

20/05/2025, 08:38

Gmail - Fwd: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback



denise hertroijs <denise.hertroijs@gmail.com>

Fwd: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback
3 messages

From: Manuel Bandeira de Mello
Date: 15 May 2025 at 08:39:42 GMT+1
To: Office - ICDA <office@icda-driving.com>
Cc: Boyd Exell , Hugh Scott-Barrett , Aude Barby , Joaquín
Subject: FW: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback

Dear Marie,

FYI the e-mail we have received from the FEI Veterinary department as follow up from your letter in regard to the heart rate checks upon arrival.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Best regards,

Manu

Manuel Bandeira de Mello
Driving Director
, Para Driving & Special Projects

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From: Gonçalo Paixão
Sent: 13 May 2025 12:34
To: Manuel Bandeira de Mello
Cc: Göran Åkerström
Subject: RE: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback

Dear Manu,

Further to the first draft of guidelines on the heart assessment at Eventing and Driving events, there has been some changes to the protocol and the document has been updated and published in the Resources section of the FEI Veterinary webpage.

I believe these changes meet the suggestion from ICDA, namely allowing that: *If it is not safe to carry out the cardiac auscultation at Examination on Arrival, it may be done once the horse is settled in its allocated stable.*

I'm attaching the document for your reference.

Let me know in case you need any further information.

Best wishes,

Goncalo

Gonçalo Paixão
Senior Veterinary Manager
Veterinary Department

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From: Manuel Bandeira de Mello

Sent: 25 April 2025 11:58

To: Göran Åkerström

Cc: Gonçalo Paixão

Subject: FW: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback

Dear Goran,

Below an e-mail from the ICDA (International Carriage Drivers Association) in regard to the Heart Rate check upon arrival for you to follow up.

I'll be happy to discuss it with you if needed, but it's quite disturbing the photo at the end of the e-mail. Perhaps you have received input also from the Vets?

Have a great weekend,

Manu

Manuel Bandeira de Mello

Driving Director

, Para Driving & Special Projects

t
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From: Office - ICDA <office@ICDA-driving.com>
Sent: April 24, 2025 7:22 PM
To: Manuel Bandeira de Mello
Cc: Hugh Scott-Barrett ; Boyd Exell ; Koos de Ronde
Subject: New Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks - feedback

Dear Manu,

ICDA has received a lot of feedback on the way in which the new Veterinary Rules on heart rate checks are being implemented on arrival at competitions. The feedback reflects the experiences of grooms and athletes at both Exloo and Kronenberg in the last few weeks. As you know both competitions attracted a significant number of entries, including large H2/H4 classes, which means that several hundred horses and ponies arrive within a narrow window the day before the First Horse Inspection.

Athletes and grooms are firstly challenging the value of a heart rate check just as the horses are unloaded from the horse trucks after, in many cases, long trips. This is a moment of high stress for grooms and equines and the results may not be a fair reflection of the wellbeing of the horse. In informal conversations at the Driving Forum vets questioned what value such checks would serve when taken just off the trucks.

The work load of vets has increased significantly as a result of the introduction of the heart rate checks and there are insufficient resources available to handle this additional requirement. Attached is a photograph of scenes in the stable area at Kronenberg which have been described as "chaotic" by a number of those present. This cannot be good for the welfare of both equines and grooms.

ICDA proposes that, if the FEI continues to attach importance to the heart check, then alternative arrangements are found to check heart rates once horses have settled into their stables, which is a much fairer test of equine wellbeing. The scenes pictured in the attachment should not be repeated.

Kind regards.

Marie de Ronde-Oudemans

Secretary General ICDA

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office@icda-driving.com

11 attachments • Scanned by Gmail

