

# THE WELFARE OF HORSES: AN ETHICAL OBLIGATION AND A NECESSITY FOR THE FUTURE

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Réflexions éthiques sur la dignité et le bien-être  
des chevaux et autres équidés

Pistes pour une meilleure protection



Ethical Reflections on the Dignity and Welfare of  
Horses and other Equids

Pathways to Enhanced Protection

Summary Report

FEI CAMPUS

CHARLES F. TROLLET

Featured course

## Ethics & Welfare – an introduction

HORSE WELFARE

- The Social Licence to Operate and why it is important
- The terms that are used when discussing ethics and welfare and what they mean
- What the duty of care involves
- The Five Freedoms and the Five Domains of animal welfare
- How a horse's welfare can be assessed

VIEW COURSE

Welcome to FEI campus

FEI CAMPUS AT A GLANCE

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certified learning from  
the FEI anywhere,

**EXCHANGE**  
with an international  
panel of FEI-accredited



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# Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse



FEI APPROVED SCHEDULE  
Avenches (SUI) - 20-23 July 2023

FEI EVENTING

### III. THE FEI CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) expects all those involved in international equestrian sport to adhere to the FEI's Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

1. At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.
2. Horses and Athletes must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.
3. Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.
4. Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.
5. The FEI urges all involved with the sport to attain the highest levels of education in their areas of expertise.

The Long version of this Code can be obtained from the Fédération Equestre Internationale, HM King Hussein I Building, Chemin de la Joliette 8, 1006 Lausanne, Switzerland. Telephone: +41 21 310 47 47. The Code is available in English. The Code is also available on the FEI's website: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/general-rules>.



... and many more!





Goodwill is  
essential,  
but it's not  
enough!

## Dignity of the creature:

The intrinsic value of any living thing, independent of its qualities, appearance and/or financial value.





All domestication represents a certain strain, but it can also be beneficial for the animal.



# BALANCE OF INTERESTS

For any activity (in this case equestrian) a **balance of interests** to decide whether the activity itself and the way it is carried out is **ethically acceptable.**





Is what I'm doing right and, if so,  
can I do it better for my horse?





# Results

*There are 6 priority focus areas for SLO*



EQUINE ETHICS & WELLBEING COMMISSION



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Education  
and training  
are key to the  
well-being of  
horses!





Education  
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well-being of  
horses!



Resisting  
pressures  
and  
temptations

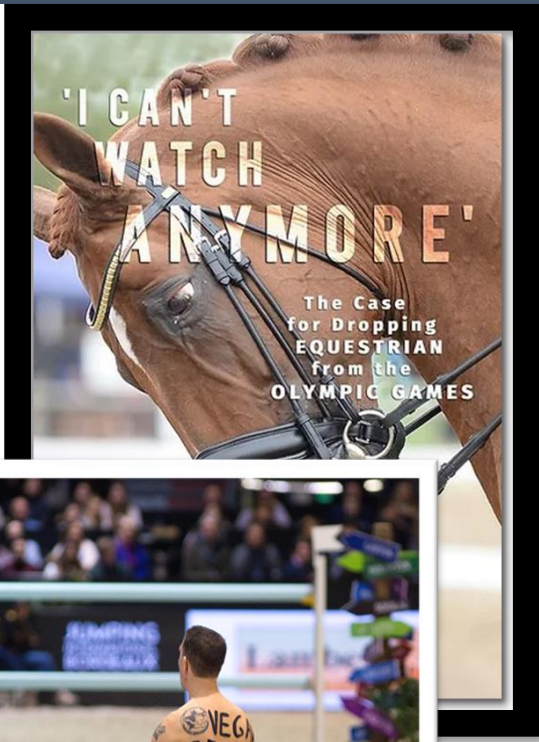


Tribune JO Paris 2024

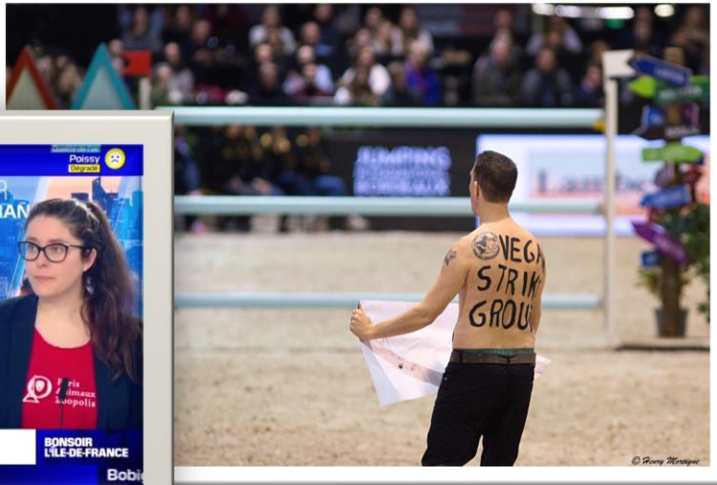
## JO 2024 : « Pour que les Jeux olympiques de Paris soient ceux du bien-être des chevaux »

