



Australian Carriage Driving Society

ABN: 28 794 114 302 – Incorporation No: AO1028

Horse Welfare Trimming Of Horses' Sensory Hairs

In the interest of Horse welfare, Federal Council has determined that as of 1 January 2022, the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) will ban the practice of trimming horses' sensory hairs across all disciplines.

Vibrissae, or sensory hairs/whiskers, are the long stiff hairs growing on the chin, mouth and around the eyes and are used as organs of touch by the horse. The FEI, Equestrian Australia, pony clubs, and adult riding clubs have all banned the practice. It has been banned in some European countries for a number of years.

Federal Council understands that some ACDS members may have issues with the introduction of such a rule, however as the principal driving body in Australia, we must continue to consider the welfare of the horse.

Horses will not be permitted to compete in any ACDS activity if the horse's sensory hairs have been shaved or in any other way removed unless individual sensory hairs have been removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the horse (veterinary certificate necessary).

Penalty will be disqualification.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'D. Willcoxson'.

Dot Willcoxson
Federal President
11 September 2021