



Chapter

4

ERASA

Endurance Ride Association of South Africa

Horses

CHAPTER 4: HORSES

RECORD OF CHANGES – CHAPTER 4

ARTICLE	SUBJECT	DATE OF CHANGE
4.3.1.6	Novice horse phase	Sep 2009
4.4.4	Corrections in passports	Sep 2009
4.4.9.2	Changes to the description of a horse	Sep 2009
4.4.13	Duplicate passports	Sep 2009
4.2.1.1	Age of horses	Sep 2010
4.2.1.2	Age of horses	Sep 2010
4.3.1.3	Rest phase for novice horses	Sep 2010
4.3.1.5	Entry under step ladder system: novice horses	Sep 2010
4.4.1	Passports (requirement)	Sep 2010
4.4.2	Passports (registration with ERASA)	Sep 2010
4.7.1	Shoeing	Sep 2010
4.7.1.2	Participation without shoes: Scratched and replaced with new 4.7.1.2	Sep 2010
4.7.1.3	Participation without shoes	Sep 2010
4.3.1.7	Completion of novice phase	Nov 2010
4.3.1.8	Database: Completion of novice phase – scratched	Nov 2010
4.4.8	Ownership of horses	Nov 2010
4.4.8.3	Record of ownership	6 Nov 2011
4.4.8.4	Ownership – part of old 4.4.8.3 transferred to 4.4.8.4	6 Nov 2011
4.4.14	Full passports	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16	Passport control at rides	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.1	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.2	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.3	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.4	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.5	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.4.16.6	Transferred to Chapter 8	6 Nov 2011
4.5	Microchips (new article)	6 Nov 2011
4.5	Marking of horses – renumbered to 4.6	6 Nov 2011
4.6	Equipment on horses – renumbered to 4.7	6 Nov 2011
4.7	Shoeing – renumbered to 4.8	6 Nov 2011
4.8	Behaviour – renumbered to 4.9	6 Nov 2011
4.9	Stallions and pregnant mares – renumbered to 4.10	6 Nov 2011
4.10	Abuse of horses – renumbered to 4.11	6 Nov 2011
4.11	Signing out of - renumbered to 4.12	6 Nov 2011
4.12	Death of horses – renumbered to 4.13	6 Nov 2011
4.13	Immunisation of horses – renumbered to 4.14	6 Nov 2011
4.14	Treatment of horses – renumbered to 4.15	6 Nov 2011
4.15	Best conditioned horse – renumbered to 4.16	6 Nov 2011

4.16	Prohibited substances – renumbered to 4.17	6 Nov 2011
4.7.2	Protective equipment	6 Nov 2011
4.8.1.4	Shoeing of horses that started the ride unshod	6 Nov 2011
4.3.1.6	Novice horses	16 Apr 2012
4.2	Age of horses	10 May 2013
4.3.1.3	Replaced with 4.3.5	10 May 2013
4.3.1.4	Previous 4.3.1.4 was renumbered to 4.3.5.1.4	10 May 2013
4.3.1.5	Incorporated into the new 4.3.1.4.1	10 May 2013
4.3.1.6	Incorporated into the new 4.3.1.4.2	10 May 2013
4.3.1.7	Renumbered to 4.3.1.5	10 May 2013
4.3.3	Requirements to participate in longer rides	10 May 2013
4.3.5	Mandatory rest periods	10 May 2013
4.3.1.5	Horse novice phase	15 March 2016
4.3.5.	Mandatory rest periods	1 August 2017
4.3.5	Mandatory rest periods	4 November 2017
4.3.5.2.1	Mandatory rest periods	25 July 2018
4.3.5.2.2	Mandatory rest periods	25 July 2018
4.3.1.4.4	Novice phase	24 February 2019

4. HORSES

- 4.1 Definition of horses
- 4.2 Age of horses
- 4.3 Classification of horses
- 4.4 Passports and registration of horses
- 4.5 Transponders (Microchips)
- 4.6 Marking of horses
- 4.7 Equipment on horses
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- 4.12 Release of horses
- 4.13 Death of horses
- 4.14 Immunization of horses
- 4.15 Treatment of horses
- 4.16 Best conditioned horse
- 4.17 Prohibited substances

4.1 DEFINITION OF HORSES

- 4.1.1 Any member of the genus *Equus* and of any breed of horse may participate in endurance rides on condition that the veterinary panel is of the opinion that the specific animal will be able to complete the distance entered for. Reference to "horse" in this rulebook will always include all members of the genus *Equus*.

