

Veterinary Forms and Shoeing Forms

Explanations how to use the forms

There are five different forms:

VET FORM 1

For events with a specific “fit to compete check” made by a veterinary surgeon before the event starts.

VET FORM 1 has to be used for events where there is a specific fit to compete check with mouth control before the event starts. The first part has to be filled in by a veterinary surgeon – enter name, date and time. If the horse is re-checked after a test, the re-check can either be made by a judge or by a veterinary surgeon. Don’t forget to fill in the test and the bit that was used. In case the horse has new lacerations after a test, you fill in: “change yes: new” on VET FORM 1 and fill in the type of lacerations on VET FORM 2.

VET FORM 2

For events with mouth control only after a test or a final and for new lacerations after using VET FORM 1.

VET FORM 2 has to be used at events without a “fit to compete check”. A judge or a veterinary surgeon can either perform the check. VET FORM 2 has to be used whenever there is a new laceration after a test.

VET FORM 3

For the entrance check at any event, to check identity, basic health and the required documents.

VET FORM 4

For the basic “fit to compete check” for horses that have to be re-checked of the check before the start of the event or for countries with a daily “fit to compete check”.

SHOEING FORM

For events with a specific shoe check before the start of the event (like World Championships), to register shoes, soles and rings.

FORMS 1 – 5 have to be kept together per horse to inform judges and ring stewards about the health condition of the horse and to provide other relevant information. At major events the sets of forms should be available for ring stewards (performing the equipment check) in the starting order of the horses per test.

An OVERVIEW VET FORM is available to report the number of participating horses, the number of checked horses and the number of horses with lacerations per test to be reported to your national association. For WorldRanking events the forms will be collected by FEIF through the national WorldRanking Registrars.

The forms have to be prepared by the organiser of the event. IceTest, the free competition software of FEIF, is able to print the forms per horse. The forms are also available for download from the FEIF website: www.feif.org/download.

Explanation of the used terms

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Left, right | seen from the side of the horse |
| Buccal mucosa | the soft tissue on the inside of the mouth along the premolars |
| Bars | the soft tissue where there are no teeth (where the bit should be) |
| Palatum mucosa | the soft tissue on the top of the mouth (opposite the bars) |
| Bruise | soft tissue that is reddish and can be swollen |
| Fresh | a new wound which is not older than approximately ½ a day. There is no discolouration of the edges of the wound |
| Old | wound with obvious discolouration of the edges of the wound. |
| Scar | the mark left by a healed wound. |
| Category 1 | up to a few millimetres |
| Category 2 | up to one centimetre |
| Category 3 | anything bigger than category 2 |
| Sensitive | if the horse reacts to gentle palpation |
| Blood | dripping blood out of the wound – be careful with your description of blood in the mouth: sometimes it happens that the salivation turns a little reddish due to a fresh wound!! |

How to perform the mouth control

1. Put on new non-sterile examination gloves.
2. Check the tightness of the noseband.
3. Ask the rider to put on the horse's head collar.
4. Make contact to the horse.
5. Start by looking to the outside of the mouth and the surroundings for visible injuries and blood in connection with the bridle.
6. Stand in front of the horse, preferably.
7. Start with gentle palpation of the mouth corners with your thumb on the inside and your index finger on the outside. Now you get the information whether the horse is sensitive to this palpation or not.
8. Due to palpation most horses will open their mouth and when you bend over to one side you can easily look at the opposite inside of the mouth.
Now you can get the information of the opposite buccal mucosa, opposite inside of the mouth corner, the tongue and palatum mucosa and also the bars on the side where you stand. Do it on both sides.
9. If you have no clear sight of the mouth corners, you can turn each mouth corner inside out.
10. If you see a bruise or swollen tissue on the bars palpate it gently, to find out if it is sensitive or not.
11. If the horse is not cooperative with opening the mouth it might help to grasp the tongue and pull it out.
12. Write down what you have seen.
13. Thank the rider for the cooperation.
14. Never forget: The aim of these controls is to assure the horses' welfare. Make sure to act carefully.
15. Act efficiently – if it takes too long it will bother horse and rider.



Procedure for World Championships and other major events

Checks after tests on the oval track

After the test a ring steward accompanies each rider to the check. During the checks the following persons are present: 2 ring stewards and the deputy chief judge and, if necessary, the veterinary surgeon.

