

REINING AUSTRALIA

STATEMENT OF POSITION ON ANIMAL WELFARE

Reining Australia mandates all members adhere to the Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all stages during the preparation and training of Competition Horses, that the welfare of the Horse will be considered paramount.

ANIMAL WELFARE

a) **Good Horse management**

Stabling, feeding, watering must be compatible with acceptable horse management practice and must not compromise welfare.

b) **Training methods**

Must not include any equipment, technique or practice considered by Reining Australia to be abusive, causing discomfort or distress to the horse

HUMANE TREATMENT

No person on show grounds, including, barns, stalls, practice areas or show arena may treat a horse in an inhumane manner which includes, but not limited to:

- Excessive spurring
- Excessive jerking of reins
- Use of prohibited equipment
- Negligent or intentional treatment that results in bleeding
- Contact between the horse and fence whilst stopping causing discomfort or distress
- Exhaustion
- Excessive consecutive turnarounds

It is recommended that a Show Representative and/or Show Manager be active at all RA sanctioned events to observe the stable, schooling and performance areas, and to ensure that the grounds are safe and that proper animal welfare practices are being used by all exhibitors. RA Show Representatives serve as liaisons between exhibitors, show management officials and judges. In addition will field any complaints of unsportsmanlike conduct, abuse, or reports of rule violations.

Show Committee must make sure the name of the Show Representative and Show Manager are advertised so competitors are aware of who to contact with any concerns they have.

It is also competitor's responsibility to report any unsportsmanlike activity they may observe in the warmup pen.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Upon a report or discovery of inhumane treatment, show management shall investigate the incident and report it respectively to Reining Australia, using the RA procedure as supplied to the approved Show/Event management.

If found guilty of inhumane treatment of a horse, Reining Australia can suspend the right of such exhibitor, owner and/or his/her representative acting on behalf of the exhibitor to participate in future approved shows for such a period as determined appropriate.

This course of action is in the best interest of the reining horse and Reining Australia