4.2 AGE OF HORSES

- 4.2.1 The minimum age of horses (on the day of the specific ride) for participation in rides presented under ERASA rules is as follows:
 - 4.2.1.1 Non-competitive rides of up to and including 99 km: Five (5) years.
 - 4.2.1.2 CEN 1-Star and 2-Star competitions: Six (6) years.
 - 4.2.1.3 CEN 3-Star competitions: Seven (7) years.
 - 4.2.1.4 Fauresmith 200 National Championships: Six (6) years.
- 4.2.2 All ages are determined as of the date of the event for which the horse is to be entered, and must be confirmed either through reliable registrations or written veterinary opinion, which should be recorded in passports.
- 4.2.3 If any uncertainty exists regarding the age of a horse, it will be required of the rider to present a birth or registration certificate on which the age of

the horse is indicated. Should such a certificate not be available at the ride meet, the opinion of the chief veterinarian doing duty at the specific ride (based on an inspection of the teeth of the horse involved) will stand.

4.3 CLASSIFICATION OF HORSES AND REST PERIODS

4.3.1 Novice horses. All horses that have not completed the prescribed novice phase are classified as novice horses.

4.3.1.1 Novice horses shall be marked clearly with a "N" on the hindquarters (below the rider number), and the vet card of these horses shall also be marked with a "N".

4.3.1.2 Novice horses may enter for rides with a maximum distance of ninety (90)km (with a minimum of three loops), and may not enter for rides of longer than ninety (90)km.

4.3.1.3 Compulsory rest: Refer to 4.3.5 below.

4.3.1.4 Novice Phase. All novice horses shall complete the novice phase as set out below before they can be promoted to "endurance horse" status.

4.3.1.4.1 Horses SHALL be entered under the step ladder system for all rides that form part of this novice phase (see Chapter 2).

4.3.1.4.2 Novice horses shall successfully complete:

- Two rides of forty (40) to seventy-nine (79) km (rides of 41km or longer shall be entered for in the step ladder category) at an average actual speed of sixteen (16) kilometres per hour or slower **BEFORE** they may be entered for rides of 80 -90 km; and
- Two rides of 80 - 90km (entered for in the step ladder category) at an average actual speed of sixteen (16) kilometres per hour or slower before they may exceed an average speed of 16 kilometres per hour.

4.3.1.4.3 If the average actual speed of sixteen (16) kilometres per hour is exceeded in any of the relevant rides in 4.3.1.5.2 above, the horse will be disqualified. This restriction also applies to horses without passports.

4.3.1.4.4 From the first novice qualification ride, horses must complete the requirements of the novice phase in 4.3.1.5.2 above within 24 months.

- All novice horses must enter rides under the step ladder rules.

4.3.1.5 When a horse completes the novice phase this will be automatically updated on the ERASA database. ¹

4.3.2 Endurance horses. All horses that have completed the prescribed novice phase, as explained above, are classified as endurance horses.

4.3.3 Requirements to participate in longer rides

4.3.3.1 To be allowed to *enter for CEN 2 star rides* a horse has to be classified as an endurance horse.

4.3.3.2 To be allowed to enter for *CEN 3 rides* a horse has to be classified as an endurance horse and shall have successfully completed at least one *CEN 2 star ride*.

4.3.3.3 Star System Qualification for horses shall be valid for a period of twenty-four (24) months. Should a horse fail to complete an event at the next level for which it has qualified within that period it will need to re qualify for its existing level again before progressing further.

4.3.4 ERASA holds the opinion that horses should be gradually build up over a period of at least three (3) years before they participate competitively *at Championship level* in endurance rides.

