



# Vet Box

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Eventing Committee

## History of Eventing

- ▶ First competition in 1902 in France
- ▶ Added to the Olympics in 1912
- ▶ Object of the event
  - ▶ *Dressage* demonstrates the horse's ability to perform on the parade ground, where elegance and obedience were key.
  - ▶ *Cross-country* began as a test of stamina, courage, and bravery over difficult terrain, important for a charger on long marches or if the horse was asked to carry a dispatch across country.
  - ▶ *Show Jumping* proves the horse's continuing soundness and fitness after the difficult cross-country day.

The object of the event was to test Cavalry Officers' horses for their fitness and suitability.

The Olympic eventing competition was originally open only to male military officers in active duty, mounted only on military horses.

<http://www.discovereventing.com/?q=node/67>

## 1968 Olympic Team



### 1968 Olympic Eventing Team

Not sure how is on the far left  
Michael Page – Team Silver, Individual Bronze  
Michael Plumb – Team Silver  
James Wofford – Team Silver

## Cross Country

- ▶ Began as a test of stamina, courage, and bravery over difficult terrain, important for a charger on long marches or if the horse was asked to carry a dispatch across country.
- ▶ Long format had a roads and tracks, steeple chase, roads and tracks and then the cross country element.
- ▶ There were two times that the horse was checked to ensure that they were in good health
  - ▶ Ten minute box - after roads and tracks and before cross country
  - ▶ Vet Box - after cross country

## Vet Box



## Vet Box



## Vet Box

- ▶ Got directly from the finish line of cross country to vet box
- ▶ If you do not finish the cross country course, you still need to go directly to vet box
- ▶ Do not stop and talk with coach or other adults
- ▶ Take care of your pony first
- ▶ Stay until released by the vet - be proactive in working with vet so you are not in the Vet Box longer than you need to.

If you do not finish the cross country course because of fall of rider or horse, elimination, technical elimination, retiring on course, you and your horse still need to the vet box.

## Vet Box - What to expect

- ▶ Your horse will be approached by several folks when you enter the vet box
  - ▶ HM Judge
  - ▶ Vet
  - ▶ SM and/or teammates

Be prepared when you enter the vet box for multiple people to approach you and your horse at once.

If your horse has stable vices (kicks, bites) or has sensitive areas, please make sure that you let these folks know before they approach your horse. I would advise you let them know before your turnout inspection and then remind them when you enter the vet box.



## Vet Box - What is Needed?

- ▶ Large buckets to hold 10-12 gallons of water and large amount of ice - used to sponge down the horse
- ▶ Supply of more water close by
  - ▶ Do not allow to drink from common area
  - ▶ **Use dip bucket** to fill your buckets from common area
- ▶ Small buckets (1-2 gallons) for the horse to drink out of
- ▶ An assistant to hold horse and one person to sponge and scrap each side of the horse
- ▶ Halter and Leadline
- ▶ Water and snacks for rider
- ▶ If possible, a shady spot to carry out the cooling when hot
- ▶ If cool, have a sheet to put on horse

You do not need to bring separate wash buckets for each horse on your team, you can share wash buckets, sponges and scrapers.

## Vet Box - Procedure

- ▶ Gradually come to a walk. Staying off your horse's back until at a walk
- ▶ Report immediately to the vet or HM Judge so they can track horse's condition
- ▶ Run up stirrups
- ▶ Stand at head of horse, quietly, during the evaluation
- ▶ WITH YOUR TEAM'S STABLE MANAGER or TEAMMATE look for:
  - ▶ Injuries or distress
  - ▶ Loosen girth and noseband
  - ▶ Cuts, abrasions, loose shoes

## Vet Box - Procedure (cont'd)

- ▶ Remove tack as efficiently as possible - if horse is really hot, remove saddle and then start walking horse.
- ▶ Place tack in a garbage bag or laundry basket
- ▶ Cooling out (sponging with water and scraping) should be done appropriately according to mount's condition and heat/humidity at the event
- ▶ While cooling out, walk in a large circle at a safe distance from the HM judge and vet
- ▶ Gradually offer your horse water as it is walked.
- ▶ Continue to sponge down the horse to help it cool down
- ▶ Report every 10-15 minutes to vet for recheck until dismissed (remember your TPR on your stall chart)

We sponging your horse, sponge where the arteries are closest to the skin. From the under the jaw of the horse, down the neck, between the front legs and between the back legs. All the areas where you see veins/arteries bulging.

If your horse prefers to gulp down water sooner than gradually or your horse needs additives to the water to drink, please feel free to do that. Just be prepared to get questions about this from HM and/or vets if questioned. As long as you can explain that what you are doing is for the best interest of your horse, you will be fine.

## Vet Box - Penalty Points

- ▶ 1) Improper pulling up after the finish . . . up to 15 points
- ▶ 2) Improper cooling out . . . . .up to 20 points
- ▶ 3) Distressed mount . . . . . up to 15 points
- ▶ 4) Not reporting to HMJ . . . . .10 points

## Vet Box - Reference Materials

- ▶ **Vet Box Article** [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/hm\\_resource\\_page/vetboxarticle.pdf](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/hm_resource_page/vetboxarticle.pdf)
- ▶ **Lesson Plans**
  - ▶ **Simulation** <http://www.eventing.ponyclub.org/PDFs/Lesson%20Plans/EV%20Lesson%20Unmounted%20-Vet%20Box%20Simulation.pdf>
  - ▶ **Your First Eventing Rally** [http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/eventing/ev\\_lesson\\_unmounted\\_-\\_your\\_fi.pdf?hhSearchTerms=%22vet+and+box%22](http://c.ymcdn.com/sites/www.ponyclub.org/resource/resmgr/eventing/ev_lesson_unmounted_-_your_fi.pdf?hhSearchTerms=%22vet+and+box%22)

Questions

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If you have questions, please contact me at [Margaret.Crevar@sas.com](mailto:Margaret.Crevar@sas.com)