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December 1, 2009

Mr. David O'Connor, President
United States Equestrian Federation
4047 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

Ref: USEF rule change statement

We strongly support the proposed rule change made by the USEF Veterinary Committee, which recognizes current scientific knowledge and promotes the welfare of horses participating in USEF competitions.

The committee's recognition of evidence for the additive toxicity of NSAIDs is in keeping with current knowledge of pharmacology and good medical practice. Further, horses with musculoskeletal pain should be allowed to rest and heal, rather than compete.

This rule change is an important advancement in equine protection and welfare.

Sincerely,

Keith Dane
Director, HSUS Equine Protection

Eric Davis, DVM MS DACVS DACVIM
Director, HSVMA Field Services

cc: Stephen Schumacher, DVM, USEF

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