



July 2019. Santiago, Chile.

POSITION STATEMENT ON RESTRICTIVE NOSEBANDS ON EQUINES

To whom it may concern,

We are writing on behalf of the Chilean Association of Equine Practitioners (Asociación Chilena de Veterinaria Equina, ACHVE) and the Chilean Veterinary Medical Association (Colegio Médico Veterinario de Chile AG., COLMEVET) about our concern on the use of restrictive nosebands in equestrian sports.

As a group of veterinarians, either directly or indirectly involved with horses, our main goal is to promote practices that improve equine welfare and allow ethical equitation. After reviewing the latest scientific reports on the physical and mental negative implications that a tight noseband can have on horses, we would like to endorse the recommendations provided by the International Society for Equitation Science, namely that:

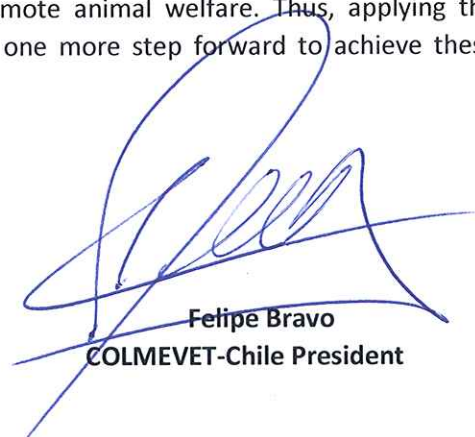
- All equestrian sports should require that the tightness of any noseband is checked by a steward at the nasal midline.
- For fairness and objectivity, a taper gauge inserted under the noseband should be used for this purpose. The gauge should be placed without force and be clearly marked to show the desired stop which, in alignment with established industry guidance, should be the dimensions of two average adult fingers.
- Riders should be advised and encouraged to use the same gauge in practice.

Following these recommendations will allow horses freedom to express their natural behaviours and cope with possible stressful situations. At the same time, it is in the interest of Chilean veterinarians to advance in ethical practices and promote animal welfare. Thus, applying the principles of learning theory in horse training will be one more step forward to achieve these goals.

Yours sincerely,



María Paz Zuñiga
ACHVE President



Felipe Bravo
COLMEVET-Chile President