

## 9. Veterinary Arrangements

### DUTIES OF THE POINT-TO-POINT ORGANISING COMMITTEE

9.1 All veterinary arrangements at a Point-to-Point Meeting must be in accordance with this Instruction. Unless prior permission has been obtained from the BHA in advance no meeting should commence or continue without the required veterinary arrangements being in place.

### PROVISION OF SERVICES

#### 9.2 Pre-Raceday

- i) A minimum of two Veterinary Surgeons (VSs) MUST be appointed; one appointed at least three months prior to the Meeting to act as the Senior Veterinary Surgeon (SVS) and to take charge of all the veterinary arrangements.

The SVS must have been given a copy of 'Responsibilities of a SVS at a Point-to-Point', which can be found on the Point-to-Point National Website [www.pointtopoint.co.uk](http://www.pointtopoint.co.uk)

Note: A third VS is strongly recommended and must be present if the fixture reasonably expects to have 40+ runners. Whilst it would be sensible for the third VS to be fully trauma trained, this is not mandatory unless required at a specific course.

- (ii) Veterinary Surgeons must:

- Be members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons with current, valid professional indemnity insurance;
- Have a full-time clinical involvement which includes a significant amount of regular treatment of horses.
- Have been qualified for at least five years with a broad experience of equine practice;
- Have attended an appropriate approved course in Equine Emergency Care within the last 5 years.
- Be physically and mentally capable of carrying out all the duties required of a VS on a Point-to-Point course.

Advice on appropriate levels of clinical involvement for Point-to-Point duties and information on courses in Equine Emergency Care are obtainable on the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons Website ([www.arvs.org.uk](http://www.arvs.org.uk)). The BHA Equine Science and Welfare Department can be contacted on 0207 152 0090.

- (iii) The SVS is to ensure a minimum level of equipment is available to deal with casualties, which should include:

- Adequate materials for Robert Jones dressings

- Gutter and/or commercial splints
- Materials for chemical euthanasia
- Intravenous fluids
- Oxygen

### **Raceday**

- (iv) Before racing commences the following must be present and procedures in place to check their attendance:
- At least 2 VSs, each provided with a radio handset.
  - A recovery vehicle with specified driver and screens. The recovery vehicle should have a working winch, ropes, and, a separate 4x4 towing vehicle suitable for the ground conditions. The recovery vehicle must be covered.
  - Additional sets of screens available in key locations.
  - A horse ambulance (or in exceptional circumstances, on the agreement of the SVS, a suitable trailer) with towing vehicle and driver experienced in handling horses. The vehicle must have a front ramp to allow the horse to be unloaded in a forward direction. Separate vehicles and drivers must be provided for the recovery vehicle and the horse ambulance.

Clerks of the Course have been advised that they must provide abundant supplies of cool fresh water around the Parade Ring/unsaddling enclosure, horse box park, at a position after the finish agreed with the SVS and adjacent to the last obstacle, should the need arise to treat a horse suffering from heat stress. The supplies may take the form of hosepipes or filled water butts. The Clerks of Course must also provide water and screens on mobile transport that can reach an incident quickly as required

- (v) Fence Attendants must have the required orange flag which should be used to summon veterinary assistance.
- (vi) It is recommended that the Clerk of the Course, in conjunction with the SVS, ensures that the course allows suitable vehicles (four wheel drive) for veterinary staff to have access throughout, or provide suitable locations to give veterinary coverage for the whole course.
- (vii) Two VSs must be on the racetrack at the start of each race. Veterinary arrangements should be such that it is possible to deal efficiently with two separate incidents in the same race.
- (viii) The VSs, horse ambulance and recovery vehicles must be deployed to ensure the most rapid response to equine casualties. The SVS should ensure he has a map of where the best veterinary referral centre is in relation to the Meeting. Where practical, a VS should be present at the start for each race.
- (ix) At least one VS attend the weighing room at a place clearly marked after each race to be available should their services be required. VSs must alert the Stewards if they notice that the use of the whip has produced a weal or drawn blood on any horse

after the race. The Stewards must also be alerted if a horse has been marked in the wrong place but is uninjured.

- (x) A VS must be available in the Parade Ring prior to each race.
- (xi) The SVS must not leave the course until all horses in the last race have been accounted for, and the permission of the Clerk of the Course for withdrawal of veterinary services has been obtained.
- (xii) VSs should wear a distinctive vest/armband during racing.
- (xiii) Calls for veterinary assistance should **not** be made over the open PA system. VSs should be issued with radios with which they can communicate with each other and with the Clerk of the Course.
- (xiv) A VS must complete a VO19 and provide to connections on any occasion when a horse receives medical treatment. It is advised that the VS contacts the home vet or referral centre in the case of serious and/or long-term injuries that are likely to require ongoing care.
- (xv) At the end of the Meeting the SVS must complete the online 'Fixture Veterinary Report Form', from the link provided by the BHA and available within 'SVS Responsibilities' document.

## **DESTRUCTION OF HORSES**

- 9.3** At least two suitable portable screens shall be provided behind which it will be possible for a VS to destroy an injured horse out of sight of the public. At least one screen should be carried as part of the equipment of the recovery vehicle, and one should be carried as part of the VS vehicle. A set of screens should always be available for use in the Parade Ring. It is also recommended that screens are in situ at fences adjacent to the crowd and at the winners' enclosure.

VSs should be instructed to keep the screens up until the horse is loaded into the recovery vehicle, but it should be made clear that absence of the screen must in no case hold up the humane despatch of an injured horse. Service/recovery vehicles can be parked in such a way as to maximise the screening of horses. The method of euthanasia must be left to the attending VS taking into account the welfare of the horse and the safety of assistants and/or onlookers e.g. in the home straight. If the horse is to be shot a sound moderated weapon must be used.

## **DISPOSAL**

- 9.4** The Organising Committee must have a designated area for the placement of dead horses during the day, which is both secure and out of public view. Dead horses must be fully covered (a tarpaulin should be adequate) so that aerial photos cannot be taken. The recovery vehicle must be empty at the start of each race.

Organisers must have a policy regarding 'elective euthanasia' to avoid unnecessary debate and ill feeling. VSs should be made aware of this policy.

It is strongly recommended that Organisers cover all costs involved when on-course humane euthanasia occurs.