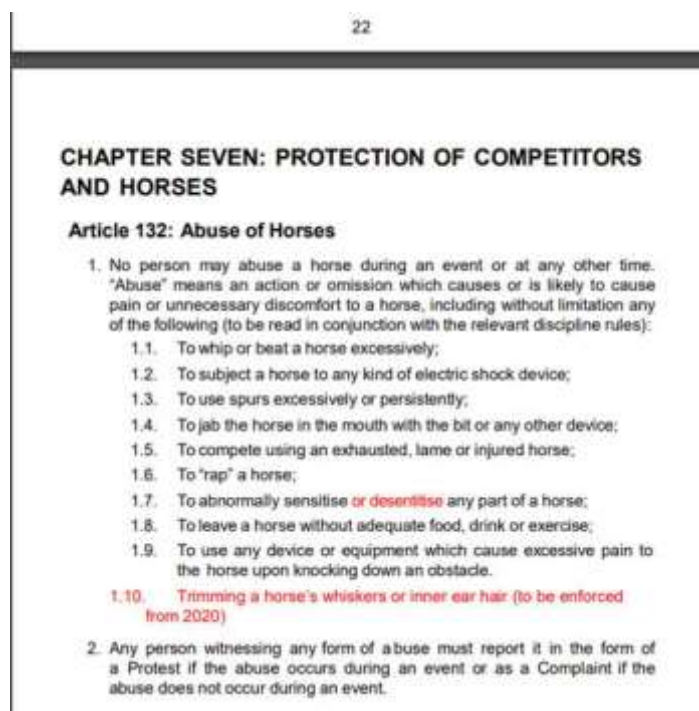


Trimming of horse/pony whiskers and inner ear hair

Please be aware of an addition to ESNZ rules. The trimming of whiskers and inner ear hair will now be considered as abuse of a horse/pony and will be enforced from 2020 within ESNZ disciplines.



A recent email from the NZ Pony Club Association supports this matter –

Whiskers and inner ear fluff

NZPCA support the banning of removal of a horse or pony's whiskers and inner ear fluff. We believe that this is an animal welfare issue and support the international research that indicates that whiskers are necessary for a horses' wellbeing, are a sensitive part of the horse and should not be removed. Please note that at all NZPCA competitions horses with whiskers and inner ear fluff will not be discriminated against.

Brent Snellix has advised this has been raised at Animal Welfare Workshops as initial discussions only at this time. There is support from the NZ Equine Health Association.

The RAS raised the matter at the RAS Conference and the recent RAS equestrian judge's seminars in acknowledgment of the way matters are moving within the NZ equestrian scene. The RAS support animal welfare issues and believe it is important that our competitors are aware and educated on this issue. The current RAS rules (GR.6 Abuse of Exhibits) generally cover this matter. However, the RAS believe it is important to create awareness around this in the first instance and will undertake this throughout the 2019/20 A&P show season with a view to enforcing this next show season.