

PANORAMA

Thematic portfolio



Facilitation of international movement of competition horses



PERSPECTIVES

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AROUND THE WORLD

PERSPECTIVES

The role of the veterinary community in ensuring the high health status of competition horses

The veterinary community makes an invaluable contribution to the continuing effort to improve the health status of competition horses, and works to raise awareness among the competition community of the benefits of maintaining the high health status of competition horses.

KEYWORDS

#capacity building, #competition horse, #International Equestrian Federation (FEI), #veterinarian.

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Recent outbreaks of equine influenza in several countries have prompted many stakeholders to review the role of the veterinary community in protecting the high health status of competition horses at all levels, from the weekend amateur competitor to the top-end World Cup and Championship riders.

This role involves many different aspects and a range of expertise. Nonetheless, the one thing that all these roles have in common is the need to raise awareness among the competition community of the benefits of high health status to protect their horses; animals whose value is, in many cases, incalculable, both financially and emotionally. Regulations and advice, which may seem unimportant and a burden to their competition lives, are in reality crucial to their horse's well-being and future career.

The role of the veterinary community includes the following tasks:



Veterinary inspection at the Olympics Games, Rio 2016. © FEI

- to accurately monitor and report disease outbreaks and future challenges through a specific body that collates such information
- to ensure that every form of disease prevention is in place, from simple good hygiene to the use of the most suitable vaccines, in compliance with OIE standards
- to ensure that, during competition, all regulations, especially those concerning animal welfare and biosecurity, are effectively enforced, and that explanations of the value of these regulations are always provided
- to ensure that entry-to-venue inspections and post-entry monitoring are performed with the support of grooms
- to have a planned approach to any suspected disease outbreak at the competition venue
- to continue research to improve diagnostic methods and disease prevention measures.



Packaging samples for transport

The veterinary community is continually striving to improve the health status of competition horses and to increase awareness and build capacity in the equine world.

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