



The National Association of Eventing

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To: Officials and Organizers

Fr: Safety Committee

Date: March 4, 2008

Re: Necropsy

MEMORANDUM

Eventing is a sport with inherent risks that, regrettably, can include fatalities. Although, every participant works very hard to promote safety of both horse and rider, loss may be inevitable. As part of the investigation into the cause of such incidents, the USEA strongly supports and encourages a necropsy on horse fatalities. By providing this service, we can learn more about our sport and the impact it may have on our treasured teammates. The information provided will allow us to keep precise records and ensure our members are accurately informed.

The USEA Board of Governors, at the 2007 Annual Meeting, approved funds in the amount of \$2, 500 per year to cover the cost of necropsies under the conditions outlined below, and only if the horse is uninsured or the existing insurance policy does not cover the cost of a necropsy.

USEA Conditions:

- The USEA shall cover the cost of a necropsy if the fatality is due to a fall at an obstacle/fence **and** if there is reason to suspect that a physical abnormality may have contributed to the fall. For example, eyewitnesses may report that the horse exhibited signs of physical distress prior to jumping the fence.
- Owner (s) of the horse must give permission to obtain the necropsy.
- Officials or organizers should inquire of the rider (or owner if available) whether the horse is insured and if the policy includes a necropsy. If the terms of the insurance policy are not known, the insurance company must be contacted.

Call Jo Whitehouse at (703) 779-8673 (home) OR (571) 217-6097 (cell) for approval as soon as possible. For additional information you may contact Jennifer Hardwick (703) 779-0440 X 3003 M-F or jennifer@useventing.com