



Welcome to EQUITANA 2025

EQUITANA 2025 - the World Equestrian Show - is all about the slogan "For the love of horses". The aspect of animal welfare as well as the maintenance of health and the species-appropriate promotion of horses have top priority. Because every horse lover, breeder, owner and equestrian sportsman bears a high degree of responsibility for the living creature horse and should be aware of this at all times.

Furthermore, as part of the EQUITANA programme, you fulfil a role model function and essentially determine the overall quality of the event. This results in some minimum requirements for the presentation of the horses, which are checked by the EQUITANA team during the event.

Also against the background of the growing public interest in animal welfare, these measures are in the interest of all EQUITANA participants and visitors.

At this point, we would like to quote the #doitride campaign:

"Images of tortured horses, whether through rude training methods, scandalous husbandry or sadistic attacks, have been piling up recently. Again and again, horses are the victims who have to silently endure what people do to them through ignorance, indifference, excessive ambition and/or greed.

The voices that want to ban the use of horses are getting louder and louder. Let's change this together! Together we can show the world: The love and devotion that most people have for their horses is almost limitless. Their welfare comes first." (<https://doitride.com/>)

We thank you for your understanding and support!

To ensure that EQUITANA is a safe event for everyone, certain hygiene regulations also apply. Therefore, in addition to the health regulations for horses, we would like to draw your attention to further animal welfare regulations for handling horses and health measures at EQUITANA 2025.

Please note that there have been changes since the last event!

ATTENTION: Please read the following regulations carefully. They are obligatory for all participants of EQUITANA 2025 and will lead to exclusion from the event in case of non-compliance.



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1. HEALTH REGULATIONS

--- please note the updated regulations on the health certificate for horses of domestic origin (1.1.a) ---

1.1. CERTIFICATE OF HEALTH & ORIGIN

a) Horses of domestic origin

EQUITANA requires a **health certificate from your local vet** for horses of domestic origin (form enclosed). The health certificate must not be older than 5 days upon arrival at the exhibition grounds.

Please note: This health certificate must **no longer** be issued by an official veterinarian, as was previously the case, but by the veterinarian looking after the horse at its home stable. We have decided in favor of this measure because, in comparison to the previous procedure, the individual health of the participating horses can be assessed even more reliably.

If several horses from one herd are exhibited, they can be listed together on the "Health certificate" form. Associations or IGs with several individual exhibitors can pass on a copy of this template to their co-exhibitors or horse owners.

The health certificate is issued at the participant's own expense.

b) Horses of foreign origin

EQUITANA also requires a valid **Official Certificate of Health** for horses of foreign origin (*in accordance with EU Guidelines 2009/156 /EC and 90/425/EEC*).

"EQUITANA 2025" has already been entered as the destination in the TRACES system. Please inform your official veterinarian of this. He needs this destination address for issuing the required TRACES certificate.

The certificates required for entering Germany (**health certificates/TRACES**) must be presented to the veterinarian check-in at P1.

By virtue of the same EU Guidelines, horses travelling abroad directly after leaving EQUITANA 2025 will require a new Official Veterinarian Health Certificate and TRACES Certificate when departing the showground. Please remember to schedule an appointment for processing your horse with the veterinarian check-in on P1 in plenty of time. Please also be aware that any costs incurred must be paid in cash on site.

Additional information relating to the completion of customs formalities is available from the address below:

Vet Check Logistik McDermott
Sue McDermott
0049 (0)173 295 7540
vetcheck-equitana@gmx.de



c) Foals and young horses

For reasons of animal welfare, it is not permitted to bring or exhibit horses younger than 10 months of age at EQUITANA 2025. Please also be aware that you require a special permit to bring foals or young horses younger than 24 months to EQUITANA – again, for reasons of animal welfare. Please contact Ulrike Göddecke: +49-211-90-191-107, Ulrike.gueddecke@rxglobal.com. Such horses are also only allowed to travel to the event with prior written permission of Essen Veterinarian Office.

The veterinary surgeons on site are responsible for appraising the state of health of any horses on the showground. The on-site veterinary surgeon's assessment of an animal's health is final and, in the interests of animal welfare, cannot be challenged.

If necessary, we reserve the right to order measures to prevent herpes diseases in horses (e.g. regular temperature checks on site).

We reserve the right to exclude any horse from EQUITANA in the case of illness!

1.2. HEALTH CERTIFICATES AND INSURANCE

Horses have to be examined by the veterinarian officer before being unloaded. Please make sure that you have your horse's certificate of health as well as your registration certificate or FEI passport to hand on arrival. The certificate of health must have been issued within the previous 5 days. Please also check that your horse's registration certificate has a valid medicinal appendix, owner's declaration and identification number.

All horses participating in EQUITANA 2025 are also required to have insurance cover (liability insurance).

ATTENTION: No horse may enter the exhibition grounds without these documents.

