



Paris 2024...

**A 'Games
Changer' for
Sport Horse
Welfare?**



Cristina Wilkins





Image: Olympics.com





Image: Olympics.com

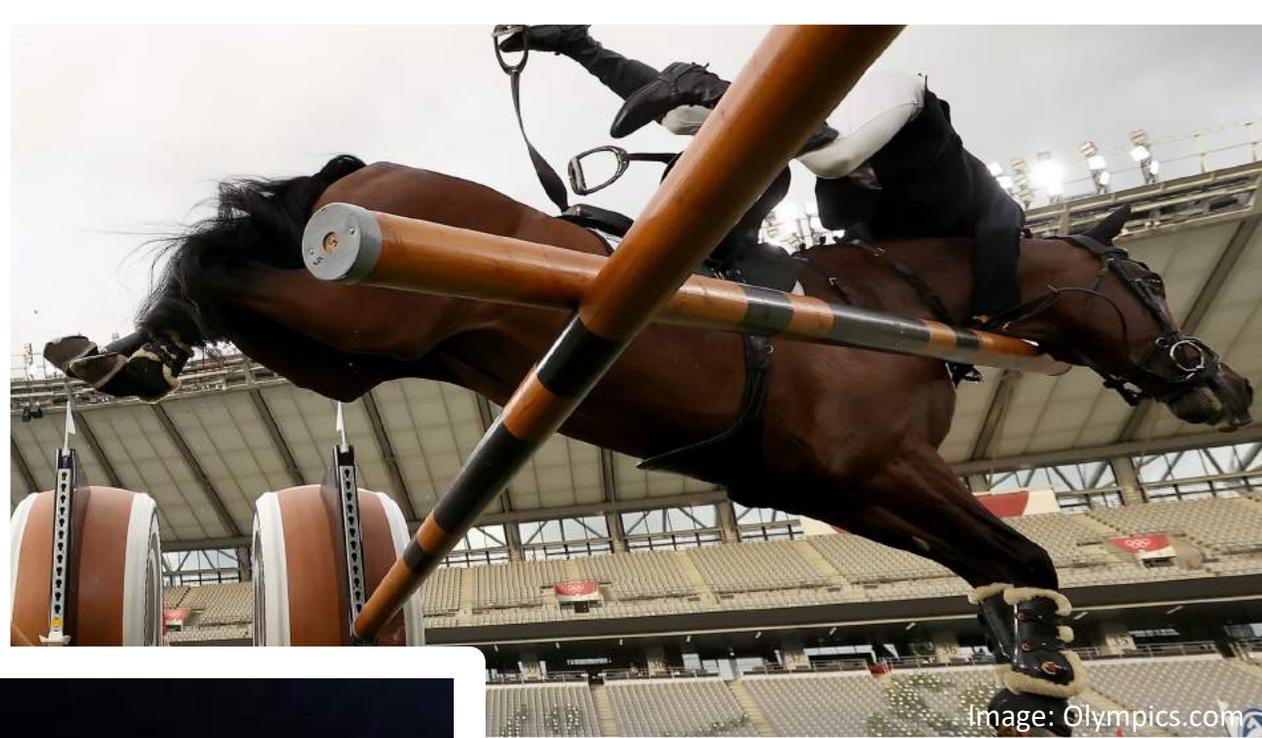


Image: Olympics.com



Image: Olympics.com



Image: Olympics.com





Groupe d'études « Condition animale »
Présidé par Loïc Dombrevail, Député des Alpes-Maritimes

Bien-être équin

Recommandations

pour les Jeux Olympiques de Paris 2024



Avril 2022

“the equestrian events at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games must be a model in terms of equine welfare”

- **46 Recommendations for rules amendments or improvements on:**
 - The facilities: 2 x recommendations
 - Feeding: 1 x recommendation
 - Rule enforcement: **3** x recommendations
 - Equipment: **12** x recommendations
 - Veterinary control: **12** x recommendations



Groupe d'études « Condition animale »
Présidé par Loïc Dombrevail, Député des Alpes-Maritimes

