

FEI Veterinary Delegates

Lausanne, 30 January 2020

We are writing to you to reinforce the need for compliance with **article 3.4 b of Annex 5 of the 2020 Endurance Rules**, requiring you to send the Vet Cards to the FEI within 72h of the event. As all the documents attached to the Veterinary Report, the Vet Cards must be emailed to the FEI Veterinary Department to vetdocs@fei.org within **72 hours** of the conclusion of the show. **It is not necessary to send the originals by post.** They must be scanned or photographed and saved in electronic format (e.g. pdf). The name of the document must start with **Vet Cards – venue**. This only applies to vet cards in paper format.

Why is this important?

Following a pilot analysis of veterinary card data in 2018, the potential value of the information that they contain in being able to identify horses at imminent risk of FTQ (GA or ME) has become clear. During the initial analysis of approximately 3,000 vet cards collected in 2014, several factors were identified as being associated with a significant increase in the risk of FTQ at the end of the next loop. For example, with respect to **FTQ GA**:

- Gait assessed as '2' was consistently associated with at least a **2-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ GA at the end of the next loop. This even included Pre-ride gait assessment predicting end of loop 1 FTQ GA.

And with respect to **FTQ ME**:

- An end of loop 1 initial presentation Heart rate of >64bpm was associated with a **4-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ ME at the end of loop 2.
- End of loop 1 mucous membranes assessed as '2+' was associated with a **2-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ ME at the end of loop 2.
- An end of loop 2 initial presentation Heart rate of >60bpm was associated with a **2-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ ME at the end of loop 3.
- End of loop 2 Gut sounds assessed as '2+' was associated with a **2-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ ME at the end of loop 3.
- End of loop 2 Skin turgor assessed as '2+' was associated with a **2-fold** increase in the risk of FTQ ME at the end of loop 3.

This analysis, although using data from more than 3,000 vet cards, is limited by the fact that it represents a small proportion (less than 25%) of all vet cards for that year and very little data from subsequent years is available. We recognise that sending and managing approximately 12,000 vet cards each year places a significant burden on the veterinary delegates. However, given the clear potential of these data to help

identify horses at imminent risk of FTQ it is important that we collect all the Vet Cards in future.

To help you with this tasks in the future we have also started to develop a solution to help you sending us back the Vet Card in an easier way. We will come back to you later this year on this specific matter.

How will we be using this data?

The data within the Vet Cards will be used in our efforts to minimise the risk of FTQ (and injury) during FEI Endurance rides.

Professor Tim Parkin (FEI Veterinary Committee and University of Glasgow lead on FEI injury/welfare-related studies) will be responsible for the management and analysis of the vet card data. **We anticipate results of his work to demonstrate very clear relationships between certain clinical assessments and imminent risk of FTQ that you, as veterinary delegates, would be able to use while working at Endurance rides to help better identify horses that are 'on the way to' an FTQ.** In time and with full digital data capture at vet gates there is the clear potential to provide a risk-based predictor for you to use as an additional aid to your clinical judgement when making decisions about risk or advising individual combinations on whether to continue in the ride. Results of the analysis from submitted vet cards would be made available from the middle of 2021, with further updates being made as the work progressed.

Kind regards,



Gonçalo Paixão
FEI Veterinary Manager