

Horse Welfare Supplementary Advisory Notes as at 1 Sep 23

New Organisation. I am delighted to report that Graham Potts, a well known BHA vet who covers a lot of point to points, has accepted the role of Chief Veterinary Adviser for PPA, and represents us on technical boards at BHA. He in turn has created a network of Senior Veterinary advisers for each Area. These will be contactable by Area Secretaries to provide help if a fixture is struggling or indeed you want to discuss an Area approach. Hopefully this will provide you with a useful support network.

The following requirements have been developed this summer in response to increasing demands that racing is both perceived and is actually doing all that it can for Horse welfare. This is not only due to media but also because climate change is leading to greater extremes and more rapid changes of temperature. The latter is often more important re the effect on the horse, and can happen at any stage in the year.

Therefore, Fixtures are to ensure that the following requirements are put in place. Secretaries must pass on the information to the relevant parties at their Fixture.

FIXTURES

Fixture Secretaries

- The Senior Vet should be sent 'Responsibilities of SVS at P2P' well before meeting, and it would be sensible for FS to discuss with him the requirements.
- It is strongly advised that meetings should have 3 vets, and must have 3 vets if reasonably expecting 40+ runners. The third does not necessarily have to have done an Equine Emergency Care course (racecourse version is the Casualty Management Course).
- The Area Secretary has a Veterinary adviser if you are struggling to find enough qualified vets

Clerks of Course

- Ensure that there is water (and buckets) available throughout the day at: Horse box park, paddock, pulling up area after finishing line and mobile on course in case of problems around the track. NB Screens should be with the mobile water.
- Ensure they have an access replenishment plan taking into account crowds, particularly for paddock. NB at some meetings last season they were getting through a cubic metre of water every two races
- Co-ordinate assets on track.
- If a hot day consider moving horse box park to provide shade or air movement to allow horses to be kept cooler. Provide advice/direction on the direction boxes should be parked to gain best effects re breeze etc

Note. Whilst water is absolutely vital for hot weather, or large changes in temperature, it is very difficult to organise large amounts at short notice and so should be planned for all.

Vets

- **The Senior Vet should have read and considered 'Responsibilities of SVS at P2P' well before meeting, and it would be sensible to discuss with Fixture Secretary/Clerk of Course the requirements.**
- Providing the vets are not already engaged, one should be in the pulling up area after the finishing post in order to be able to carry out brief checks on conditions of horses re heat as well

as lameness etc. NB This is vital if a hot day, particularly if it's a climb from the track to the paddock/box park.

- No race should start without two vets being available on the track. Senior Steward and Clerk of Course to agree who is responsible for ensuring that this is the case for each race at beginning of the day

Senior Steward

- Ensure that it is clear to jockeys and handlers that they are to follow orders of vet. This may include placement of a Steward in pulling up area to enforce Vet direction.
- Co-ordinate with CoC who is responsible for ensuring coverage of vets etc for each race.
- Work with SVS, particularly on three issues:
 - If declaring a hot day, instruct Owners and Trainers not to bring horses to paddock more than 10 minutes before race time.
 - If vet advises that a horse should not run, but is unwilling to state categorically that it must be withdrawn, advise the Owner/trainer that they should withdraw the horse. The onus is on the Owner/Trainer. Record the advice, and subsequent run of horse, in the Stewards report
 - Give good attention to pre-cooling horses prior to racing. This not only helps manage heat stress but improves performance.

Declarations

- Check that the declaration form of any horse which is declared on day, which is aged 15+ and has not run that season, is accompanied with a Vet's certificate stating that it is in condition to run in a race. The home vet should be satisfied by clinical examination (including listening to the heart), both before and after strenuous exercise, that the horse is sound enough and fit enough to present no greater risk to themselves, other horses, its jockey and other jockeys than other horses during racing.

PARTICIPANTS

Owners/Trainers

- If the horse is aged 15 or more, it must be accompanied by a vet's certificate confirming that it is cleared to race before its first race of the season. The home vet should be satisfied by clinical examination (including listening to the heart) both before and after strenuous exercise that the horse is sound enough and fit enough to present no greater risk to themselves, other horses, its jockey and other jockeys than other horses during racing.
- Ensure horse stays cool in box park, including before racing, through use of shade, water and taking out of box periodically if very hot.
- Bring enough water with you to support horse for normal circumstances.

Jockeys

- Follow the instructions of the Vets concerning dismounting and anything else