1.3. HEALTH PROTECTION

a) Vaccinations

Please ensure that your horse receives regular and proper vaccination protection. In order to protect the horses at EQUITANA in the best possible way, the following applies with immediate effect:

- **Influenza vaccination:** A complete vaccination against equine influenza is mandatory; at least the first two vaccinations of the basic immunization must have been carried out. The last vaccination must not have been given more than 6 months ago and must have been given at least 14 days (after the 2nd vaccination of the basic immunization) or 7 days (after a booster vaccination) before arrival.
Further information can be found here:
<https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/ausbildung/pferdehaltung/impfung/influenza-impfung>
- **Vaccination against Herpes is strongly recommended.**
You can find more information here:
<https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/ausbildung/pferdehaltung/impfung/herpes-impfung>
- **Vaccination against Tetanus is strongly recommended.**
You can find more details here:
<https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/ausbildung/pferdehaltung/impfung/tetanus-impfung>

b) Trimming horses whiskers and removal of fur from inside ears

Horses which have had their whiskers trimmed or hair removed from inside their ears are excluded from EQUITANA for reasons of animal welfare. This decision is based upon the ruling by the "Breeding" Advisory Board of the German Riding Association (FN) of December, 2010.





2. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES GOVERNING HORSES

2.1 HORSEKEEPING

The following points are an essential part of dealing with the horse before and during EQUITANA 2025. The basis are the guidelines of the German National Federation (FN) (Leitlinien Tierschutz Pferdehaltung, <https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/shop/leitlinien-tierschutz-pferdehaltung-download.html>).

a) Exercising

It is essential that horses participating in EQUITANA 2025 are provided with sufficient and appropriate physical exercise. We refer owners to the FN guidelines for horse welfare, which provide information on the natural exercise patterns of horses (2.1.2 *Bewegungsverhalten*) as well as covering their other requirements.

Our letter covering tips for travelling with horses and on-site organisation provides more detailed information about the possibilities available for exercising horses on the exhibition site.

b) Feeding and watering

Exhibitors and participants at EQUITANA 2025 with horses are obliged to ensure that their animals are provided with sufficient and appropriate feed and water before and during the event. Section 2.1.4 (*Futter- und Wasseraufnahmeverhalten*) of the FN Guidelines on the treatment and upkeep of horses provides detailed information on appropriate feeding for horses.

c) Horse grooming and hoof care

EQUITANA obliges exhibitors and participants with horses to care for their horses in a species-appropriate manner and to regularly care for their hooves, which promotes trust and social contacts as well as the well-being and health of the horse. Additional information relating to humane horse care is available in subsections 2.2.1 (*Pflegemaßnahmen*) and 2.2.2 (*Hufpflege*) in the FN guidelines relating to the upkeep of horses.

d) Veterinary Care

Owners are responsible for maintaining their horses' health. A veterinary surgeon should be consulted promptly in the event of a horse falling ill or being injured. Veterinary surgeon is available round-the-clock during the entire period of EQUITANA 2025 (please also refer to our tips on travel and on-site organisation with horses). You can also refer to subsection 2.2.3 of the FN guidelines relating to the upkeep of horses for additional information on equine veterinary care.

ATTENTION: EQUITANA reserves the right to exclude any participant contravening or ignoring any of the above aspects relating to equine health and well-being at EQUITANA 2025.

2.2 DOGS & OTHER ANIMALS

- a) For safety reasons, visitors are not permitted to bring dogs with them. **We therefore ask all exhibitors and participants to bring dogs into the halls only in exceptional cases.** Dogs must be kept on a lead and should behave quietly on the stand
- b) Dogs may **only** be brought into the exhibition halls **with valid rabies protection** (vaccination certificate must be carried) and appropriate proof or authorization.
- c) The State Dog Ordinance must be complied with, in particular with regard to a possible muzzle obligation. In the event of infringements, the organiser reserves the right to take further measures against the owner.
- d) Dogs from abroad require a valid EU pet passport.



- e) Due to animal health regulations, any **ruminants** (camels, goats, cattle etc.) must be reported beforehand and also have a **valid health certificate stamped by the respective veterinarian officer**.
- f) According to the official animal health regulations **birds and poultry** must be explicitly registered beforehand and must show a **valid health certificate of the responsible veterinary department**.

2.3 GUIDELINES FOR HUMANE RIDING

EQUITANA requires a fundamentally fair and tolerant approach to the horse as a living being. It is essential that work with the horse is geared to its disposition and performance. The German Equestrian Federation (FN) has developed a catalogue of criteria on the subject of fair riding (see 2.4.), on which the following guidelines are based.

Interaction with the horse should be harmonious, fair, understanding and safe.

Aggressive behaviour, rough or inappropriately punishing use of aids and aids (e.g. clear backward action with the hand/ bars, causing a too narrow head-neck position, clearly unsteady aids, inappropriate or continuous use of the crop, whip or spur aids), as well as any use of force and injury to the horse are not appropriate for the horse.

The horse's gait should be rhythmic, largely balanced and relaxed.

Inappropriate are lameness, recurring rhythm disturbances and clear balance disturbances.

The horse should present itself contented and relaxed.

