

USHJA POLICY STATEMENT

Subject: Welfare Statement

Policy Number: GA104

Date of Board Adoption: June 21, 2012

Board Approved Effective Date: June 21, 2012

The USHJA Horse Welfare Code of Conduct

USHJA expects that every person involved with horses will adhere to the USHJA Horse Welfare Code of Conduct which states:

As Athletes, horses are 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 take precedent over any competitive, personal, or commercial benefits or influences.

In the interest of the horse, the competence of the rider is considered essential. USHJA members must continue to pursue the highest level of horsemanship by increasing their education regarding training and equestrian practices.

The highest level of veterinary care available must be provided at all levels of competition. USHJA Members should promote and support scientific studies in equine health.

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.

USHJA Members must promote the fair treatment of horses at all levels and at every opportunity.