Bien-être équin

Recommandations

pour les Jeux Olympiques de Paris 2024



Avril 2022

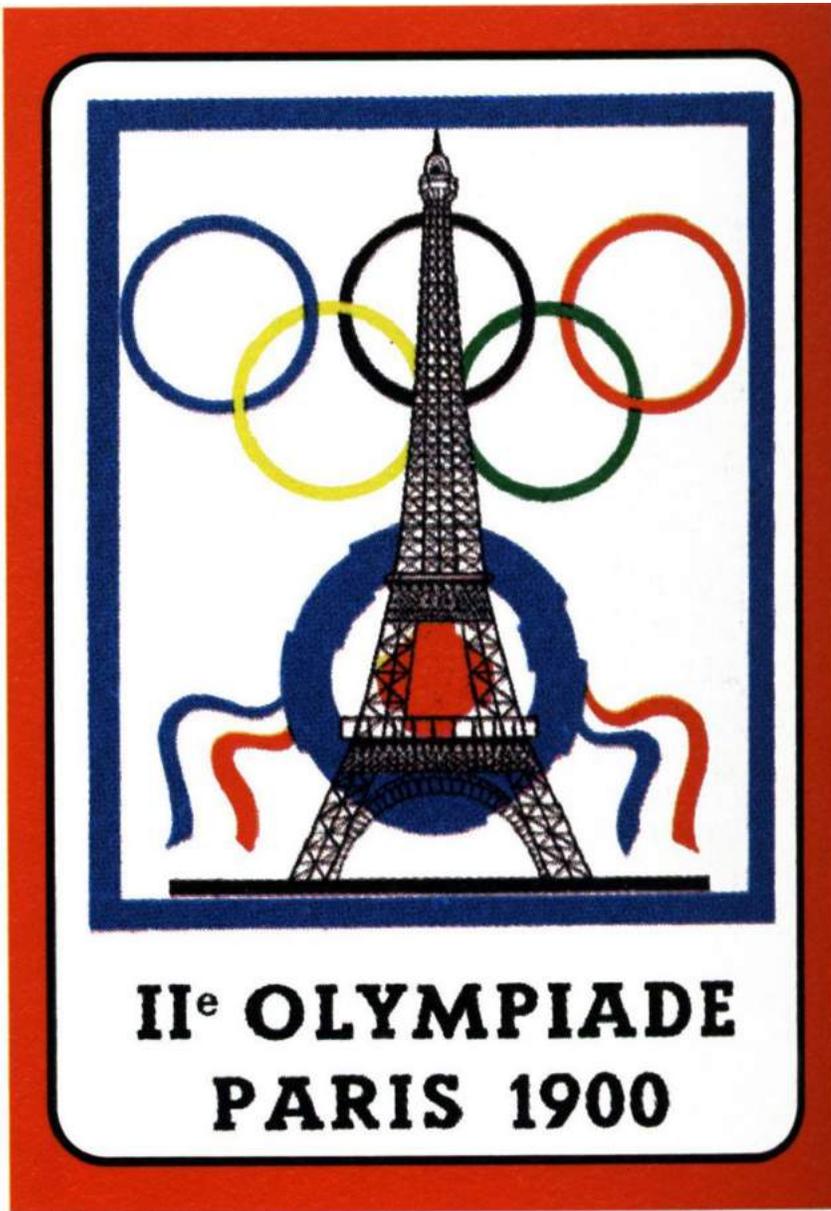
(Continued...)

- **46 Recommendations for rules amendments or improvements on:**

- Dressage: **1** x recommendation
- Show Jumping: **3** x recommendations
- Eventing: **5** x recommendations
- Pentathlon: **4** x recommendations

And finally... The “Games” changer?

- Create a welfare scoring system
- Entrust the scoring to independent experts



CANCELLED



The 1900 Paris Games featured Jumping, High Jump, Long Jump, a Hack and Hunter Class, and Mail Coach (a driving event).



Stockholm 1912 established the three Olympic Disciplines:

- Dressage,
- Jumping
- Eventing



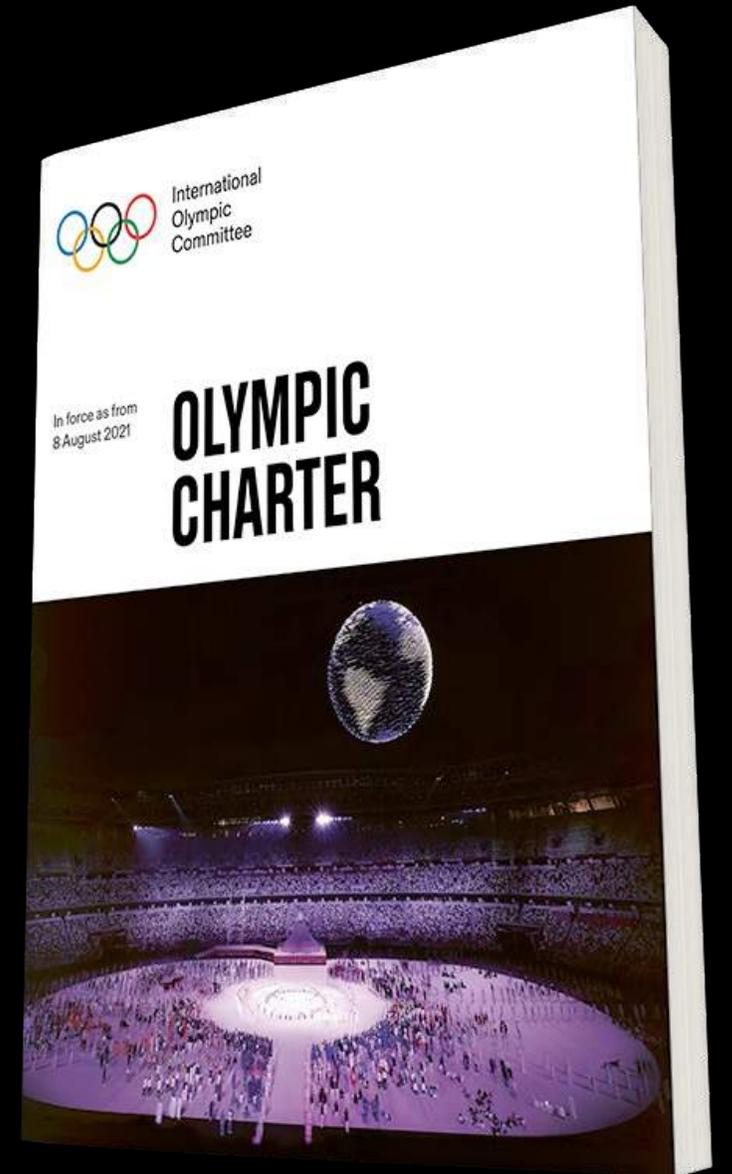
The FEI was created in 1921 to ensure all nations adhered to the same rules and standards

Which sports 'belong' in the Olympic Games?

“Olympism is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind.

“Blending sport with culture and education, Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy of effort, the educational value of good example, social responsibility and respect for universal fundamental ethical principles.

“The goal of Olympism is to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity.”



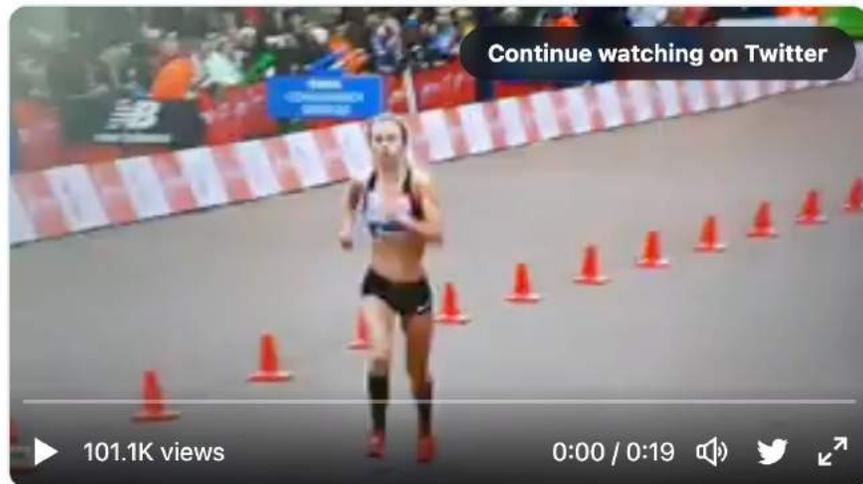
“Citius, altus, fortius – communiter”



“Citius, altus, fortius – communiter”