4.3.5 After competing in an endurance ride, a horse must be given a mandatory minimum rest period, as defined, before it is again eligible to participate in another endurance ride (rest period commences at midnight on the day that the ride finishes as denoted by the maximum ride time allowed and finishes at midnight on the day before the published ride start time of the next ride):

4.3.5.1 Novice horses, distance completed

4.3.5.1.1 Start – 40 km: Twelve (12) days (non-completion only)

4.3.5.1.2 More than 40 – 90 km: Twelve (12) days (whether successfully completed or not)

4.3.5.1.3 The twelve (12) day compulsory rest period also applies to novice horses that :

- Participate in more than one ride on the same day and where the total distance entered for exceeds forty (40) km; and
- Participate in two rides of 40 km on successive days (i.e. “back-to-back 40km rides”).
- Participate in the second 80km novice ride , refer to article 4.3.1.4.2 for the novice phase

4.3.5.1.4 If a novice horse was eliminated at a ride, irrespective the distance completed before elimination, the horse shall rest for a period of at least twenty (20) days before the horse may enter for another ride (including rides of up to and including 40km).

4.3.5.2 Endurance horses, distance completed (over any number of ride days):

4.3.5.2.1 100 – 126 km Nineteen (19) days

4.3.5.2.2 Over 126 km Twenty-six (26) days

4.3.5.3 Extended mandatory rest periods following immediate invasive treatment.

4.3.5.3.1 Invasive treatment is defined as any treatment of a horse which involves the puncture or incision of the skin or insertion of any instrument or foreign material into the body. Exceptions to the rule would be the administration of oral electrolytes or acupuncture.

4.3.5.3.2 Any metabolic condition diagnosed in a horse that completed a ride or was eliminated that, if left untreated, would compromise or threaten the welfare of the horse would be considered a condition requiring invasive treatment.

4.3.5.3.3 If a horse was diagnosed at the ride venue (whether the horse completed the endurance ride or not) with a metabolic condition that required immediate invasive treatment it must be given a mandatory rest period of sixty (60) days before it is again eligible to enter for another endurance ride.

4.3.5.3.4 If the same horse is again diagnosed at a ride venue with a metabolic condition (whether the horse completed the ride or not) that requires immediate invasive at next ride it is entered for, or twice within a three (3) month period, it

must be given a mandatory rest period of 90 days before it is again eligible to enter for another endurance ride.

4.3.5.3.5 It is the responsibility of the chief veterinarian and the treatment veterinarian to review, on a case by case basis, the treated horses at the end of an event and classify each case as to whether it was:

- Immediate invasive treatment requiring an extended mandatory rest period; or
- Authorised treatment (not requiring mandatory rest).

4.3.5.3.6 For all cases requiring an extended mandatory rest period the treatment veterinarian shall make an entry on the “Record of Participation” pages in the passport of the horse involved, clearly stating that the horse was given immediate invasive treatment, and that the horse shall be rested for a period of 60 (90) days from the date of the ride at which the treatment was administered. The treatment veterinarian shall sign and stamp this entry. The chief veterinarian shall also note this in his report.

4.4 PASSPORTS AND REGISTRATION OF HORSES

4.4.1 To be allowed to participate in rides longer than forty-one (41) km, South African horses shall have a SA National Equestrian Federation or a recognised FEI passport. Passports are not required for horse participating in rides of up to and including forty (40) km. SA National Equestrian Federation Passports are issued by ERASA in accordance with the procedure and against fees as determined by Council from time to time.

4.4.2 The passport office maintains a database (recording all particulars as on the passport application form) of all horses registered with ERASA, and issues an ERASA (UV) number to each of these horses. To ensure that the database remains complete, passports shall only be issued if the application form was completed in full, detailing all the required particulars. The UV number is clearly indicated on the passport. South African horses that are not registered with ERASA (and do not have an UV number), are not allowed to participate in rides longer than forty (40)km.

4.4.3 If a South African Equestrian Federation passport is obtained from an organisation other than ERASA (including horses that were previously used for other equestrian disciplines, and already have a passport), the horse and passport still have to be registered with ERASA. The same applies to horses that were imported and have a valid passport (as recognised by the FEI). Such passports must be submitted to the ERASA passport office together with a completed ERASA passport application form

(for record purposes) and proof or payment of the prescribed fee (as determined by Council from time to time).

