



The RDA Horse

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What we will be covering

- Flu vaccinations
 - Infectious diseases
 - Medication Control
 - Weight
 - General Welfare
-
- Support

Flu Vaccinations





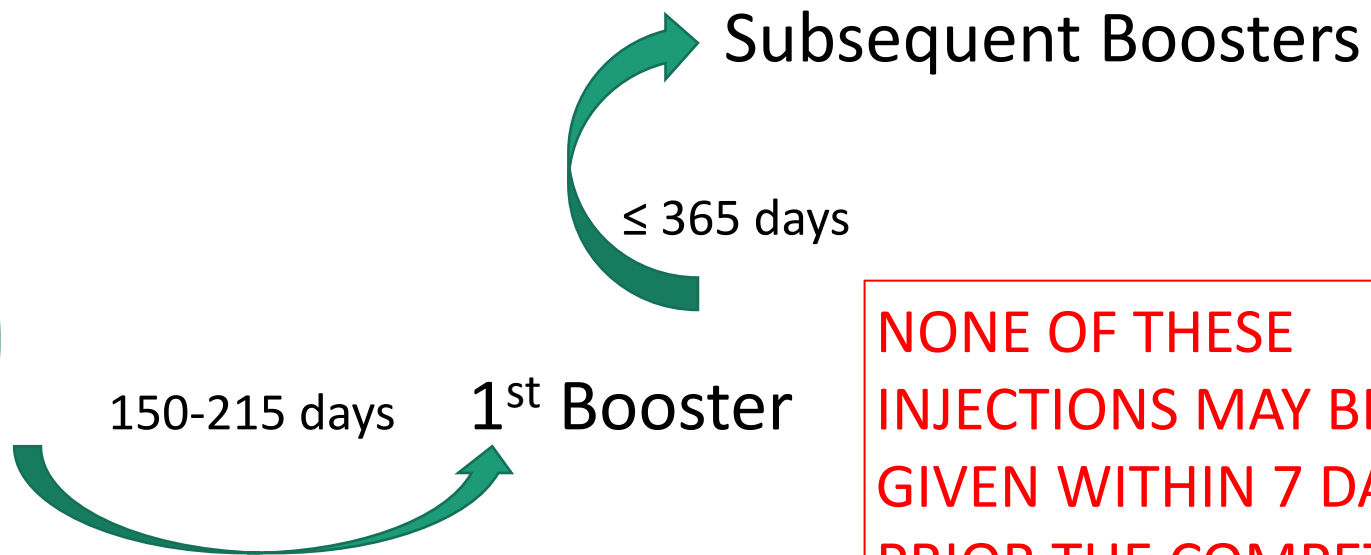
Equine influenza symptoms

- A highly contagious respiratory disease widespread throughout the world.
- It is spread through direct contact with infected horse's coughing and sputtering and indirect (buckets, brushes, etc) contact.
- Symptoms begin 2-5 days after exposure and include mainly high temperature, coughing and nasal discharge.
- For uncomplicated cases, horses should completely recover within 3 to 6 weeks of infection.

Current Rules

Incorrect Vaccine at Inspection	Record
2012	4
2013	13
2014	24
2015	11
2016	7
2017	12

Primary course



NONE OF THESE INJECTIONS MAY BE GIVEN WITHIN 7 DAYS PRIOR THE COMPETITION



Why is it in place?

- Equine Welfare
 - Freedom from disease
 - 7-day rule: Post-vaccination discomfort
- Implications of infection
 - Long recovery: out of work
 - Cost of treatment to charity
- Preparation for higher level competition
 - Standard protocol at affiliated events

Implementation at National Championships

- Passport inspection by Veterinary Surgeon on arrival at Championships.
- If a horse's vaccination record doesn't comply with the rules, it will not be permitted to enter the National Championship Venue.