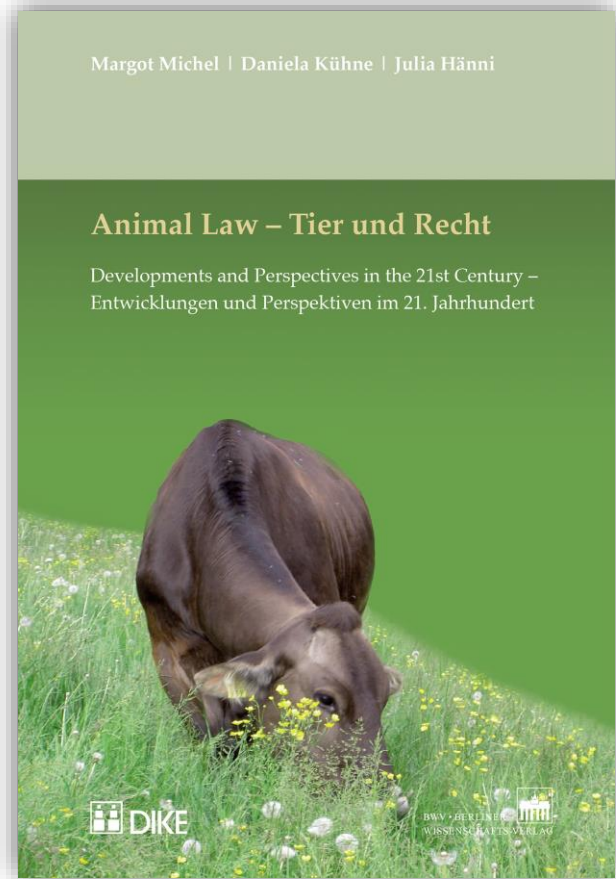
Une quarantaine de noms du monde vétérinaire et de l'hippisme, français et internationaux, appellent dans une tribune que publie Le Parisien à faire progresser la prise en compte de la douleur et des besoins des animaux dans le sport de haut niveau.

Par Tribune  
Le 11 février 2024 à 07h05

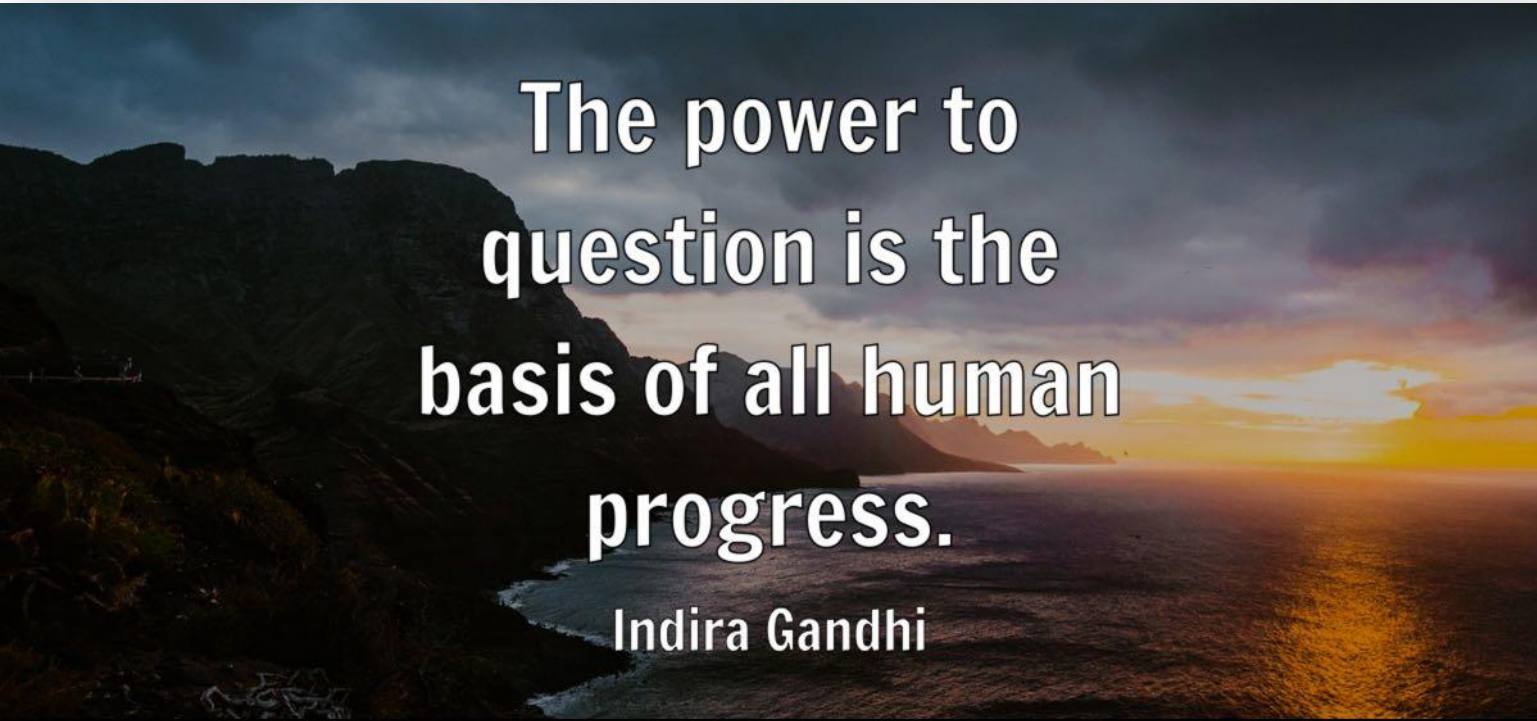


Equestrian activities are in the spotlight





Possible  
improvements



The power to  
question is the  
basis of all human  
progress.

Indira Gandhi

Possible  
improvements

FEI JUMPING  
Rule Changes 2023



«Happy Horse»  
Die Auszeichnung für  
Gutes Reiten

Unterstützt durch



# Possible improvements





"tu es responsable pour toujours  
de ce que tu as apprivoisé"  
Antoine de Saint Exupéry

