



HORSE WELFARE OFFICER POLICY

Policy number	HWO	Version	V3.2017
Drafted	2009	Approved by SMC on	25.02.2017
Responsible person	VERA Inc. SMC	Scheduled review date	2020

INTRODUCTION

As an affiliate of the Australian Endurance Riders Association (AERA), the State Management Committee (SMC) of Victorian Endurance Riders Association Inc. (VERA Inc.) is committed to the high standards of behavior and responses of the (AERA) Horse Welfare Code of Conduct and promoting the well-being of horses.

PURPOSE

This policy has been developed to provide a framework for all VERA Inc. members to be aware of horse welfare and work toward the highest level of maintenance with the understanding that:

- a) The needs of the horse are paramount;
- b) The well-being of the horse is above the demands of riders, owners, sponsors, breeders, ride organisers and officials;
- c) All veterinary inspections and treatments must ensure the health and welfare of the horse;
- d) The highest standards of nutrition, health, sanitation, and safety shall be encouraged and maintained at all times;
- e) All horse training and riding methods must take into account the horse as a living entity and will not include any technique considered by the AERA to be abusive;

POLICY

As an affiliate of the AERA, VERA Inc. will maintain adequate controls in order that all persons and bodies under the jurisdiction of VERA Inc. respect the health and welfare of the horse.

National and international rules regarding the health and welfare of the horse must be adhered to.

VERA Inc. will follow the rules of the AERA which are continually reviewed to ensure such horse welfare ensues.

HORSE WELFARE PROCEDURES

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RESPONSIBILITIES

The VERA Inc. SMC will appoint the Horse Welfare Officer at the commencement of each calendar year from the VERA Inc. membership.

Consideration should be given to those expressing interest and taking into account any conflict of interest.

The Horse Welfare Officer shall be responsible for

- Monitoring and reporting horse welfare issues to the VERA Inc. SMC as the occasion occurs.
- Monitoring and reporting Horse and Rider Early Warning System points to the VERA Inc. SMC as the occasion occurs.
- Communication with VERA Inc. members regarding Horse and Rider Early Warning System points as the occasion occurs.
- Maintaining Invasive Treatment records from VERA Inc. affiliated Endurance Rides.
- Maintaining confidentiality of all issues pertaining to horse welfare.
- Application of the AERA Equine Anti-Doping and controlled Medication Rules (2016).
- Plan and organize the VERA Inc. medication swabbing program.

PROCEDURES

The Horse Welfare Officer will

1. Liaise with the VERA Inc. Honorary Vet Panel on horse welfare Issues.
2. Receive Invasive Treatment paperwork, logbooks and Rest Order advice from the attending Chief Steward should they occur at Endurance Events.
 - a. Process invasive treatment and rest order records on AERASPACE
 - i. Keep copies of all forms and relevant logbook page
 - ii. Forward copies of forms and logbook page to AERA Horse Welfare Officer
3. Report Invasive Treatments and Rest Orders to VERA Inc. SMC.
4. Receive and hold Horse logbooks subject to rest orders as per current AERA Rulebook, returning these books by registered mail to the registered owner/agent at the end of the rest order.
5. Monitor the REWS and HEWS reporting on AERASPACE, and
 - a. Implement appropriate responses to the relevant member.
 - b. Report REWS and HEWS status to the VERA Inc. SMC.
 - c. Apply relevant comments/penalties on AERASPACE.
6. Implement the AERA Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Rules (2016) by;

- a. Swabbing at every Victorian State Championship (numbers to be decided by SMC and State Vet Panel)
- b. And at the commencement of each calendar year, randomly select at least two Endurance Events listed on the calendar. (the VERA Inc. SMC may request more)
- c. Organise swabbing at rides – source an appropriately qualified EA medication swabbing steward from the current EA list.
 - i. When sourcing the EA swabbing steward, the HWO may approve - one night accommodation as available near the event venue, one meal, payment of the recommended fee as described by EA and cover costs incurred such as postage. Payment will be provided on submission of appropriate invoice to VERA Inc. SMC.
 - ii. Assist the medication swabbing steward at the nominated rides or nominate a VERA Inc. member to assist.
- d. The AERA will be notified of any positive test results and will notify the VERA Inc. HWO or SMC for follow up action.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- EA Medication Control Protocol
- AERA rulebook – section 5 Equine Anti-doping and Controlled Medication Rules (2016)