@Gavinevs · Follow

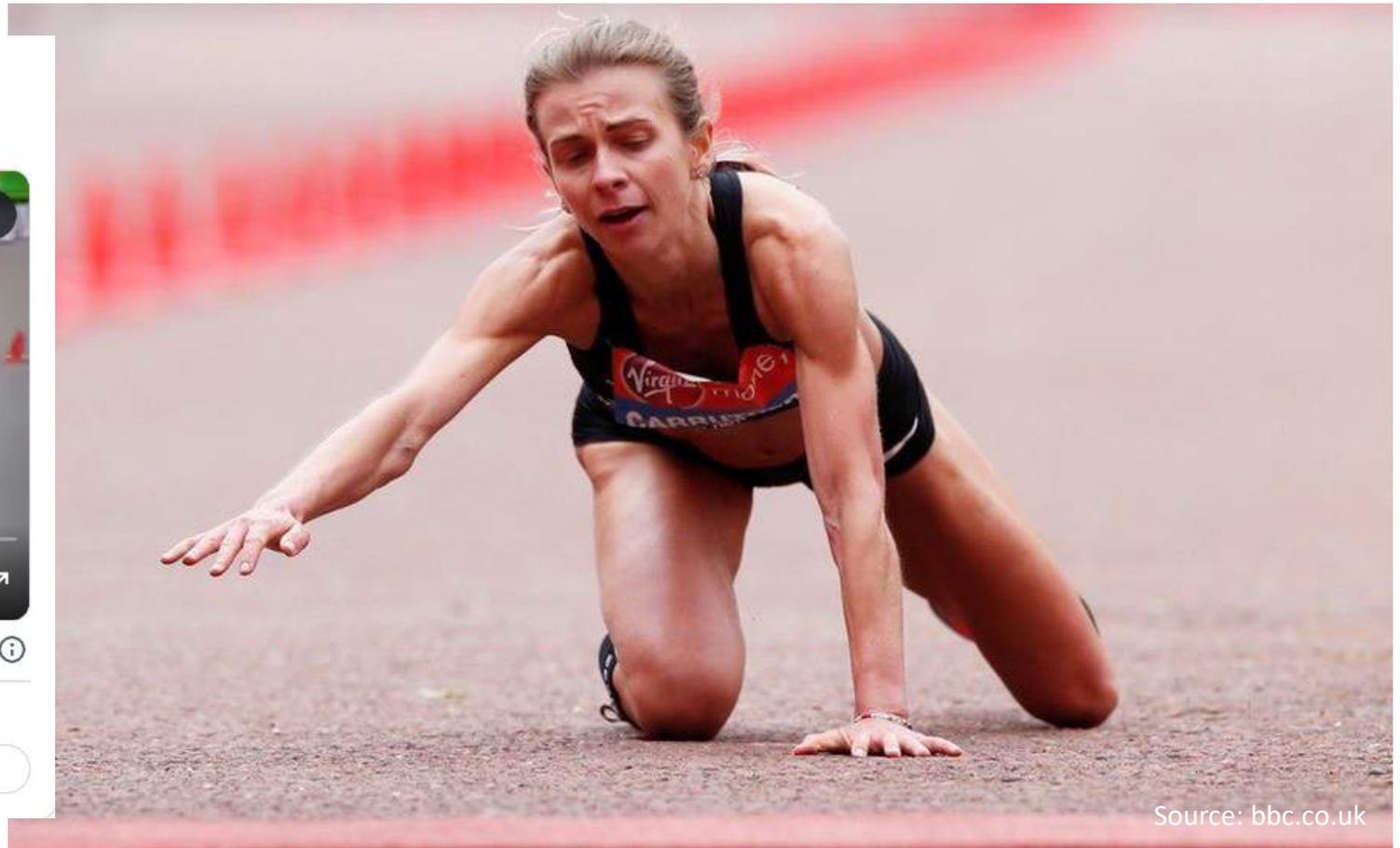
So much pain but still determined to finish, Hayley Carruthers 🙌🙌 #LondonMarathon2019 #GetInspired