4.4.4 Under no circumstances may changes be made to passports by using correction fluid or similar products. If errors have been made in the written description of the horses:

4.4.4.1 If sufficient space is still available to enter the correct description, the wrong wording can be neatly deleted by drawing a line through the words, and the correct wording can be written next to this. The official who makes these changes shall sign next to this entry and write out his name in full next to his signature.

4.4.4.2 If the available space is insufficient to enter the correct wording, a duplicate passport shall be applied for and, after all the information was transferred from the incorrect passport to the duplicate passport, the incorrect passport shall be returned to the ERASA passport office, where it will be destroyed. Refer article 4.4.13.

4.4.5 Copies of the record of ownership page (after completion) and the pages with the description of the horse (after completion by a veterinarian) shall be submitted to the passport office to validate the passport. These records will be used should a dispute regarding the identification of a specific horse arise.

4.4.6 Passports have to be stamped with an official "ERASA" stamp on the following pages:

4.4.6.1 "Record of Ownership" page

4.4.6.2 Description of the horse (middle page)

4.4.7 Passports also have to be signed by an ERASA official on the pages with the description of the horse, next to the ERASA stamp.

4.4.8 Ownership

4.4.8.1 Horses can only be registered with ERASA, and a UV number can only be issued if the owner of the horse is a member of ERASA. If the horse is owned by a trust or legal entity, one of the trustees/members of the legal entity must be a member of ERASA.

4.4.8.2 As soon as the owner of a horse receives a passport from ERASA he/she has to complete the required information on the "Record of Ownership" page.

4.4.8.3 When a horse is sold, the seller shall hand the passport to the new owner. The new owner shall complete the required information on the "Record of

Ownership" page and submit the passport to the ERASA passport office for validation. If the horse is still to be used for endurance riding after it was sold, the new owner has to be a member of ERASA.

4.4.8.3 When a horse is sold, the seller shall hand the passport to the new owner. The new owner shall complete the required information on the "Record of Ownership" page. A copy of the "Record of Ownership" shall be sent to the ERASA passport office (either by fax or e-mail), where after:

4.4.8.3.1 The ERASA passport office shall notify both the new owner and the President of the Union involved, or his appointed representative, (by fax or e-mail) that the change of ownership was captured; and

4.4.8.3.2 On receipt of this notification the President of the Union involved (or his appointed representative) shall sign next to the last entry on the "Record of Ownership" page and stamp the page with the "ERASA" stamp.

4.4.8.4 If the horse is still to be used for endurance riding after it was sold, the new owner has to be a member of ERASA.

4.4.9 Description of the horse

4.4.9.1 The description of the horse in the passport (middle page) has to be completed and signed by a veterinarian (preferably a veterinarian involved in endurance riding). The horse has to be presented to the veterinarian to enable him/her to complete the diagram. The guidelines as laid down in the manual regarding the "Identification of Horses" (as available on the ERASA website) shall be adhered to.

4.4.9.2 If the description of the horse was done incorrectly (as pointed out to the owner by a ride veterinarian), it has to be corrected. Under no circumstances may correction fluid (Tipp-Ex) be used, and no markings, whorls or scars which have been indicated on the diagram may be crossed out.

4.4.9.2.1 In cases where the veterinarian can correct the description (e.g. by adding a whorl or scar), he/she can do so. In such cases the veterinarian who does the corrections has to stamp the page and sign next to the stamp. A copy of the corrected page has to be submitted to the passport office.

4.4.9.2.2 In cases where the identification of the horse cannot be corrected, the owner has to apply for a duplicate passport (refer 4.4.13). After all the relevant information was

transferred to the new passport, the incorrect passport has to be returned to the passport office where it will be destroyed. Loose inserts in, or the replacement of any of the pages of, a passport are not allowed.