*****INCORRECT, INCOMPLETE, ALTERED OR AMBIGUOUS PASSPORTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED*****



Support

- RDA horses and ponies are eligible to receive free of charge Flu vaccinations
 - REA (Regional Equine Adviser)
 - RDA website
- Regional vets (@ Regional Championships)
 - Volunteer vets
 - Passport inspections and advice

Infectious diseases / Isolation



Current Policy

- A horse showing signs of infectious disease may be isolated.
- Usually due to two from the following:
 - Dull demeanour
 - Inappetance
 - Nasal discharge
 - Enlarged lymph nodes
 - Coughing
 - Diarrhoea
 - Fever (rectal temperature over 38.5 °C)
- Once isolated the horse may no longer compete



Why is it in place?

- Horses at competition are at an increased risk of infectious disease
 - Stress
 - Subclinical pathogen shedding
 - Reduced immune response to challenge
 - In contact with many other horses with unknown clinical history



Why is it in place?

- Isolation protocols shown to limit spread of infection
- Protect other horses on site from disease
- Ensure competition can continue
- Zoonotic diseases

Main infectious diseases

Infectious respiratory disease:

- STRANGLES
- EQUINE INFLUENZA (FLU)
- Other respiratory pathogens

Infectious gastrointestinal disease:

- Salmonella
- Clostridium difficile
- Clostridium perfringens



Implementation (@ National Championship)

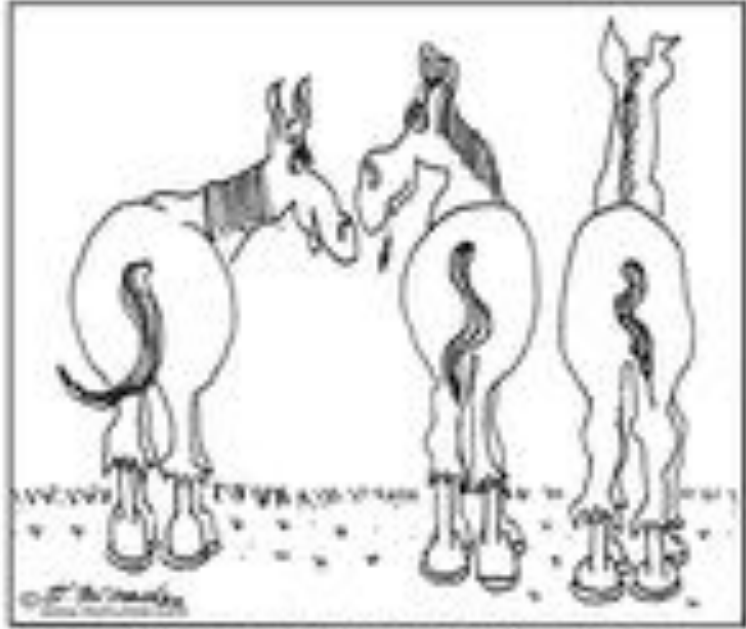
- If a concern is raised about a horse, it will be examined by a vet free of charge
- If it meets criteria for isolation, it will be moved immediately. If not, further monitoring may be implemented.
- If a concern is raised about your horse in your absence, we will attempt to contact you before it is examined or treated.
- If you cannot be contacted, emergency treatment and management will be provided at discretion of attending veterinary surgeon.

Support (@ National Championships)

- Vet on site 24 hours a day
 - Free of charge advice
 - Monitoring of unwell horses
- Any concerns raised are confidential
- Isolation facilities and equipment provided
- Hospital backup available if required
- In the event of a large outbreak, groups may be required to find their own alternative stabling outside of the venue.

Regional Championships

- Less imperative
 - One day event
 - Easier to send snotty ponies home!
- Discuss biosecurity protocols with Regional Vets
 - Inspection on arrival
 - Regional training in competitions health
 - Surveillance
 - Examination of unwell animals



"Pegasus used steroids. Pass it on."



Medication control

Current Policy

- The RDA follows the lead of the FEI (Federation Equestre Internationale) and British Equestrian Federation with respect to the medication of horses used in competition.
- A full list of banned substances can be found on the FEI's Clean Sport Website. <http://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/ad-h/prohibited-list>



Current Policy

- The use of any herbal, natural or chemical product to affect the performance of a horse or pony in a calming (tranquilising), excitatory or performance enhancing manner is strictly forbidden under RDA rules. (CAREFUL WITH MAGNESIUM SUPPLEMENTS!)