9:03 PM · Apr 28, 2019

1.4K Reply Copy link

Read 50 replies



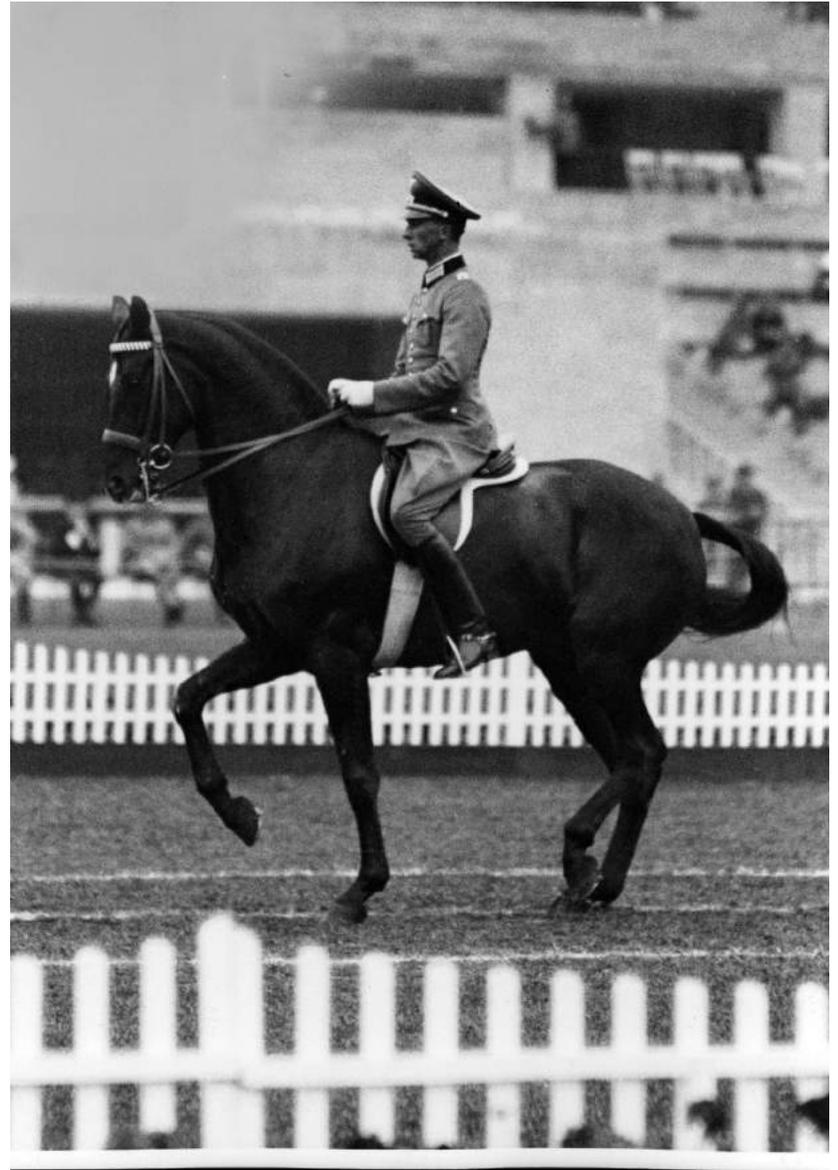
Source: bbc.co.uk

"Faster, higher, stronger – Together"

**Safer, safer, safer,
TOGETHER!**









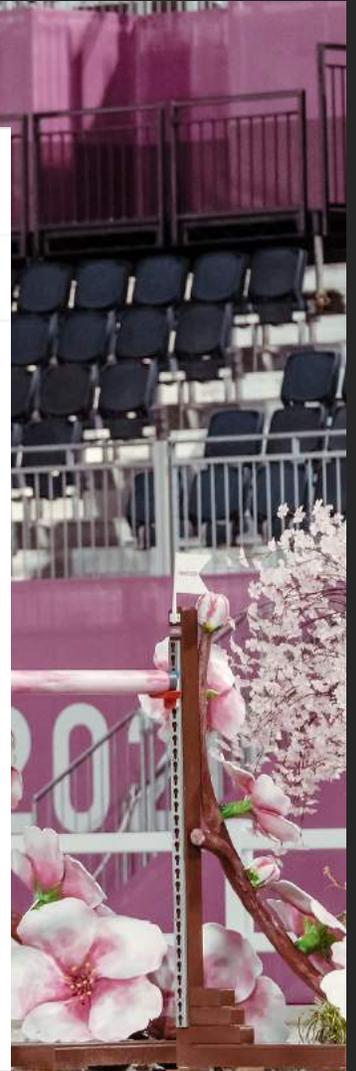
Top rider's 10-year ban for 'deliberate, methodical and repetitive' electric spur use



Eleanor Jones
29 April, 2021 19:59



Advertisement
← Ads by Google
[Stop seeing this ad](#)
[Why this ad?](#) ⓘ



What is Welfare?

A definition?
Anyone?

Important meeting at
FEI headquarters...



Adapted from Adobe Stock Photos

Disparate views on horse welfare impact the future of racing

Posted by Christa Lesté-Lasserre | Dec 7, 2020 | Equitation Science | 34 | ★★★★★



Depending on their connection with horse racing, different people have different views about what's "natural." And that, according to one researcher, is having a major impact on the future of the sport.

While racing industry leaders might consider it "natural" for a horse to gape its mouth open under tight bit pressure or to act "eager" when he excitedly moves away from a handler who's holding him by the bridle, and therefore see no reason for concern; animal advocates tend to disagree. For them, the horse's behavior is a cause of unnatural conditions and an expression of stress or pain. And until the horse's nature is taken into consideration, they believe horseracing lacks respect for who and what horses are, significantly threatening their welfare.

