Trimming of the inner ear and whisker hair of horses/ponies

Please be aware of an addition to ESNZ rules. The trimming of whiskers and inner ear hair will now be considered as abuse of a horse/pony and will be enforced from 2020 within the ESNZ disciplines.

Chapter seven: protection of competitors and horses.
Article 132: Abuse of Horses
1.  No person may abuse a horse during an event or any other time. 'Abuse' means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse, including without limitation any of the following (to be read in conjunction with the relevant discipline rules)
    1.1 To whip or beat a horse excessively
    1.2 To subject a horse to any kind of electric shock device
    1.3 To use spurs excessively or persistently
    1.4 To jab the horse in the mouth with the bit or any other device
    1.5 To compete using an exhausted, lame or injured horse
    1.6 To "rap" a horse
    1.7 To abnormally sensitise or desensitise any part of a horse
    1.8 To leave a horse with out adequate food, drink or exercise
    1.9 To use any device or equipment which causes excessive pain to the horse upon knocking down an obstacle
    1.10    Trimming a horses whiskers or inner ear hair ( to be enforced 2020)
2.  Any person witnessing any form of abuse must report it in the form of a Protest if the abuse occurs during an event or as a Complaint if the abuse does not occur during an event

The RAS raised the matter at the RAS Conference and the recent RAS equestrian judge's seminars in acknowledgment of the way matters are moving within the NZ equestrian scene. The RAS support animal welfare issues and believe it is important that our competitors are aware and educated on this issue. The current RAS rules (GR.6 Abuse of Exhibits) generally cover this matter. However, the RAS believe it is important to create awareness around this in the first instance and will undertake this throughout the 2019/20 A&P show season with a view to enforcing this next show season.