Signs of inappropriate work with the horse are, among others, head and tail flicking, rebelliousness such as bucking, rising, walking through, back clearly pushed away, open mouth, tongue out/ over the bit/ run on, permanently tense facial expression (permanently open eyes, tucked ears, tense nostrils), excessive foaming/ sweating, conspicuously loud breathing.

When working with a bridle, also with a harness, the horse's forehead-nose line should be predominantly at or slightly in front of the vertical.

The buckling and handling of the equipment should be professional and appropriate for the animal.

Excessively tight halters, nosebands and curb straps, incorrect use of the curb bit or special bridles in particular, as well as open chafe marks caused by unsuitable equipment are not suitable for horses. If the EQUITANA team determines that the buckles are incorrect or too tight, this must be corrected immediately.

In all demonstrations, the safety of man and horse is paramount.

Dangerous situations must be avoided or resolved immediately.

Handling of all animals presented at EQUITANA in accordance with animal welfare regulations is a prerequisite.

In the event of serious or repeated deviations from these guidelines, the EQUITANA team reserves the right to exclude the participant concerned from the event.



2.4 CATALOGUE OF CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES OF THE GERMAN EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

a) Behaviour on the preparation arena

Particularly on the preparation areas of EQUITANA Open Air, fair work geared towards the horse is a prerequisite. The complete catalogue of criteria of the FN for the assessment of the rider and the horse on the preparation arena can be found here: <http://www.pferd-aktuell.de/vorbereitungsplatz/vorbereitungsplatz>

b) Animal welfare in competition sport

EQUITANA also takes animal welfare in competition sport for granted. Animal welfare regulations concerning the cooperation with the horse, the equipment of horse and rider, the condition of the horses as well as other regulations of tournament sport must be observed by all participants. (Animal Welfare in Sports, <https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/ausbildung/pferdehaltung/tierschutz>)

c) Ethical principles

The ethical principles describe the acceptance of responsibility for the horse as a living being as well as the importance of respecting and keeping and working with the horse in a manner appropriate to its species. During EQUITANA, these must be observed at all times when handling the horse. (The ethical principles of the horse lover, Ethics in Equestrian Sport Part I, <https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/shop/die-ethischen-grundsätze-des-pferdefreundes-download.html>)

2.5 ANTI-DOPING- AND MEDICATION CONTROL

It is not permitted to attempt to influence a horse's performance by using drugs either before or during EQUITANA 2025. Doping is an offence that contravenes the norms of animal welfare and, in accordance with the FN regulations governing anti-doping and medication control, results in the immediate exclusion of persons involved. Participants bear full responsibility for making sure that no banned substances and methods have been used on their horses.

More detailed information relating to the FN regulations governing anti-doping and medication control is contained in the relevant FN documents, <https://www.pferd-aktuell.de/shop/fairer-sport-sicher-und-sauber-durch-die-turniersaison-download.html>).

2.6 DOPING TESTING

The usual and prescribed equine drug testing procedures that are carried out at national tournaments are also conducted at EQUITANA. The instructions of the responsible veterinarian must always be followed by the participants.

3. OTHER REGULATIONS

3.1. Hygiene regulations (Covid-19)

For the protection of all, each participant undertakes to comply with the hygiene regulations of RX Deutschland GmbH, the operator, the exhibition grounds and the authorities applicable at the event. The relevant regulations will be announced in good time.



3.2. Image and marketing rights

All participants agree that their performances at EQUITANA 2025 may be photographed and/or filmed by EQUITANA and published for commercial purposes, in particular for advertising or otherwise online and offline. Therefore, all participants give EQUITANA the rights to the photographic and video recordings, including the rights to use the recordings commercially, without demanding payment for this, and clearly agree that EQUITANA may duplicate these recordings or use them for marketing purposes. All claims for payment from participants to the trade fair organiser arising from the commercial use of these recordings or the transfer of these rights to a third party are excluded.

4. CHECK LIST

1. Certificate of Health & Origin of the horse(s) if they are of **domestic origin** (issued within the last 5 days)
2. TRACES Certificate of the horse(s) if they are of **foreign origin** (in accordance with EU Guidelines 2009/156/EC and 90/425/EEC).
3. Registration Certificate or FEI Passport of the horse(s) with valid medication appendix, declaration of ownership and registration number.
4. Insurance cover (liability insurance) for the horse(s)
5. Initial immunisation against equine influenza (see above).



Official Certificate of Origin for horses from Germany, to be produced at the veterinarian check-up on arrival at EQUITANA 2025

The certificate must be completed and signed by the veterinarian responsible for the herd of origin or the horse and must not be older than 5 days when presented.

I hereby officially certify that the following horses, owned by

Name: _____

Address: _____

Association: _____

Stable address (if different from above): _____

	Name	Breed	Sex	Birth	ID No.
Horse 1:					
Horse 2:					
Horse 3:					
Horse 4:					
Horse 5:					
Horse 6:					

I hereby confirm that I am not aware of any infectious disease, in particular druse or herpes, in the stock of origin of the horse(s) named above.

The horse(s) in question does/do not exhibit any clinical symptoms of a contagious disease.

Place; Date:

Name of the veterinarian (print font):

Stamp

Signature