ROLE DESCRIPTION

1. TITLE

Under 21 Veterinary Advisor

2. OVERALL PURPOSE OF THE ROLE

As part of the Under 21 International Team, the Veterinary Advisor works with the International Director (ID), Selectors and U21 Senior Chef d'Equipe to provide veterinary advice and support to the U21 international athletes. This includes attending international competitions, training and pre-European camps, home visits and the European Championships.

The Veterinary Advisor works closely with the U21 Selectors and U21 Senior Chef d'Equipe to develop a tailored support programme for each horse, ensuring that the highest standards of horse welfare are upheld, in line with BD and BEF equine welfare policies and the Charter of the Horse.

Reporting into the Head of Sport and U21 International Officer, the Veterinary Advisor works closely with the International Director and Senior Chef d'Equipe to develop strong relationships with each athlete's veterinarian and home support team, in line with British Dressage's collaborative approach.

3. MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Be fully proficient with all current BD, BEF & FEI veterinary regulations, rules and policies.
- Attend all training days, international competitions and championship events in a veterinary advisor capacity for the U21 international teams, in line with an annually agreed schedule.
- Advise on the formulation of programmes / timetables for training camps. Facilitate and promote effective communication with athletes' home veterinarians and support teams.
- Oversee and arrange referrals, diagnoses and treatment plans as required. Discuss progress, management plans and diagnoses with athletes' home veterinarians.
- In conjunction with the U21 Senior Chef d'Equipe, support and educate athletes, parents and grooms regarding travelling long distances, acclimatisation and vaccination requirements, in accordance with FEI rules.
- Provide the International Director, U21 Chef d'Equipe and Selectors with updates on horses' health when requested and be available to provide such information at European Championship selection meetings, respecting strict confidentiality at all times.
- Undertake administrative tasks connected to the role of Veterinary Advisor in an accurate and timely manner, including being responsive to email and phone requests.
- Champion the BD values of inclusivity, integrity, respect, welfare (human and equine) and teamwork, to encourage and promote an effective team culture.
- Act as a positive role model and ambassador for British Dressage and GBR, acting professionally at all times and demonstrating the personal characteristics, qualities and behaviours that emphasise a pursuit of excellence through a team approach.
- Adhere to the principles of good governance, including awareness and understanding of clean sport regulations and principles, anti-doping and medication control rules, both equine and human, at national and international level.
- The Veterinary Advisor may also be asked to undertake veterinary responsibilities for U25 athletes, dependent on the location of the U25 European Championships are held and which age category they are combined with (Senior or U21).

4. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ROLE

Knowledge / Experience:

- A qualified veterinarian and a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, with a current practising qualification.
- FEI PTV qualified and hold an OV certification for equine exports.
- Thorough knowledge of BD and FEI Rules, particularly anti-doping (human and equine) policies, with in-depth knowledge and experience of international and national dressage.
- Strong understanding of dressage competition and training to support the development of athletes and enable horses to perform at their best.
- Significant general equestrian knowledge, with an understanding of elite sport performance pathways, including the BEF World Class Programme.
- Strong people management, leadership, influencing and interpersonal skills.
- Computer literate, with access to a personal computer, internet and email.
- Driving licence and access to own car. Travel to home yards, and with athletes and horses to the European Championships, will be required.

As part of the U21 support team, the Veterinary Advisor is required to have a disclosure and barring service check and to attend a Safeguarding and First Aid course once appointed. These will need to be updated every three years.

Personal Skills / Characteristics

- High degree of personal and professional integrity, generating trust and respect.
- Friendly and approachable, with the ability to build strong professional relationships.
- Confident and articulate, with excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Inclusive and collaborative approach, consulting with all key stakeholders as required.
- Supportive team player, but equally adept at working independently where necessary.
- Positive, proactive, enthusiastic and highly motivated self-starter.
- Ability to multi-task, work to set deadlines and remain calm under pressure.
- Excellent negotiating and influencing skills, as well as the ability to demonstrate sensitivity, tact and diplomacy, as required.

5. REPORTING

Line Manager: Head of Sport, with additional reporting into the BD International Director, U21 International Officer and U21 Senior Chef d'Equipe.

6. REMUNERATION

It is anticipated that this contracted role will involve circa 20–25 days per annum, including extensive UK and overseas travel to support training weekends, international competition, and championships. A competitive day rate would be payable for contracted dates, plus expenses.