



USHJA Joint Owners Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 29th, 2018 – 11:00 am EST via Teleconference

Joint Owners Task Force Members Participating: Debbie Bass (Chair), Elaine Fresch, Nancy Lewis, Chuck Mayer, Susan Moriconi, Ernest Oare (6)

Joint Owners Task Force Members Not Present: Lisa Lourie, Erica Moe (2)

Also Present: Emily Matuszak (USHJA Sport Program Assistant) (1)

I. Welcome and roll call

Ms. Bass called the meeting to order and Ms. Matuszak performed the roll call; with six Task Force members present, a quorum was met.

II. Approval of meeting minutes from January 8th, 2018

Ms. Moriconi made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 8, 2018; Mr. Mayer seconded and the motion was passed without further discussion.

III. Planning for the 2018 Owners Task Force initiative regarding owners awareness and responsibility for drugs and medications

Ms. Bass opened the floor for discussion about the drugs and medications initiative.

- The Task Force agreed their mission is to educate owners on drugs and medications and their abuse in the hunter/jumper industry.
- Mr. Oare stated his opinion that the problem (from an owner's standpoint) unless owners are really involved in their horse's care, the majority of owners are aware of only the legal medications being administered to their horses but are unaware of the illegal medications being given as this information will likely not be reflected on invoices from the trainer. This problem is further complicated by the issue with drug screens being problematic once new illegal drugs are being administered.
- Mr. Oare discussed the issue of excess lunging of horses prior to showing as another factor in this issue.
- The Task Force briefly discussed the stigma of the drug issue surrounding hunters.
- The Task Force devised their plan of how to initiate this project:
 1. In order to conduct the research portion of this project, Ms. Bass informed the Task Force they will need to first develop some sort of interview tool(s).

2. Once the interview tool(s) are in place, the Task Force members can start conducting interviews “off-the-record” with trainers, veterinarians familiar with the problem and USEF staff members involved in the drug testing process. The goal is to understand how owners can be more involved. Mr. Mayer asked whether it would be easier to get information via an anonymous survey. Ms. Bass noted this may create issues with following up with an individual about their responses.
 3. Using the acquired data, Task Force will reconvene and brainstorm solutions to the issue. This may result in the creation of standard operating procedures (SOP) for owners as a resource, crafting a contract template, submitting a change proposal (RCP), providing best practices information, etc. The Task Force hopes to create some sort of tool to empower owners.
- Ms. Bass informed the Task Force that a proposal will need to be crafted and submitted prior to moving forward with this project. Ms. Bass will work with Ms. Matuszak to prepare the proposal and subsequently the interviewing tool. Ms. Bass asked the Task Force members to start brainstorming potential questions they wish to use as interview questions.
 - Ms. Bass asked Ms. Matuszak to inquire if USHJA would allow the Task Force to have access to Google Docs.

IV. Old business

Ms. Matuszak followed up on questions from the previous call with the Task Force regarding the owners *In Stride* series published in 2017.

V. New business

No new business was discussed.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am EST.

Respectfully,

Emily Matuszak, USHJA Sport Program Assistant