



DRAFT (Revised)

The Arabian Horse Society of Australia (AHSA) requires all members involved with owning, breeding and showing in both led and performance classes to acknowledge and accept that, at all times, the welfare of the horse must be absolutely paramount. The welfare of the horse must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial interests.

The AHSA will not tolerate inhumane treatment of a horse, at any time or at any event.

Inhumane treatment includes but is not limited to all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules of National Authorities controlling the applicable sport.

Society members must comply with all relevant animal welfare legislation and rules. This applies to all horses owned by members and all horses exhibited at events sanctioned by the AHSA, AHSA Affiliates and at any event that has been given AHSA approval or where Arabian horses are shown or used in competition.

General Welfare

1. The highest standards of horse husbandry and management must be adopted in relation to general health, nutrition, hydration, housing, sanitation and safety.
2. Horses must be trained, and shown in competition, commensurate to their age, physical capabilities, pregnancy status and maturity. Training, handling and riding techniques must not be abusive or cause fear.
3. Foot care, shoeing, tack and any other equine equipment used must be of a high standard, designed and fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury. The use of any mechanical aid, such as but not limited to whips, spurs, bits, hackamores, chains, must not be aggressive, abusive or cause fear.
4. Vehicles and trailers used to transport horses should be regularly maintained, safe, well ventilated and protect horses from injury. Horses must be protected against injuries and transport related health risks.
5. Journeys should be planned and, for longer journeys where circumstances allow, horses should be permitted regular rest stops with access to feed and water. Relevant government guidelines for the transportation of equines must be followed

Transport of horses (Australia)

- **Vehicle Safety and Security:**

Vehicles used for horse transport, such as horse trucks and floats, must be strong and secure enough to prevent escape and potential injuries. Internal surfaces should be smooth, and flooring should be non-slip with foot battens on ramps.

- **Adequate Space and Ventilation:**

Horses need sufficient space to stand naturally, with appropriate headroom and ventilation within the transport area to allow for air circulation.

- **Partitioning and Separation:**

Adjustable partition boards are crucial when transporting multiple horses, and segregation of stallions, colts, or pregnant mares may be necessary.

- **Preparation and Acclimatization:**

Horses should be properly prepared for transport, including acclimatization to the vehicle and loading procedures.

- **Environmental Factors:**

Consideration should be given to extreme weather conditions, and appropriate measures should be taken to prevent heat stress, such as ensuring adequate ventilation and potentially transporting horses at night during very hot weather, according to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

- **Health and Veterinary Checks:**

Horses should be healthy before transport, and veterinary checks may be required, especially for horses with a low body condition score or signs of illness.

- **Regulations and Documentation:**

In some states, such as NSW, Transported Stock Statements (TSS) are required for horses traveling by vehicle.

- **Professional Horse Transport Services:**

Commercial specialized equine transport services, ensuring professional care and adherence to best practices are available for the transportation of horses over long distances.

- **Monitoring and Care During Transport:**

Regular checks (e.g., every 30 minutes initially, then every 4 hours) should be conducted to monitor the horses' condition, and appropriate steps should be taken if any issues arise.

Competition

Refer to Appendix 1: **AHSA Rule Book 2024**

1. Participation in competition must be restricted to healthy horses and handlers and riders of proven competence. Horses must be allowed suitable rest periods between competitions and additional rest periods should be allowed following travel.
2. No horse deemed unfit to compete by a judge or attending veterinarian may enter or continue to compete in competition. Veterinary advice must be sought whenever there is any doubt.
3. Riders will avail themselves of appropriate training and education to ensure their riding techniques and fitness are of a level that is empathetic and supportive to the horse and does not cause injury or impede the horse.

Doping and Medication

1. Any action or intent of doping or illicit use of medications constitutes a serious welfare issue and will not be tolerated. Banned substances and controlled medications will be those that are identified by the internationally recognized listing by the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).
2. After any veterinary treatment sufficient time must be allowed for full recovery before training and entry into competition.

Events

1. All shows and events must be held at a facility that is designed and managed with the safety of the horse and handler/rider in mind. Event Organisers must complete and comply with a relevant Risk Management Plan.

Refer to Appendix 3: **Equestrian Event Risk Management Guidelines The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd**

2. Events must not be staged in extreme weather conditions that may compromise the welfare or safety of the horse or handler/rider. Where such conditions arise during an event, consideration must be given to suspending, modifying or cancelling the event. Refer to Appendix 2 for **Adverse Weather Conditions Guidelines**.

3. Stabling at Events: Stables must be safe, hygienic, comfortable, well ventilated and of sufficient size for the type and disposition of the Horse. Washing-down areas and water must always be available.

Humane Treatment of Horses

1. Veterinary treatment must be available at events, as required, to safeguard the health and well-being of the horse.

2. If a horse is injured during an event, the handler/rider must stop competing and a veterinary evaluation may be required.

3. Delays (or attempts to avoid or delay) presenting a horse for veterinary assistance where it should have been reasonably suspected that the welfare of the horse was compromised or potentially compromised will not be tolerated.

4. Refusal of invasive treatment for a horse after the veterinarian at an event indicates that the immediate welfare of a horse is compromised and requires invasive treatment will not be tolerated.

5. Injured or sick horses must be given full supportive treatment before being transported away from an event.

6. Horses must be treated sympathetically and humanely when they retire from breeding, riding or competition.

Education

1. The AHSA urges all persons who are associated with the Arabian Horse in Australia to attain the highest possible levels of education relevant to the care, management, showing and riding of the horse.

Prohibited conduct

No person on the grounds of any event, including but not limited to barns, stall, practice areas, or show arena can treat a horse in a manner that does not comply with the AHSA Rule Book 2024 – see Appendix 1.

APPENDIX 1

The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd Rule Book 2024

Refer to:

<https://www.ahsa.asn.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Rule-Book-2024-V12102024.pdf>

APPENDIX 2

Adverse weather Conditions Guidelines

Refer to Show Horse Council Extreme Weather Guidelines:

<https://showhorsecouncilaust.com.au/static/uploads/files/shc-extreme-weather-guidelines-june-18-wfkepsoyczv.pdf>

Appendix 3

Equestrian Event Risk Management Guidelines The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd