Overview

1. About World Horse Welfare
2. Our work with sport regulators
3. The whip and other aids
4. Challenging the status quo
World Horse Welfare

• Leading international charity – funded through donations

• President: HRH The Princess Royal
World Horse Welfare

• Supports the horse-human partnership
• Supports the RESPONSIBLE use of horses in sport

“Every horse should be treated with respect, compassion and understanding.”
World Horse Welfare

- Leading international horse charity
- Education, campaigning and hands-on care
- Pioneering legislation to improve welfare
- Respected by the public, governments and regulators
- Work with horses – and people, organisations and governments to improve horses’ lives
Advisor to sport regulators

- British Horseracing Authority (BHA)
- The FEI and so National Federations
- Member of the British Equestrian Federation and the European Horse Network
Influential and Effective Campaigner
Campaign to end long journeys to slaughter in Europe

What we’ve achieved:
• Reduced trade from 165k in 2001 to 65k in 2012
• Improved conditions
• Guidance – watering and fitness for transport
• Pressing for journey limit of 9-12 hours based on scientific evidence
• This long-distance trade must stop
Other campaigns

LEFT ON THE VERGE
In the grip of a horse crisis in England and Wales

STOP THE SCOURGE
Time to address unlawful fly-grazing in England
Largest Rescue and Rehoming Charity in UK
In the UK
Helping Working Equids across Three Continents
Our work

1. International programmes to help working horses and their owners
2. Campaigning for better welfare laws
3. Advising sport regulators on horse welfare
4. Rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of horses in the UK

Education and research – e.g. breeding, disease, weight

Worldwide
Support for horse sport

• Support the RESPONSIBLE use of horses in sport

• Welfare of horse must be PARAMOUNT
Welfare advisor to the

- Advising the FEI for around 30 years

- Welfare Code of Conduct

“All those involved in international equestrian sport must adhere to the FEI Code of Conduct ... and acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount ... and never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.”

- FEI Code of Conduct, drafted with World Horse Welfare
Our work with the FEI:

- Olympic Games
  - Research into heat, humidity for Atlanta, Beijing
  - London 2012 equestrian games
- Transport Stress Project
- Clean Sport
- Joint research with FEI on arena surfaces
- Training methods
- FEI Solidarity – Cambodia
Do you put welfare above commercial or competitive influences?
Red lines of sport welfare

• Doping
• Excessive injury rates
• Fatalities
• Flouting of the rules

ALL flagrant abuses of horse welfare
Question marks over welfare

- **Endurance** – new rules – enforcement is key
- **Dressage** – riding and training methods
Welfare and the whip

- Support use of whip for safety and reinforcement
- NOT be used if horse exhausted, not given time to respond or out of contention in race
- NOT be used to terrorise horses
- Inappropriate or overuse of the whip is a flagrant ABUSE of horse welfare
- Sparing use of the whip is better for horses, looks better and ensures better reputation
Aachen film
Welfare standards now global
Warning signs

- **AHT Study** – almost 50% sport horses lame
- **Showing** – encouraging unhealthy weights?
- **23-hour stabling** – a good life for a horse?
- **Rider weight** – beyond carrying ability of horse

Given our greater knowledge and research, can we say we are truly putting the welfare of the horse first?
Bring in new ideas

• **Experienced leaders** – good but receptive enough to new ideas?

• New blood should be encouraged to speak

• **Campaigns around restrictive nosebands, bitless bridles** – time to open up thinking?

• **Must lead on welfare** – not follow
End of Life

• What happens to your horses when they leave sport?
• Must assume some responsibility
• Crucial for welfare, but also reputation
• British Horseracing learned this
• World Horse Welfare pilot project with Retraining of Racehorses
• Must be on top of attrition rates
Take home messages

• Need a strong voice on horse welfare inside and outside of sport
• World Horse Welfare has a practical brand of helping horses and acts as one voice
• We need your voices too
• Challenge the status quo
• The future of horse sport will be shaped by your/our welfare choices
Thank you
Thank you for your time.

Questions?

www.worldhorsewelfare.org
@rolyowers