

FEI Sets Safety Goals

Reducing risks to three-day eventing horses and riders will be a top priority.

The Fédération Equestre Internationale (FEI) General Assembly held in Estoril, Portugal concluded April 15. Committee members and elected officials of the FEI, which governs world class performance competitions, met to discuss progress on a variety of topics as well as set goals for upcoming years. One of the important topics was continuing study on a safety program that focuses on improving conditions in three-day eventing. The goal is to reduce the percentage of riders who are seriously injured and the percentage of horse falls during competition. In particular, the study seeks ways to eliminate the most dangerous falls, those where the horse catches a leg on a cross-country obstacle and somersaults. Ultimately, suggestions will be made on how to improve conditions in international three-day eventing to lower risks to horses and riders. The FEI is in the sixth year of collecting reports from all international three-day events, and the 2006 data should be published soon.

The news comes during a time in which three-day eventing is making headlines around the world. At the U.K.'s 2007 Mitsubishi Motors Badminton Horse Trials, two horses died, and at the Rolex Kentucky Three-day Event last month, Amy Tryon's mount Le Samurai was euthanized after suffering an injury during cross country.