

A close-up, top-down view of a horse's muzzle. The horse's skin is a mix of brown and grey, with numerous long, thin, light-colored whiskers extending outwards. The horse's nostrils are visible at the top of the frame.

From 1 August 2020, in all Equestrian Sport New Zealand competition, the trimming of a horse's whiskers and inner ear hair is not allowed.

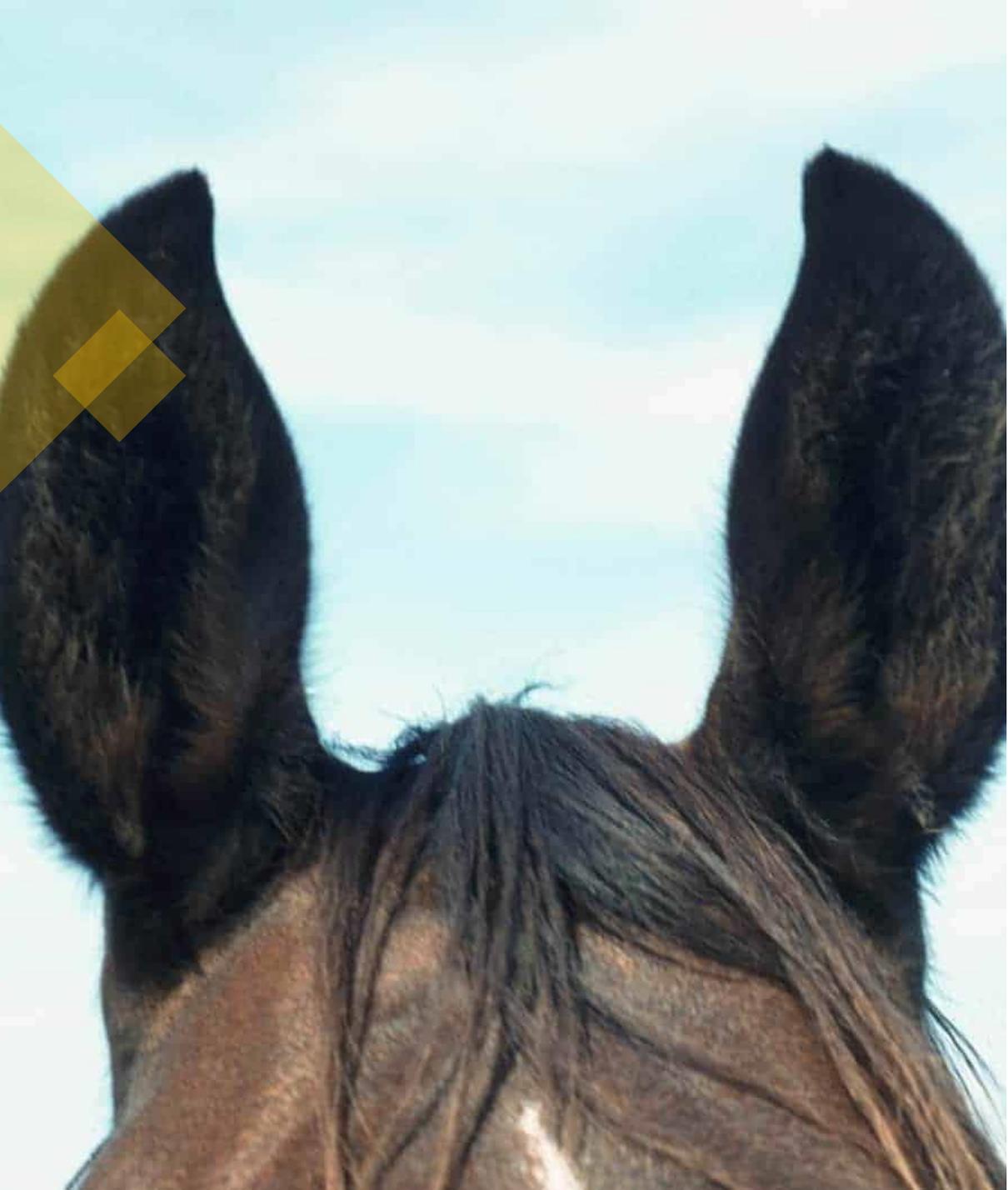
#fortheloveofequestrian

ESNZ General Regulation Article 132

- Equestrian Sports New Zealand (ESNZ) has teamed with NZ Pony Club (and the FEI from 2021) and banned the trimming of whiskers and inner ear hair for horses and ponies competing at ESNZ sanctioned events.
- ESNZ has updated its General and Veterinary Regulations in July 2020 and included this stance in Article 132: Abuse of Horses. “Abuse” can be defined as an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse.
- ESNZ further considers abuse: whipping or beating a horse excessively; subjecting a horse to any kind of electric shock device; using spurs excessively or persistently; jabbing the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device; competing a horse which is exhausted, lame or injured; “rapping” a horse; abnormally sensitising or desensitising any part of a horse; leaving a horse without adequate food, drink or exercise; using any device or equipment which may cause excessive pain to the horse upon knocking down an obstacle.
- Any person witnessing any form of abuse must report it in the form of a Complaint, either to the Ground Jury, if at an Event, or to ESNZ if outside of an Event. All forms and guidelines are on the ESNZ website.
- Full ESNZ General Regulations (and other policies and rules) can be found here: <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/esnz/rules-regulations/esnz-rules/>

- Horses have whiskers on their face around their eyes and muzzle (nose and lips). In these locations whiskers not only help protect delicate tissue, but also help compensate for the blind spots a horse has in front of its face and underneath its nose.
- A horse's whiskers (called vibrissae) are actually an incredibly important sense to them. The whiskers around the eyes and muzzle are extremely sensitive and have a rich nerve supply.





- Ear hair serves a few special functions: to protect the inner ear skin from bugs, sun, and foreign objects. The outer edge of the ear also grows some hair, and in some cases, it can get pretty wild.
- With ears you can find a happy medium – clip the edges of the ear by folding it like a taco and zipping your clippers down the outside of the ear. Leave the insides.

