

Dear athlete,

The FEI Veterinary Department has some important information for you following your participation at Oliva (ESP) from 7-22 February 2023.

Ten horses that have been participating in the event developed pyrexia (fever) and were isolated immediately. All 10 horses were stabled in the same stable block and have been tested for equine infectious diseases in accordance with the Veterinary Regulations. Unfortunately four horses have tested positive for Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1). All 10 of the horses have only developed pyrexia. There have been no reports of any neurological signs in these horses.

In consultation with the Organising Committee, the Spanish National Federation and the Spanish Veterinary Authority, all of the horses that have been stabled on the venue since 7 February have been blocked from competing in any events as of this evening as a safety precaution. This includes any horses that may have already left Oliva to compete at other FEI events.

It is crucial that you follow the measures in order to minimize any potential transmission of the virus, both to your own horses and the wider horse population.

EHV-1 is an air-borne disease that can be transmitted up to five metres via coughing, but also through direct contact, via people and shared equipment. It can cause respiratory and neurological signs, abortion in pregnant mares and death of young foals.

However, as this disease is easily transmitted, contact between horses must be kept to the absolute minimum and we therefore strongly recommend that you should not participate in any training events, breeding activities etc. with your horses.

Although this disease can be easily transmitted, it is also simple to prevent transmission with the following mandatory biosecurity measures:

**1. Isolate your horses for 21 days**

Your horse(s) that participated at Oliva must be isolated for at least 21 days from 21 February 2023.

**2. Take rectal temperatures**

Rectal temperatures of all of your horses should be taken and recorded twice daily during the isolation period. Horses that develop a fever should be examined by a veterinarian.

**3. Laboratory testing for EHV-1**

*Either*

Two samples taken using nasopharyngeal swabs must be analysed by PCR testing on day 7 and day 14. Day 0 is considered 21 February 2023.

The analysis of both samples must result in negative tests for EHV-1 in order to satisfy the requirements of the FEI Veterinary Department.

If either of the tests generate a positive result, the horse must remain in isolation and be re-tested. It is necessary to have two negative test results, taken at least 7 days apart to fulfil the FEI Veterinary Department requirements.

*Or*

The horse must be isolated for 21 days, its rectal temperature must be taken and recorded during the isolation period and samples to be taken after day 21 using a nasopharyngeal swab to test for EHV-1 via PCR analysis. Day 0 is considered 21 February 2023.

The analysis must generate a negative result for EHV-1. If the test generates a positive result, the horse must remain in isolation for a further seven days and be re-tested.

#### **4. Release from Isolation**

Horses must only be released from isolation on the advice of your veterinarian.

#### **5. Return to Competition**

In accordance with the Veterinary Regulations, Article 1027.8, horses that have participated Oliva are blocked in the FEI Database and will not be permitted access to any FEI events until they have fulfilled the testing requirements described above. Test results must be submitted via email to the FEI Veterinary Department on [veterinary@fei.org](mailto:veterinary@fei.org) in order for the restriction to be lifted.

We are grateful for your assistance in implementing these measures, which contribute significantly to preventing transmission of the disease. It is only by working together that we can keep our community of FEI horses, as well as local horses in your National Federation, healthy and disease free.

Please feel free to contact the Veterinary Department should you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

### **Veterinary Department**

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