- 4.4.9.3 The description of the horse has to be completed before the horse can be allowed to participate in rides.
- 4.4.10 Record of immunisation. Horses have to be immunised against certain specific diseases in accordance with the ERASA rules. The immunisation history of the horse shall be recorded in the passport (see Chapter 8).
- 4.4.11 The passport office has to be notified if a horse dies.
- 4.4.12 Changes to the name of the horse. If an owner wants to change the name of his/her horse, the following applies:
- 4.4.12.1 The passport has to be returned to the passport office.
- 4.4.12.2 The passport office will change the name of the horse on the cover as well as the identification page of the passport, and will validate the change by stamping the pages with the official ERASA stamp. The pages also have to be signed by an ERASA official. The name change shall also be recorded in the ERASA database.
- 4.4.13 Duplicate passports
- 4.4.13.1 If a passport is lost or damaged to such an extent that it no longer can be used, or when errors were made in the passport which cannot be rectified (also refer article 4.4.4 and 4.4.9.2), the owner shall apply for a duplicate passport. This passport will be issued with the same passport and UV number as the original passport, and will be clearly marked **“Duplicate Passport”**.
- 4.4.13.2 The “Record of Immunisation”:
- 4.4.13.2.1 If still legible in the old passport, the old and new passports shall be submitted to a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall confirm that the immunisations were done according to the rules, and are up to date. The veterinarian then makes the following entry in the new passport (this may only be done in English):
 “Immunization in previous passport up to date and in accordance with the rules. Last vaccinations were on (followed by the dates, type of vaccine and the batch number of the last entry in the old passport).

- Immunisations after this date are recorded below this entry.
- 4.4.13.2.2 If the old passport was lost, or if the record of immunisation in the old passport is no longer legible, the information can be transferred from his clinic records by the veterinarian who usually sees to the horse. Should such records not be available, the horse has to be approached as if it was never immunised before (and immunisation has to be started from scratch, in accordance with the rules, see Chapter 8).
- 4.4.13.3 The "Record of Participation":
- 4.4.13.3.1 If still legible in the old passport, the old and new passports shall be submitted to the club secretary. The club secretary shall transfer the records exactly as they were recorded in the old passport to the new passport (inclusive of all eliminations and disqualifications), and shall sign against each entry in the last column (usually used for the club stamp). On the first line following the last entry that was transferred the club secretary shall note the following: "Record of participation transferred from previous passport and verified by (name)".
- 4.4.13.3.2 If the old passport was lost, or if the entries are no longer legible, the owner can obtain a record of participation from the ERASA database and paste this in the new passport.
- 4.4.13.4 In all cases where duplicate passports are issued, the "Record of Ownership" page has to be completed by the owner, and the description of the horse has to be completed by a veterinarian. Copies of these pages have to be submitted to the passport office.
- 4.4.13.4 Should the original passport be found, both passports have to be returned to the passport office. The passport office will have the original passport updated, and will thereafter destroy the duplicate passport.
- 4.4.14 When the "Record of Participation" pages of a passport are full (leaving no room for additional rides):
- 4.4.14.1 Can a new passport be applied for.
- 4.4.14.1.1 The passport office shall issue this passport with the same UV number as the original. The old and new passports have to be submitted to a veterinarian. The veterinarian shall confirm that the immunisations were done according

to the rules, and are up to date. The veterinarian than makes the following entry in the new passport (this may only be done in English):

“Immunization in previous passport up to date and in accordance with the rules.

Last vaccinations were on (followed by the dates, type of vaccine and the batch number of the last entry in the old passport).

Immunisations after this date are recorded below this entry.

4.4.14.1.2 The rider should always keep the old passport at hand.

4.4.14.2 Alternatively the responsible person can add an extra page to the passport by down-loading and printing the “record of participation” page from the ERASA website and permanently gluing this extra page to the top of the “record of participation” page of the passport.

4.4.14.3 The rider should always keep the old passport at hand.

4.4.15 For international participation (outside Southern Africa) horses also require an official FEI passport. This can be obtained from the national equestrian federation through the ERASA office.

4.4.16 Passport control at rides. This is discussed in full in Chapter 8 (Veterinary).

4.5 TRANSPONDERS (MIKROCHIPS)

4.5.1 To be able to positively identify horses a transponder (microchip) has to be implanted in all horses registered with ERASA by not later than 31 May 2012. This does not replace the description in the passport, but is in addition thereto.

4.5.2 This identification system consists of two components; microchips (which are implanted into the horses) and microchip readers (which are used to reads the microchips after they were implanted.