Welfare = 'well' + 'fare'



Duck!

Ask me!



Welfare:

*It's about
me!*

More than
Physical health
and performance...

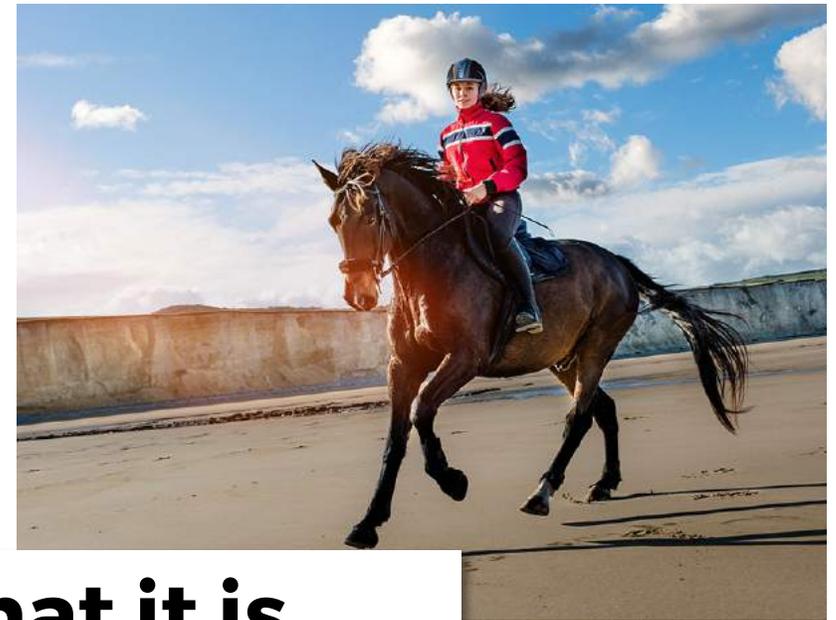
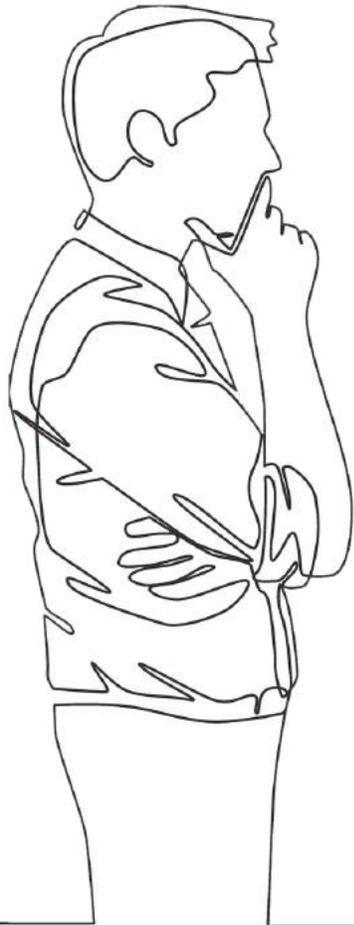
Largely about the
horse's experience,
as perceived by
the horse himself.



What matters to
animals in welfare
terms is their
subjective
experience.

(Mellor et al. 2020)

