

ANNEX XI

STANDARD METHOD OF EXAMINATION FOR HYPERSENSITIVITY OF LEGS

Protocol for Clinical examination and Thermography

The following protocol for clinical and thermographical examinations during CSIs/CSIOs/Championships should be used immediately.

1. Directly after the first horse inspection or after the first competition, all four legs of all horses will be checked by thermography by an FEI appointed veterinarian. All collected data will be saved. After each thermographic examination, every horse will undergo a brief clinical examination of the legs, which will be carried out by two veterinarians appointed by the FEI specifically for this task. If as a result of this inspection there is a clear and obvious case of abnormal reaction during the clinical examination a recommendation will be made at this stage by the two FEI appointed veterinarians through the FEI Veterinary Delegate to the Ground Jury to have the horse in question removed from competition.
2. All horses with a temperature difference between collateral legs exceeding two degrees celsius or with an extremely high or low temperature of both collateral legs and/or abnormal reactions during the clinical examination will be targeted for further checks during the event. At these bandage controls, which will take place when horses come out of the arena, other horses in addition to those targeted will be checked by thermography to establish a baseline average under the conditions that day. Each thermographic examination will be followed by a clinical examination. However, if at any stage it is clear and obvious that a horse is unfit to continue, a recommendation will be made by the two FEI appointed veterinarians through the FEI Veterinary Delegate to the Ground Jury to have the horse in question removed from competition.
3. Where a clinical examination reveals an abnormal sensitivity confirmed by the two relevant FEI appointed veterinarians and/or visible changes on the skin of the leg(s), video evidence will be recorded for eventual use later in time. The two veterinarians performing the clinical examination are entitled to recommend to the Ground Jury through the FEI Veterinary Delegate that such a horse is denied further participation in the event in accordance with the FEI Veterinary Regulations.
4. Spot checks at random may be carried out in the stables. Suspect horses will be invited to present for thermography and further clinical examination within a short time period (cf para 9). Leg swabs will be taken if this is deemed necessary.
5. A representative of the FEI Veterinary Department will, wherever possible, be present during the thermographic examinations; this could be the veterinarian carrying out the thermographic examination.
6. Riders must be present for all examinations following the first horse inspection.
7. If a recommendation is made by the two FEI appointed veterinarians through the FEI Veterinary Delegate there is an expectation that the Ground Jury will accept this recommendation and remove the horse in question from further competition at the event, unless there are exceptional circumstances indicating that the horse should be permitted to continue. In this case, the foreign judge must present the Ground Jury's justification in writing to FEI Headquarters.
8. Horses removed from competition may be sampled.
9. These examinations should take place in a secure, controlled environment.

10. Decisions by the Ground Jury to eliminate a horse for abnormal sensitivity are not appealable.