

Dear National Federations,

Along with you all, I was shocked by the terrible images that came out of the national Endurance event held in Abu Dhabi at the end of last month, and share the concerns raised by so many of you within our equestrian community. Incidents like this are absolutely unacceptable.

Although the Al Reef Cup was a national event organised under the jurisdiction and the rules of the United Arab Emirates National Federation, we have raised our concerns with the UAE Federation and have requested a detailed report into the circumstances surrounding these incidents.

The FEI takes this matter very seriously and the information received from the UAE NF will be used to decide what measures and further steps can be taken to avoid similar occurrences in the future. I have asked the team at FEI Headquarters to prioritise this matter while also respecting good governance and the democratic process.

We are all too aware that there have been major issues in Endurance over the last few years and I, together with you all, am determined to solve them. The FEI requires each and every one of its member Federations to respect the principles of the Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse and, as the discipline develops and grows in different parts of the world, we must ensure that the same standards of horse welfare apply in all geographical regions.

The regulations imposed by the FEI for international Endurance are amongst the most stringent in world sport. No other equine sport provides a greater level of veterinary attention and support to each individual horse than Endurance, and our Veterinary Officials, Judges and Stewards work together throughout the event to safeguard horse welfare, and while we as the international governing body have no jurisdiction over national events, we urge NFs to implement those welfare principles at a national level.

Please be assured that I have made this investigation our absolute top priority so that together we can maintain the welfare of the horse as a central pillar of the FEI's work.

Yours sincerely,

Ingmar De Vos
President



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