



# **USDF Horse Welfare Statement**

As those engaged in equestrian sport, we are committed to ensuring our horses receive the best possible care to the best of our ability. We acknowledge that we are the caretakers of our horses and as such we are committed to always, without exception, treating our horses with dignity, fairness, kindness, and understanding.

We realize that horses, whether in a herd or as an individual, will communicate contentment, fear, pain and confusion in the only way they can, which often takes the form of physical reactions that can be misinterpreted and misunderstood.

Therefore, we believe it is our obligation to seek to understand our horses with the goal of providing care and training methods that are never the manifestation of anger, frustration or cruelty. We are committed to these principles at all times, whether on or off the show grounds.

We are committed to humane treatment and application of these principles on behalf of all animals including but not limited to horses, donkeys, mules, companion animals, and pets. Lack of humane treatment, whether the result of actions taken, or by care withheld, will not be tolerated.

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