

VETERINARY **BRIEFING NOTES**



28th – 31st March 2024

Event Director

Stuart Buntine

07717412167

VETERINARY TEAM 2024

FEI Veterinary Delegate

Howard Newitt 07549 340274

Neal Ashton 07764 616018

Veterinary Services Manager

Sam Offord 07967 148822

FEI Permitted Treating Vets

Lucy Chapman 07824 602492

XC Vets

Hannah Cusack 07949 006523

Millie Crane 07376 258873

Emily Hecking

Private Permitted Treating Veterinarians

All private veterinarians must present themselves to the Veterinary Delegate with a fully completed PTV event registration form along with their FEI PTV identification card prior to being given access to the stables and permission to treat horses.

Private PTVs are responsible for ensuring that before any treatments are administered the relevant Veterinary Forms are completed, submitted and approved by the VD in accordance with the relevant articles of the FEI Vet Regs. Non-compliance with any of the above will be sanctioned.

Permitted Equine Therapists

All private Permitted Equine Therapists must present themselves to the Veterinary Delegate with a fully completed PET event registration form along with their FEI PET identification card prior to being given access to the stables and permission to treat horses.

PETs must be recommended for accreditation by a treating Veterinary Surgeon on site or by an original signed letter from the riders' private Veterinary Surgeon.

Cross Country

Please read all information supplied so that you are familiar with all the arrangements.

Please note the following deployment of vets during XC.

Stables – 1 x treating vet

Sector 1 – Vet Saturday and Sunday. (Friday will need to be covered by FEI Vet)

Sector 2- Lawn vet, we are trying to source a gator as this is easier access around the lawn

Sector 3 – Vet

(Sector 2 & 3 would be helpful to be same vet all three days please)

Arrive at your designated position 30 minutes before the first horse is scheduled to start and have your radio switched on from that time. Radio checks will be carried out to make sure Control has good communication with you. Cross country sectors will be allocated, please park at sector HQ throughout the day so control will know where you are stationed

Vets and Doctors please wear your red distinguishable bibs at all times, so when at an incident you can be easily recognised. Without these bibs fence judges will not know who you are!

The first line of contact should always be by radio. However, only as back up, please keep your mobile phone to hand as well. For sensitive information you may want to communicate with other vets via your phone if signal allows. If an incident occurs please be aware any messages sent over the radio MAY be heard by the public.

Well before the first horse is due on course **familiarise yourself with your sector**, introduce yourself to the other professionals in your sector including Steward, Paramedics, horse ambulance and Fence Repair Team.

Ensure that you know how to drive to each of the jumps within your sector. Be aware that in some circumstances the access point to the take-off and landing side of a jump may be different; for example, a jump over a hedge row.

Please be aware that present ground conditions have some areas impassable by vehicle. It is your responsibility to ensure you have had a brief from the course crew as to how to access ALL areas in your sector. We do not want a vehicle stuck when travelling to an emergency. Please use your head when driving to a call

Ensure that you know where your nearest horse ambulance is located. Introduce yourself to the driver and familiarised yourself with the operation of the ambulance. Please make sure that the ambulance driver in your sector knows the optimum route to each of the fences considering that crowds may be present.

Ensure that you, the ambulance driver and your sector steward are aware of the location of screens.

When Attending an Incident

Keep in mind that **your first priority is the welfare of the horse** but, secondly, you should endeavour to clear the course as quickly as possible so that the competition can continue. A horse that can walk should be moved to the side of the course before attention is given. You will be well aware that in today's world of social media, horse welfare is increasingly coming under the spotlight. All those competing and involved in the event are passionate about horses, we must try to ensure that those watching on are not disappointed.

Stay in your designated position unless you are asked to attend an incident. This instruction is likely to come through your radio from Control. However, if you see an incident in your area and start to move immediately towards it, be sure to notify Control where you are moving to by indicating what fence number.

Do not drive on the course unless absolutely necessary in an emergency situation. Please take care when parking your car before attending a horse so that your car is not accidentally blocking another jump.

If further veterinary assistance is required notify Control by radio and they will instruct the nearest available vet to join you. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance if you need it.

At any incident the person in control of the area is the Sector Steward. This allows the attending Veterinary Surgeon to concentrate on the horse. Therefore, all requests should be made directly to the Steward regarding manpower, equipment, screens etc.

The Sector Steward is responsible for keeping all unauthorised persons away from an incident (i.e. outside screens once they have been erected) and for moving the ropes back from the scene if necessary.

