

Paris Olympic Games 2024 & Equine Wellbeing Parliamentary Report

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INTRODUCTION:



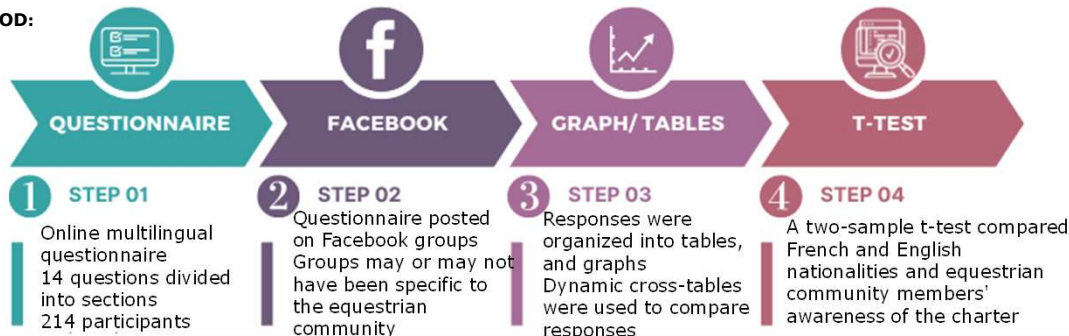
Media scandals in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics Equestrian Games (Jet Set, Kilkenny and Saint Boy) have sparked controversy and calls for improved welfare measures (Meier, Tickell and Konjer, 2023). The abuse at Tokyo was a turning point for equestrian Social License to Operate's (SLO) at the forthcoming Paris 2024 Olympics.

A French parliamentary report containing 46 recommendations and discussions on ethics and welfare are part of efforts to address these issues (Dombrevail, 2022).

This research project aimed to determine people's perceptions of the usefulness and effectiveness of the parliamentary report, depending on their nationality (french/British) and/or equestrian background, in the context of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



METHOD:



RESULTS:

Out of **214 participants, 47% were French** and **38% were English**. More English (65) than French (58) were **part of the equestrian community**. Among equestrian participants, **130** were aware of **the Saint Boy's horse abuse case at Tokyo 2020**. However, only **44% knew about the equine welfare charter for Paris 2024**. English (45) were more aware of the charter compared to French (36). 154 supported the charter's impact on horse welfare, while 60 opposed it. Conversely, 153 believed the charter alone wasn't enough for horse welfare, compared to 61 who disagreed.

Open questions sections

1. Monitoring and control of rules (n=48)
2. Education of riders and SLO for equestrian sports (n=17)
3. Equestrian equipment (n=10)
4. Banning horse riding or stopping equestrian sports at the Olympic Games (n=3)

T-Tests

- No significant difference between nationalities and charter knowledge, $t(212) = 2.30, p = 0.55$
- Significant difference between being a part of the equestrian community and charter knowledge, $t(209.72) = -4.69, p < 0.001$

DISCUSSION & CONCLUSIONS:

- **Knowing the existence of the charter:**
Nationalities -> British are more effective in the way they communicate information compared to French (Pickering and Hockenull, 2019).
Equestrian Community -> People outside the equestrian community are virtually unaware of what's going on within it (Yli-Koivisto, 2019).
- **SLO** -> Tokyo Olympics horses's scandals tarnished sports image.
- **Ban the Equestrian sport in the Olympic Games?** -> Equestrian sports could be subject to an Olympic ban due to the suspected mistreatment of horses (like Modern Pentathlon) as a result of public pressure.

SLO is vital for equestrian sports. However, it is currently in a very fragile state due to recent cases of suspected equine abuse coming to public attention. Public opinion therefore needs to be rekindled in favour of equine welfare, as France is doing with the parliamentary report on the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

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