

# THE USHJA CODE OF CONDUCT

## for Horse Welfare

The Mission of the United States Hunter Jumper Association is to unify and represent the interests of all levels of participants in order to promote and enhance the hunter and jumper disciplines and provide educational experiences in a manner that will benefit both horses and members. The USHJA Horse Welfare Committee will develop and implement guidelines and rules that exist specifically for the welfare of the horse. The USHJA expects that every person involved in showing horses adhere to the USHJA's Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse:

Horses are one of only a few animals used as athletes, often required to undergo extensive training before reaching their physiological or psychological limits as competitive individuals. Under these circumstances, decisions about horse welfare may be strongly influenced by the potential benefits to the rider, the owner or trainer. Therefore:

- ❖ All equestrians must acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse is the first priority and must never be second to competitive or personal commercial influences.
- ❖ The well-being of the horse takes precedence over the demands of trainers, riders, owners, organizers, sponsors or officials.
- ❖ Competition management must always consider the horses' welfare relative to the competition and schooling areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, equipment and other related site safety issues.
- ❖ Adequate provisions must be made for ventilation, feeding, watering and maintaining a healthy environment when horses are stabled on competition grounds.
- ❖ In the interests of the horse, the competence of the rider is considered essential.
- ❖ The highest level of veterinary care available must be provided at all levels of competition.
- ❖ The USHJA will establish adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies respect the welfare of the horse.
- ❖ Emphasis will be placed on increasing education in training and equestrian practices and promoting scientific studies in equine health.
- ❖ The USHJA urges its membership to pursue the highest level of horsemanship by continued education through clinics at all levels. The USHJA Horse Welfare Committee is dedicated to bringing the best horsemanship ideas together, throughout the United States, in an effort to promote understanding and fair treatment of horses at every opportunity.