

APPENDIX (9)A

SENIOR POINT-TO-POINT VETERINARY SURGEON (SPVS) RESPONSIBILITIES

Personal

1. The Senior Point-to-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS):
 - a. must hold current ARVS CMS accreditation
 - b. is expected to have racecourse experience or extensive Point-to-Point experience. In addition, it is now a requirement that they hold current SRVS status or have completed SPVS online training within the last 3 years.
 - c. must be appointed at least 2 months in advance of the fixture date
 - d. must be fully conversant with the relevant Point -to-Point Instructions and have read and understood the section 'Senior Point-To-Point Veterinary Surgeon (SPVS) Responsibilities' contained within the Instructions
 - e. must have access to the contact details for the:
 - i. Clerk of the Course
 - ii. Horse Ambulance Provider
 - iii. Recovery Vehicle Driver
 - iv. Senior Medical Officer (SRMO)

Pre-Fixture

2. Vet Team: The SPVS must ensure that the veterinary team for the fixture is suitably qualified and equipped as per the Instructions. A team of 3 veterinary surgeons is strongly recommended at all fixtures but at the discretion of the SPVS this may be reduced to 2 if the predicted number of runners is less than 30. This may not be possible on some courses due to the layout and access. A race must not commence if only one (S)PVS is available to attend casualties on the racetrack.
3. Horse Ambulance and Recovery Wagon: In advance of the fixture the SPVS should contact the horse ambulance provider and recovery vehicle driver to ensure that the vehicles are fit for purpose and meet the requirements of the Instructions. It should also be ascertained that the designated drivers have relevant horse handling experience.
4. Clerk of Course: The SPVS must contact the Clerk of the Course in advance to discuss the following:
 - a. Time of Briefing
 - b. Screen availability and deployment
 - c. Water availability
 - d. Rapid Response Vehicle (Incident Controller plus others)
 - e. Hot Weather Protocol (if considered relevant by SPVS)
 - f. Driver and vehicle provision if necessary
 - g. Stop Race Protocol
5. SRMO: SPVS must contact the SRMO in advance of the meeting to discuss the briefing of medical staff with respect to the Recumbent Horse, Danger Zones and Trapped Jockey scenario. This may be conducted at the Clerk of the Course briefing but alternatively it can be organised as a separate briefing between the Medical and Veterinary staff.

Before Racing on the Day

6. Timing: The SPVS must attend the Clerk of the Course briefing. They should

ensure the veterinary team arrive at least 1 hour in advance of the first race and that all attend the Clerk of the Course briefing. The SPVS will participate in the briefing, offering clear instruction to volunteers and others as to ensuring their own personal safety around injured and/or recumbent horses. This will include a demonstration of the 'Danger Zone' around recumbent horses. They will highlight the importance of screening and screen positioning while staying safe.

7. Pre-Race Checks: The SPVS should check that all the necessary veterinary services are in place and compliant with the Instructions. Screens must be available at the last two fences, in the Paddock, unsaddling area and where horses enter and leave the course. They should also be available on the Rapid Response Vehicle, horse ambulance and Recovery Vehicle. The SPVS should also ensure that water is available at sites as per the Instructions.

8. Communications: The SPVS should ensure that all team members have a radio and ideally are on a dedicated channel to allow effective, uninterrupted communication. All team members should be made aware of the relevant channels required to contact the Clerk of the Course and the Senior Steward should that be necessary. A radio check of all team members should be conducted well in advance of the first race. The SPVS should ensure that the Clerk of the Course and the Senior Steward are both contactable.

9. Deployment: The SPVS must brief the veterinary team on the course layout, access points, bypass directions and the Stop Race Protocol. One (S)PVS must attend the Start of each race. The team should be deployed in such a way as to ensure prompt attendance to all casualties within one minute. Plans for redeployment should be discussed should a team member be required to attend a casualty.

Senior Steward (Chair)

10. The SPVS should make contact with the Senior Steward and confirm that all the Veterinary services are in place and compliant with the Instructions. If a Hot Weather Protocol is in place the Senior Steward should be made aware and a request made to brief all jockeys that they should dismount post-race at the request of a (S)PVS to ensure that horses can be cooled as required.

11. The Senior Steward should be contacted by the SPVS in the event that anyone behaves inappropriately towards a member of the veterinary team or refuses to act as directed by a (S)PVS on matters of horse welfare.

12. The SPVS (or any (S)PVS with relevant experience) should be available to the Stewards as required to offer an opinion on matters of riding extremely tired or injured horses, evidence of excessive use of the whip or any other matters related to horse welfare.

Equine Injury

13. The SPVS should ensure that all members of the veterinary team are adequately supported as soon as possible in the event of a serious casualty. If a second opinion is required, this should invariably fall to the SPVS. It is recommended

that connections are fully briefed by the SPVS regarding diagnosis, prognosis and ongoing treatment. (Where possible all cases of humane destruction should receive a second opinion from another (S)PVS but not at the risk of compromising horse welfare.)

14. The SPVS must always be involved in decision making regarding 'fitness to travel'.

15. If connections are resistant to veterinary assistance and display a disregard for a horse's welfare it is strongly recommended that the SPVS reminds them of their responsibilities. In extreme cases the SPVS may decide to report the matter to the Senior Steward.

16. In the event of a fatality, the SPVS must ensure that the Point-to-Point Secretary is aware of the horse's name and the owner/keeper's details. It is strongly recommended that the costs of humane euthanasia are covered by the Organisers.

17. Costs related to elective euthanasia are best explained to connections by the SPVS.

18. Treatment forms (VO19 available on the PPA website) must be provided to the connections of all horses receiving medical care.

19. The SPVS must ensure that prompt contact is made with the home veterinary surgeon in situations where a horse has sustained a serious and/or long-term injury in order to establish continuity of care. A copy of the VO19 should also be sent to the home veterinary surgeon without delay.

20. In cases where it is agreed to send a casualty to a referral hospital the SPVS should ensure that the owner/keeper has appropriate directions, and that contact has been made with the referral centre in advance to discuss the casualty. A copy of the VO19 should be sent to the referral centre in advance.

21. The SPVS should make a follow up phone call in the case of horses which sustain serious and/or long-term injuries and return home or are sent to a referral centre. If a horse is subsequently euthanased having been reassessed after leaving the course, it would be appreciated if this information could be included in the Fixture Veterinary Report Form.

Post Fixture Debriefing

22. At the end of the meeting, it is recommended that the SPVS conducts a short debrief with all members of the veterinary team to ensure that all significant injuries have been recorded, that all major incidents at the meeting are reviewed and critiqued and to discuss whether any changes need to be made to the provision of veterinary services in the future. Feedback to the Clerk of the Course is always appreciated and ensures that changes are made at future meetings to ensure ongoing improvements in the provision of efficient veterinary services.

Fixture Veterinary Report Form

23. The BHA requires that the SPVS completes the online Fixture Veterinary Report and returns it within a few days of the meeting. The report is in digital form and can be found here:

<https://www.cognitofirms.com/BritishHorseracingAuthority/pointtopointinjuryreportform>