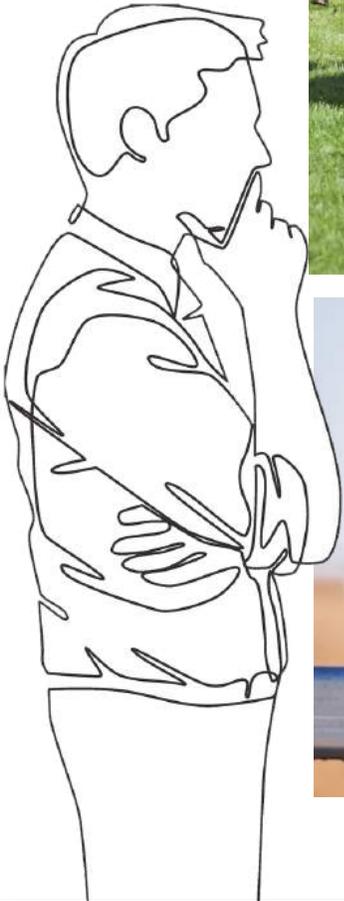
Welfare



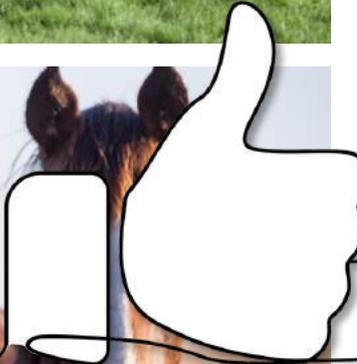
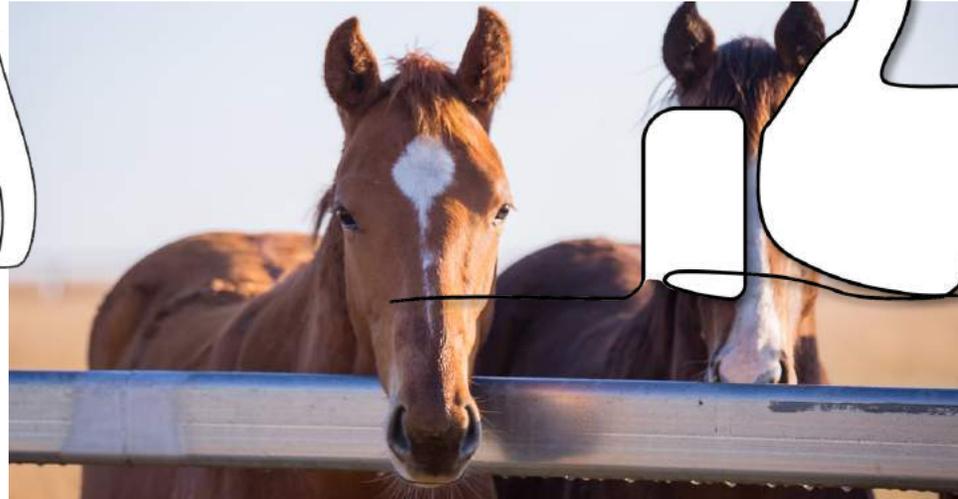
It is what it is



Ethics



What we think it ought to be



Animal Welfare:

The state of the animal's body and mind, and the extent to which their **nature** is satisfied

(Fraser et al. 1997)



Review

Review of the Foundational Knowledge Required for Assessing Horse Welfare

Andrea M. Harvey ^{1,*}, Daniel Ramp ¹ and David J. Mellor ²



HOUSTON

Newsweek

CULTURE

Psychology: Humans Will Justify Almost Anything

BY NEWSWEEK STAFF ON 6/18/07 AT 8:00 PM EDT

SHARE



Decisions...

Decisions...

Decisions...



Discomfort

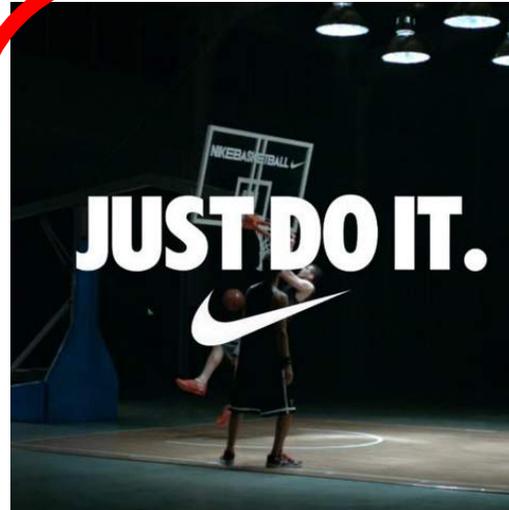


Cognitive Dissonance Theory:

A theory of self-justification and confirmation bias.



Relief



Self-justification

You find the arguments that confirm you made the right choice.



Confirmation Bias

You become blind to (or you diminish, or refuse to believe) counter arguments

By staying here, you avoid any discomfort!