Why is it in place?

- Clean Sport
- Equine Welfare
- RIDER SAFETY

Current Policy: exceptions

- The RDA does however make certain exceptions to the FEI's list of controlled and banned substances with respect to the population of horses used in RDA activities.
- The use of the following products is permitted under RDA regulations provided that the horse is being treated for a specific diagnosis and is under the care of a veterinary surgeon.

Permitted Medications

- Altrenogest (Regumate[®]) – mares only
- Pergolide (Prascend[®])
- Salbutamol (Ventolin[®] inhalers)
- Clenbuterol (Ventipulmin[®])
- (Gastrogard[®])



Permitted Medications

The use of Phenylbutazone “Bute” (or other alternatives Suxibuzone or Meloxicam) is permitted under veterinary supervision in certain circumstances. Use of these medications at Championships and during the preceding 7 days **MUST always be declared**. Should the horse be selected for medication testing and test positive in the absence of a declaration sanctions as detailed below will be enforced.



Safeguarding

- Use needs to be reasonable and under close veterinary supervision
- Horses on NSAIDs are subject to additional welfare checks/surveillance at National Championships
- Use of NSAIDs taken into consideration during carrying weight assessments
- In 2017 <2% of horse at National Championships had received NSAIDs in the preceding 7 days

Sanctions (@ National Championships)

1. If the person responsible for the horse refuses to present for medication testing once selected.
2. If the person responsible refuses to consent to the collection of samples once selected.
3. If the horse tests positive for a prohibited substance.

Sanctions

- Disqualification of the horse from the RDA National Championships, which includes the return of any trophies or prizes that may have been won
- The person responsible for the horse will be invoiced the full cost of the testing. The cost is approximately £500+VAT.

Regional Championships

- Historically not enforced
- Cost prohibited
- Awareness and education
 - Calmers in stables/ lorries
 - Data collection at vet inspection @ National Championships
 - Welfare monitoring
 - Competition training with RVs

Welfare at competitions



New policy

Horses play a vital role in RDA and their welfare is paramount. Equine welfare will be monitored throughout the competition to ensure horses' welfare needs are being met. This includes freedom from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, illness and distress. Any welfare concerns will be investigated, and in the event of a breach sanctions up to and including disqualification may apply.



Implementation at National Championships

- Any welfare concerns will be investigated by the Veterinary team.
- If inadequate care has been provided, those responsible will be informed and sanctions may be applied.
 - Written warning
 - “Speed awareness course”
 - Disqualification in severe/ repeat breaches

Support

- Common sense!!
 - Ensure food and water always available
 - Discuss stabling requirements with Stable Manager in advance
 - Seek veterinary advice if signs of illness are observed
 - Medication control
- E-learning
- Vet support at Regional/ National Championships
- REAs (Regional Equine Adviser)

Weight



Current Policy

- RDA horses may not carry more than 1/6 of their body weight (tack and rider)
- With standard tack equates to rider weight of 15% (500kg horse = 75kg rider)
- No limit for absolute weight/BMI of rider, but must be allocated an appropriate horse.