4.5.2.1 Microchips

4.5.2.1.1 Only microchips with a fifteen (15) digit code may be used, to so comply with the international standard in this regard. If a microchip with a code of less than fifteen (15) digits was implanted previously it is not required to implant a new fifteen (15) digit

microchip on condition that the newer generation microchip readers pick up/read the old one.

- 4.5.2.1.2 The microchip is to be implanted in the upper half of the middle third of the horse's neck in the ligamentum nuchae (approximately 3cm under the crest of the mane).
- 4.5.2.1.3 After the microchip was implanted the horse's neck is to be scanned with the microchip reader to confirm that the microchip was actually implanted and can be read.
- 4.5.2.1.4 The microchip number shall be recorded on the middle page (the page with the diagram describing the horse) of the horse's passport. This should preferably be done by sticking one of the stickers with the microchip number (provided with the microchip) in the appropriate spot. It is also recommended that another sticker is pasted to the first page (title page) of the passport to make it easier to find the number when the horse's identity is verified at a ride.
- 4.5.2.1.5 A document containing at least the horse's UV number, name and microchip number shall be sent to the ERASA passport office to allow for the microchip number to be added to the ERASA horse database.

4.5.2.2 Microchip readers

- 4.5.2.2.1 From 01 June 2012 at least one, but preferably two microchip readers shall be available at all rides. The ride committee must arrange this.
- 4.5.2.2.2 Unions/clubs must ensure that they only buy microchip readers that can read all microchips made available by all distributors. Not all readers can read all the available microchips (even though the marketers might state that they can).

4.5.3 Identification of horses at rides. This is discussed in full in Chapter 8 (Veterinary Rules).

4.6 MARKING OF HORSES

- 4.6.1 At all rides the rider number shall be written clearly on both sides on the hindquarters of the horse. Also see the article on novice horses elsewhere in this chapter.

4.7 EQUIPMENT ON HORSES

- 4.7.1 Tack inspection. It is one of the duties of the ride master to, continuously during the ride, inspect the tack used by riders. The ride master shall instruct a rider to remove or replace any tack that does not fit properly or that could lead to injury of the horse.
- 4.7.2 Use of protective equipment. Protective equipment (such as brushing boots, overreach boots, hoof boots and similar equipment) may be used. If a rider wishes to use a bandage on a horse during the ride, for whatever reason, the horse shall be presented to the chief veterinarian with the bandage in place. If the chief veterinarian approves of the use of the bandage it has to be recorded as such on the rider's vet card.
- 4.7.3 Use of other equipment. The use of other equipment, such as large saddle bags, as part of the tack is discouraged. If such items are used, they shall be of a humanitarian nature. Any signs of the horse being in discomfort as a result of such equipment will lead to disqualification. It is the duty of the ride master to monitor this matter.
- 4.7.4 The use of any equipment that limits the free movement of the horse's head is prohibited.
- 4.7.5 Only bits manufactured by recognised manufacturers of equestrian equipment, and which are not contradictory to animal rights and acceptable norms of animal welfare, may be used. No homemade bits may be used.

4.8 SHOEING

- 4.8.1 Horses need not be shod to participate in endurance rides.
- 4.8.1.1 If a horse is shod, the hooves and shoes shall, in the opinion of the veterinary panel, be in a condition that will allow participation in the specific competition. Should the horse loose a shoe between check points, the rider is allowed to continue with the ride to the next check point, where the shoe has to be replaced (the shoe can also, with permission from the ride master, be replaced on the course). If the shoe is not replaced, the rider will not be allowed to continue. Time lost as a result of this will not be compensated. At the end of the ride the horse may be presented to the veterinary panel without one or more of the shoes (i.e. shoes lost during the last loop of the ride do not have to be replaced).
- 4.8.1.2 Horses may also participate in endurance rides if shod only in front.

4.8.1.3 If a horse participates without shoes, the horse may be equipped with alternative hoof protection (including, but not limited to, “Old Macs” and “Easy Boots”) during the ride.

4.8.1.4 Horses which start a ride without shoes may be shod at any time during the ride.

4.9 BEHAVIOUR OF HORSES

4.9.1 It is the sole responsibility of the rider to identify a horse with tendencies to kick by attaching a red ribbon to the tail of the horse. This ribbon must be clearly visible at a distance of ten (10) meters. The rider and his grooms shall also handle the horse in such a way that he does not place other riders and horses at risk. Other riders, grooms and officials shall also behave in such a way that they do not induce the horse to kick. A horse which holds a distinct risk to other participants and horses can be refused entry or be forced to withdraw from the ride by the ride master.

