

Career profiling project with the aim to identify risk factors for jumping horses

- 1) Project syllabus has been established
- 2) Agreement on project management to be signed

Title: Epidemiological analyses of longevity in jumping horses

Aim: To identify factors associated with career longevity, with a particular focus on competition intensity

Data: +3-million FEI jumping results (2009-2024) will be analysed

Contract: approved 2024-2027

Update – Ongoing Actions

5.2. WBFSH* YOUNG HORSES STUDY

To investigate Jumping, Dressage & Eventing Horse career profile and longevity

1) WBFSH to investigate data from 2012-2021 on young (as from 5 years) Jumping, Dressage and Eventing Horses

* World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses

Update – Ongoing Actions

6.1 VETERINARY DELEGATES SEMINAR

A Veterinary Delegates Seminar/Conference to discuss how to control horses' fitness to compete

interlinked with 3.4 “Review checks to evaluate horses' fitness to compete”

The seminar may be conducted digitally

Three phases:

1. Review Fitness to Compete
2. Review EPSL Listing principles
3. Review the role of the Veterinary Delegate

Update – Ongoing Actions

6.2 ORAL CAVITY PROJECT

An FEI-led project to investigate frequency of oral lesions and injuries

- 1) Literature study
- 2) Project plan, including a course with selected veterinarians



6.2 ORAL CAVITY PROJECT

Overall purpose

- Increase knowledge and awareness of oral cavity health among FEI Stakeholders
- To govern horse welfare

Objectives

- Design a protocol for inspection for oral lesions
- Gather data on oral cavity health
- Identify key factors for successful implementation based on principles of human behaviour change, behavioural economics and stakeholder engagement
- Prepare appropriate communication on implementation strategies.

Update – Ongoing Actions

6.4 REVIEW OF EPSL*

Review of the principles of listing substances on the EPSL

1) Decision made to conduct the review

2) FEI Vet department to decide on final action

- Ethical considerations
- Risk evaluation
- National legislations
- Science supported treatments
- Any changes to follow ordinary regulatory process (incl. consultation to stakeholders/NFs)

* Equine Prohibited Substances List

Update – Ongoing Actions

7.2 VETERINARY DEPARTMENT RENAMING

FEI Veterinary Department to be renamed

To be decided after Paris 2024

In consideration:

FEI Equine Welfare & Veterinary Department

Update – Ongoing Actions

7.3 INDEPENDENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (IAC)

Set up an Independent Advisory Committee

- 1) Define:
job description, proposal of the remit, potential members (professional profile), length of appointment
- 2) Invite chair and members

Proposal for the committee mission, remit and job descriptions will be presented by **Q1 2025**

Update – Ongoing Actions

7.6 TRANSPORT LEGISLATION

Regulations on transport length and frequency

Connected to 7.5 – Horse app & database

FEI is in contact with European Horse Network, World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) and the EU

Questions on Ongoing Actions?



thanks its partners

