



Lausanne, 13 May 2019

Dear Permitted Treating Veterinarian,

The FEI Veterinary Department would like to update you with some information relevant to your role:

### **Equine Influenza**

Following a high number of equine influenza outbreaks reported during the beginning of the year, outbreaks continue to be reported throughout the world. Vaccinated horses have been affected by the influenza outbreaks this year and have shown mild clinical signs of the disease.

The Veterinary Department is monitoring the situation carefully and to date an outbreak has resulted in the cancellation of one FEI event. We therefore request that Veterinary Delegates and Permitted Treating Veterinarians continue to carry out high standards of biosecurity practices, take horses' temperatures during the examination on arrival and be vigilant of horses showing non-specific signs of disease.

The FEI subscribes to the International Collating Centre (ICC), a real-time equine infectious disease reporting service. We encourage veterinarians to check the ICC reports before attending events. The reports can be accessed via the [Biosecurity and Movements](#) webpage.

Furthermore, a webinar for veterinarians is now available on FEI Campus in which veterinary experts provide the latest information concerning equine influenza, advise on the use of vaccines and managing outbreaks. The webinar can be accessed [here](#).

### **Clean Sport**

#### **Minimizing Contamination**

New advice has been published concerning measures to minimize the risk of contamination from hay, feed and supplements, from the horse's environment and from using medication. The advice can be found on the Clean Sport website, [here](#).

#### **Synephrine**

The FEI would like to warn the equestrian community regarding Synephrine, a Banned Substance (Specified Substance\*) on the Equine Prohibited Substances List.

A high number of samples taken from horses under the Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Programme have recently tested positive for this substance. Although investigations into the sources of the positive cases are still ongoing, the FEI would like to warn stakeholders that Synephrine may be found in the horse's environment and advise on measures that can be taken to prevent a positive finding.

Synephrine is a stimulant which can cause vasoconstriction and an increased heart rate. It is also used as a weight loss aid.

In certain parts of the world, Synephrine can be found in plants such as common rush (*Juncus usitatus*), Mullumbimby couch (*Cyperus brevifolus*) and the leaves of citrus trees, e.g. mandarin, orange and lemon. Synephrine has also been detected in teff grass hay in some countries.

It can also be found as an ingredient in herbal and nutritional supplements, and is commonly found in the peel extract of bitter orange, also known as Seville orange, which is used as a flavouring agent.

Measures that can be taken to prevent positive findings include:

- using reputable suppliers of hay, feed and supplements;
- checking the horse's environment for plants containing Synephrine; and
- ensuring that any personnel taking supplements or other products containing Synephrine wash their hands thoroughly after coming into contact with the substance.

Additionally, it is recommended that samples are kept of batches of hay, feed and supplements given to competition horses to enable a thorough investigation to take place should the horse test positive for Synephrine.

Further information concerning contamination prevention can be found [here](#).

The FEI urges stakeholders to be vigilant about possible sources of Synephrine in the horse's environment and implement management practices to prevent contamination or inadvertent ingestion of the substance.

\* Prohibited Substances that are identified as Specified Substances should not in any way be considered less important or less dangerous than other Prohibited Substances. Rather, they are simply substances which are more likely to have been ingested by Horses for a purpose other than the enhancement of sport performance, for example, through a contaminated food substance.

#### Clipping and/or shaving limbs at FEI Events

The Veterinary Department would like to clarify the interpretation of the regulation concerning the clipping and/or shaving of horses' limbs at FEI events.

Article 1007 1f) states: 'Horses are not permitted to compete in FEI Events if the hair has been clipped and/or shaven at any point during their presence at an event site. Permission must be granted from the VC/VD by the PTV for clipping and/or shaving required for veterinary purposes, prior to any investigation or treatment taking place.'

Please kindly be aware that the rule is to be enforced during the time in which the horse is present at the event site, which may be longer than the 'Period of the Event'. Furthermore the rule is only applicable to the horse's limbs and clipping and/or shaving of other parts of the horse's body can take place.

#### **Course Calendar and Registration Process**

Please be informed that the course calendar and invitations are now available on the [FEI Database](#).

The easiest way to find veterinary courses is to search by Function:

- "Official Veterinarian" for upcoming General Veterinarian Courses and Advanced Courses for EOVs
- "Endurance Veterinary Treatment Official" for upcoming Courses for EVT's
- "Testing Veterinarian" for upcoming Testing Courses

To register for a course, please send the standard [Course Registration Form](#) to your National Federation (up to 5 participants can be on the same form). Your NF will then inform the FEI Veterinary Department of your registration and a confirmation email will be sent to you.

Best regards,

## Veterinary Department

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