



EQUESTRIAN
QUEENSLAND

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SENSORY HAIRS

What are Sensory Hairs?

Horses have special tactile sensory hairs, known as their whiskers. The whiskers on a horse play an important role in their sensory awareness system. These amazing sensory hairs have their own nerve and blood supply and help horses navigate their surroundings.

Location and purpose of whiskers

Whiskers are a coarse hair-like structure found around the horse's eyes and muzzle. The purpose of whiskers, both around the eyes and muzzle, is to provide sensory feedback on the horse's environment and surroundings. The length of the whiskers determines the safe distance from unfamiliar objects, compensating for the blind spots a horse has in front of its face and underneath its nose.

The whiskers, present on both upper and lower eyelids, provide an automatic blink response when they encounter something like a fly or contact with an object which helps protect the eye itself.

How to Trim Guide from the FEI

Watch youtube video here www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGSgTxEOM5w

- How to clip your horse's face according to the new FEI Rules

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA—GENERAL REGULATIONS

Article 141 - Protection of Horses

*A Horse's sensory hairs **may not be clipped and/or shaven or otherwise modified** in any way under penalty of elimination from the event. Individual sensory hairs may be removed by a veterinarian to prevent pain or discomfort for the Horse. Areas of hair that must be clipped, shaven or removed to allow veterinary treatment are exempt from this rule.*

From 1 st July 2022, horses found competing with clipped/shaven/otherwise modified sensory hairs will be issued a recorded warning.

From 1st January 2023, horses found competing with clipped/shaven/otherwise modified sensory hairs will be eliminated from the event.

If members have any questions or require clarification please contact Equestrian Queensland on (07) 3891 6611 or email enquiries@equestrianqld.com.au