The attending Veterinary Surgeon is the person in charge of the veterinary aspects at all times including when to summon additional help and has responsibility to coordinate management of the incident, to maintain contact with control and to instruct ambulance drivers and fence repair as necessary.

Consider handing your radio to a responsible assistant or to the Sector Steward and delegating them with the responsibility of informing Control of what is going on. This will allow you to focus on the horse whilst full contact is maintained with Control at all times.

When contacting Control or other Veterinary Surgeons in regards to a horse please use the horses' competition number at all times.

Remember to keep control informed of any **relevant** information after examining a horse, in depth clinical findings should not be broadcast openly.

All horses retired or eliminated on Cross Country must go via the finish area to be checked again by the Veterinary Delegate before they are allowed to enter the stables. If you have examined the horse out on course please radio the veterinary delegate to inform them that the horse has been examined and confirm they are happy not to be reassessed, do not provide sensitive information about the horse only that it is ok and does not require further assistance if they are happy and further details can be provided subsequently to the vet delegate.

After any incident notify control that you are back in position on course. Please write down the details of your examination on a BE/FEI treating form and provide a copy to the rider. This information can be communicated to the veterinary delegate at the end of the day.

In the event of any emergency medication having been administered on course, a Veterinary Treatment Form A should be completed and handed to the Veterinary Delegate.

The basic overriding principle of being a Veterinary Surgeon on Cross Country course is to provide emergency treatment if and when required and triage the situation. It is not necessary for you to fully investigate a problem. You should aim to assess the horse, stabilise anything that requires urgent attention, evaluate if the horse can walk back to the stables or requires transport and communicate your findings to Control and your fellow Veterinary Surgeons based in the stables. **"Wrap it up and ship it off"**

Ideally all horses that are capable of walking back to the finish area should do so. However, beware of the public perception of lame horses walking back. In these circumstances consider transport for the horse back to the stable area or wait for it to recover (to the side of the field of play) before instructing the rider to walk the horse slowly home and not ride it.

Consider cooling horses prior to being transported, especially on a warm day.

Also beware the public perception of blood present on a horse, consider a simple bandage to cover the blood.

If you happen to be involved in an incident please do not communicate directly with any media – the Horse Trials have a very effective Press Liaison Protocol in place and in general reports of major incidents are best made by the Event Director once he or she has been fully briefed of the facts. All questions should be directed to the Event Press Liaison Officer.

Reporting Horse Progress

If you have any concerns about a horse as it passes your location (injury, fatigue, presence of blood etc.) please report your concern in a succinct fashion to Control who can alert the Ground Jury and Veterinary Delegate.

Horses Stopped by the Ground Jury on the Course

If a horse is stopped on-course by the Ground Jury, Control will brief the nearest Veterinary Surgeon on the reason why the horse has been stopped and will ask for it to be examined. Please remove the horse from the course and undertake an appropriate and relevant examination in line with the reason the horse has been stopped. Do not discuss your findings or opinion in detail with the rider but report directly to Control or the Veterinary Delegate, who will report in turn to the Ground Jury. Be cautious of communication over radio as this can be inadvertently overheard. It is the Ground Jury who make the final decision. In some circumstances the horse will be allowed to continue, but in most circumstances the Ground Jury will eliminate a stopped horse and it will then be required to return to the finish for further examination by the Veterinary Delegate. If the horse needs transport the Veterinary Surgeon should request this by radio.

Referrals

Any horse requiring further treatment which isn't possible at the treatment boxes should be referred to **Oakham Equine Hospital** after a discussion with the VD. A blood sample should be obtained from any horse being referred before it leaves the event site.

Fatality

In a situation where euthanasia is required **a second opinion should be sought** beforehand unless euthanasia is the only option (swinging leg fracture). Ideally an anti-doping blood sample should be taken prior to elective euthanasia by the VD.

Ideally all horses should be stabilised, transported off-course either to the stables or directly to a referral facility and then reassessed.

However, in the circumstance where immediate euthanasia on-course is deemed appropriate based on welfare grounds, ensure that the screens are properly positioned and the environment in which you are to euthanise is safe to do so. You are responsible for the safety of all those involved. It is vital that you record all medications that were used during the euthanasia and complete a FEI Veterinary Treatment Form A at the end of the day.

In the event of a euthanasia or a direct fatality on-course, the Veterinary Delegate will attend the horse as soon as possible and take medication control samples. The horse will then be transported for a full post-mortem as per FEI Veterinary Regulations.

At the conclusion of the Cross-Country Competition please return to the same meeting point used in the morning. Return your radios and debrief with the Veterinary Services Manager and the Veterinary Delegate.