Image: Olympics.com

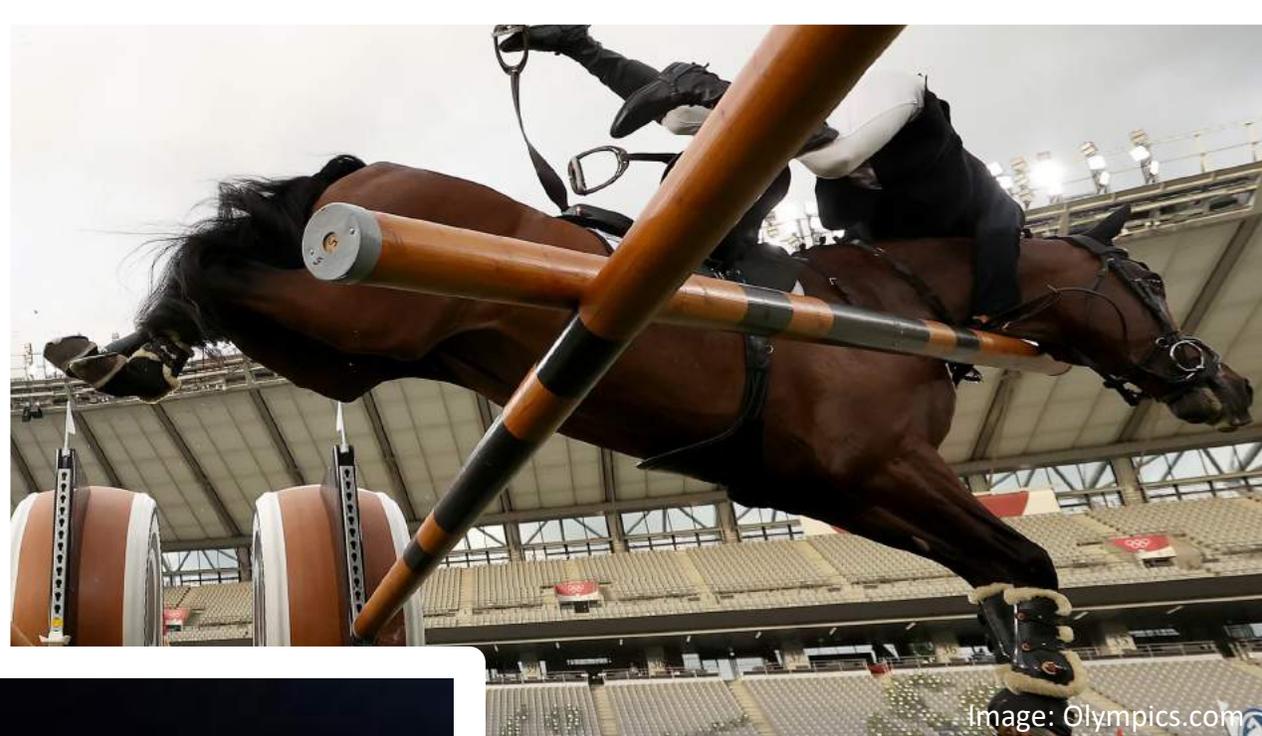


Image: Olympics.com



Image: Olympics.com

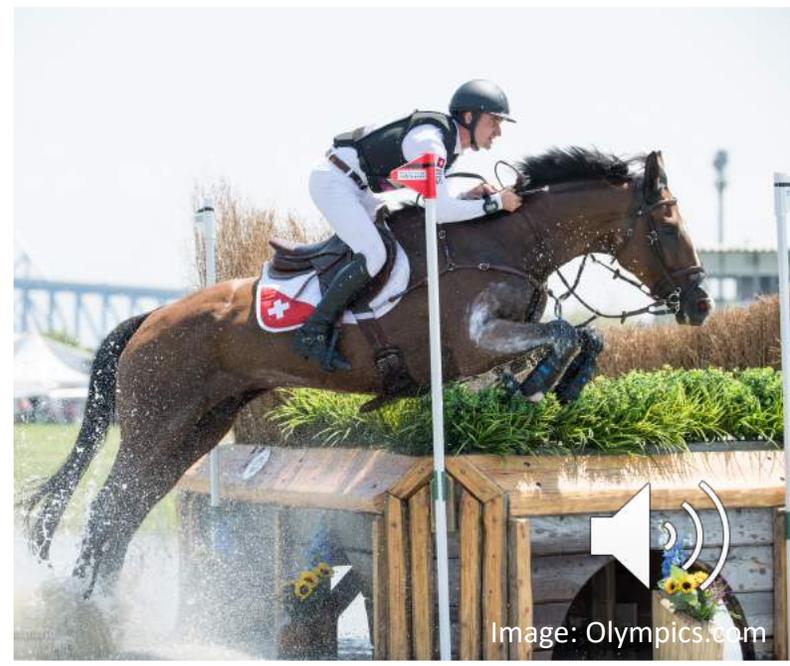


Image: Olympics.com



Regular humans, just trying to avoid a state of cognitive dissonance





The FEI's Olympic effort

Inclusion
Youth development
Sustainability
Integrity
Popularity
Universality



The Horse First!





A photograph of two horses, one brown and one grey, with a thought bubble above them. The thought bubble contains the text "Ask us how!".

*Ask us
how!*

Could we make horse sports
harder for the riders but easier
for the horses?

(Dr Bidda Jones, 2009)



Cristina Wilkins