When leaving the track it is not allowed to change anything without the ring stewards' permission or to feed the horse. Ring steward 1 is responsible for the mouth control. Ring steward 2 is responsible to measure the whip, the shoe check and the control of the boots and possible injuries.

The responsible judge (RJ; at World Championships the Deputy Chief Judge) has to be present and is supervising the whole procedure. If the ring stewards are in doubt, they have to ask the RJ. If the RJ is in doubt he/she has to ask the vet on duty to come and give his/her opinion.

The area for the checks should be a quiet place, not too far from the oval track. Not more than two persons per horse are allowed in the fenced control area. There should be a horse stable nearby for horses that cannot be examined in a safe way in the fenced area.

Checks after oval track finals

The horses should be examined in the same sequence as they leave the track. A waiting area should be available for those horses waiting for their checks.

For the finals a map with the files of the horses participating in the finals shall be prepared so that the RJ has an overview of the "checking history" of the horses.

Ring stewards are needed for equipment and shoe control, two per horse. The RJ will perform the mouth control; he/she has to be assisted by a secretary (has to fill in the forms). The veterinary surgeon should be present during these controls.

If two teams of ring stewards are performing the checks, the following number of persons is required: 4 ring stewards, one judge to supervise the holding area, the RJ is responsible for the mouth control and the veterinary surgeon.

Checks after test on the pace track

There should be a closed area where the horses have the opportunity to calm down for some minutes; ring stewards will control this area. The boots and the noseband have to be checked before entering this area, to enable the riders to open the noseband and to take the boots off.

To give the ring stewards a better overview they should be given a list of those horses where injuries had been noticed before together with the "checking history" of the horses that are entered for the test.

The RJ will perform the mouth control; he/she has to be assisted by a secretary (has to fill in the forms). The veterinary surgeon should be present during these controls.

The number of persons required: 4 - 6 ring stewards, 1 judge responsible for the slowing down section, the vet on duty and the RJ are responsible for the mouth control.



Procedure for other events (WorldRanking and national level)

Checks after oval track tests

A national approved and educated judge should perform the check. A veterinary surgeon should be available on call.

When leaving the track it is not allowed to change any parts of the equipment without the judge's permission and it is not allowed to feed the horses. The judge is responsible for the mouth control and to measure the whip, the shoe check and the control of the boots and possible injuries.

If the judge is in doubt he/she has to ask the chief judge for a second opinion. If necessary the vet on duty has to come and give his/her opinion.

There should be a quiet place, not too far from the oval track to perform the checks (preferably near the oval track). Not more than two persons per horse are allowed in the, preferably, fenced control area.

Checks after oval track finals

The horses should be examined in the same sequence as they leave the track. A waiting area should be available for those horses waiting for their checks.

For the finals a folder with the files of the horses participating in that final shall be prepared so that the judge has an overview of the "checking history" (including the injuries that were noticed before) of the horses.

One judge is needed for the equipment and shoe control. A second judge will perform the mouth control; he/she has to be assisted by a secretary (has to fill in the forms). A third judge will supervise the waiting area. The veterinary surgeon should be called in case of doubt.

Checks after test on the pace track

There should be a closed area where the horses are given the opportunity to calm down for some minutes, which will be controlled by helpers. The boots and the noseband have to be checked before entering this area, to enable the riders to open the noseband and to take the boots off.

To give the judges a better overview they should be given a list of those horses where injuries had been noticed before together with the "checking history" of the horses that are entered for the test.

A secretary has to assist the judge doing the mouth controls, to fill in the forms. The veterinary surgeon should be on stand-by during these controls.

It is up to the judges and the organization to work out a practical way for the controls.



What to do when there are lacerations in the mouth?

1. Inform the rider about the changes/or lacerations that were noticed.
2. Actions to be taken:
 - If you notice scar tissue or injuries category 1 you just fill in the form.
 - If you notice category 2 injuries you ask for a second opinion of the chief judge, if necessary you call the veterinary surgeon.
 - If you notice sensitive bruises and/or category 3 injuries you ask the veterinary surgeon for advice whether the horse is still fit to compete or whether it has to be disqualified due to the severity of the lacerations. The disqualification is always the decision of the judges.
 - If you notice blood, ask the veterinary surgeon to confirm. When positive, the horse is disqualified. However, the disqualification is always the decision of the judges.

05 February 2008