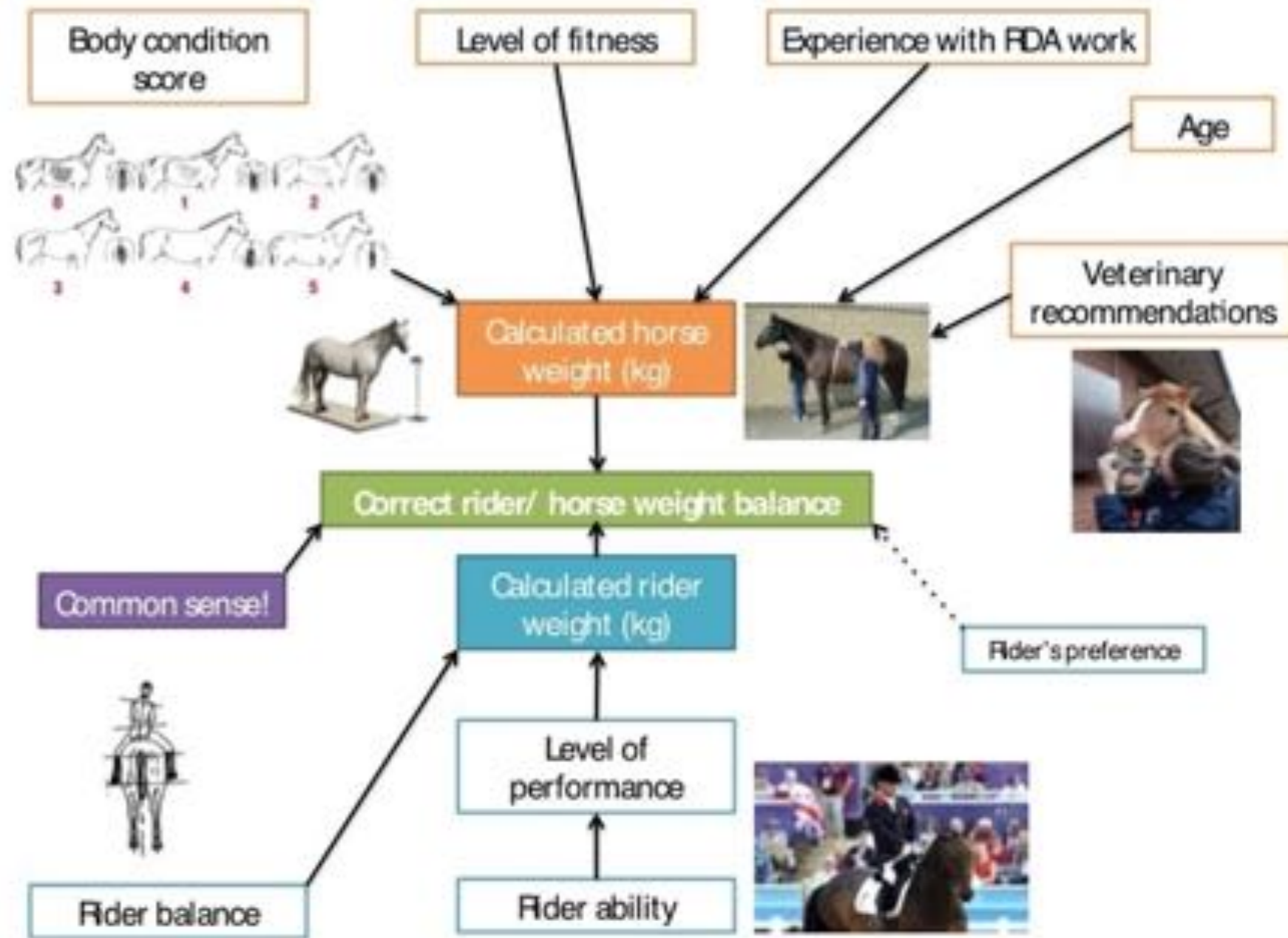


Why is it in place?

- Unbalanced riders may increase risk of injury to horse
- Limiting weight carried helps mitigate this risk
- Recent AHT study: early results suggest significant temporary effect of inappropriate horse rider combination on gait and behaviour
- Inappropriate combination exacerbated discomfort due to imperfectly fitting tack.

Implementation

- Carrying weight limits calculated for each horse
- Rider and tack weight checked before combination authorised
- All combinations must be authorised
 - Independent riders
 - Privately owned horses



Thanks to Jenny Routh MRCVS, RDA South Regional Vet

Support

- Guidelines and training provided
 - RDA website
 - Training with Regional Vets and REAs
- RDA provides documentation support to monitor compliance
- Weight consultations at Regional Championships
 - Regional Vets
 - Commercial sponsors
- Veterinary weight consultations and monitoring at National Championships
 - Top Spec
 - Penalties will apply

Questions?