4.9.2 Riders who, in the opinion of the ride master, cannot manage their horses can be forced to withdraw or retire.

4.10 STALLIONS AND PREGNANT MARES

4.10.1 It is the sole responsibility of the rider to identify a stallion by attaching a yellow ribbon to his tail. This ribbon must be clearly visible at a distance of ten (10) meters. The rider and his grooms shall also handle the stallion in such a way that he does not place other riders and horses at risk. Other riders, grooms and officials shall also behave in such a way that they do not create a dangerous situation.

4.10.2 A stallion that holds a distinct risk to other participants and horses can be refused entry or be forced to withdraw from the ride by the ride master.

4.10.3 Pregnant mares and mares with foals at foot (which have not been weaned) are not allowed to participate in endurance rides.

4.11 ABUSE OF HORSES

4.11.1 Any behaviour which, in the opinion of the ride master, constitutes cruelty to or abuse of horses, will lead to disqualification. The rider/groom/person involved shall also be reported to the disciplinary committee, which can consider additional disciplinary action.

4.12 RELEASE OF HORSES

- 4.12.1 All horses shall, before they are removed from the ride venue, be presented to the veterinary panel for a final examination. This is done to ensure that the horses are fit to travel.
- 4.12.2 This examination will be done after at least two, but not more than three hours have passed after the horse completed the ride, or was eliminated, or after the rider retired, was disqualified, or stopped the step ladder. The chief veterinarian doing duty at the ride can, after considering the specific circumstances, give permission that this can be deviated from.
- 4.12.3 The rider or person responsible shall bring the horse to the veterinary area, and shall hand the last time card (as proof of time of completion) to the veterinarian involved.
- 4.12.4 The ride committee shall make release cards, specifically designed for this purpose, available to the veterinary panel. The veterinarians will keep these cards with them and will, after the horse was examined and found fit to travel, enter the horse's particulars on the release card, sign the card and hand it to the rider or responsible person.
- 4.12.5 Should the veterinarian be of the opinion that a specific horse is not fit to leave the grounds, the horse is to be referred to the treatment veterinarian for a complete clinical examination and, if required, treatment.
- 4.12.6 Rider log books and horse passports shall only be handed to a rider after completion of the ride if the rider can present a properly completed and signed (by a member of the veterinary panel) release card.

4.13 DEATH OF HORSES

- 4.13.1 Should a horse die or be euthanized during a ride meet, the ride committee shall ensure that the following documentation is submitted to the ERASA office:
 - 4.13.1.1 The prescribed ERASA form (Death of Horses)
 - 4.13.1.2 The vet card of the horse involved.
 - 4.13.1.3 A comprehensive written report on the matter by the chairperson of the club or the chairperson of the ride committee (in the case of club and union rides), or the coordinator of the national championships (in the case of national championships).
 - 4.13.1.4 A comprehensive written report by the chief veterinarian who did duty at the ride. This report has to include information on the weather conditions, riding conditions, detail regarding the examination of the horse at all of the check points as well as any

other relevant information. If possible, the findings of the post mortem examination should also be included (should these only become available later, they should be submitted to the ERASA office separately).

4.13.1.5 A comprehensive written report by the rider on his/her experience of the matter. This report is to include background information on the horse, the rider's impressions on what happened, the rider's response to any abnormal behaviour by the horse, information the rider obtained from/advice he was given by the veterinary panel at the check points and also on how he/she experienced the veterinary examinations in general.

4.13.2 The administrative officer shall submit copies of these documents to the Council Veterinarian. The Council Veterinarian shall study the documentation and make a decision on further action, if any. If he/she is of the opinion that further action should be taken, the matter shall be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of Council.

4.14 **IMMUNISATION OF HORSES**

See Chapter 8.

4.15 **TREATMENT OF HORSES**

See Chapter 9.

4.16 **BEST CONDITIONED HORSE**

See Chapter 8.

4.17 **PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES**

See Chapter 9.