

USETA Meeting Minutes July 27, 2026

Opening Remarks

- USETA formed to move the horse industry forward from the bottom-up, not top-down to include trainers, stewards, judges, riders, etc. One unified voice to address issues and present to USEF/USHJA
- Stay aware of rule changes; keep horsemanship at the forefront.
- Two recent rule issues raised:
 1. Judging the wind of the horse as a soundness issue
 2. Banning clipping of ears and muzzles
- As a group, the goal is to have a voice in these decisions.

Mentor Program (Shelley Campf)

- Members can submit business, training, or management questions to a group for feedback.
- Submissions accepted by email or phone.
- Positioned as a resource for those unsure how to handle specific situations.

They Haynet Grant

- \$2,500 annual grant awarded to one nominee for education-related expenses (business classes, shadowing at a horse show, clinics, etc.).
- Nominees are submitted, and the Board selects the winner.
- All nominees are entered into a \$500 raffle.

Accreditation for Trainers (Early Discussion)

- Distinct from USHJA's approach — this program aims to be based on results and statistics.

Judges Program (Chris Wynne)

- One judges' clinic, limited to 12 people; not affiliated with USEF.
- Informational clinics open to anyone interested in judging.
- Live clinics beginning first week of September in Aiken — judging all levels to help attendees decide if judging is a path they want to pursue.
- 8 clinics planned across the country this year.
- "Judge My Ride" — free educational program for juniors and amateurs.

Amateur Committee

- Goal: bring amateurs together so they have a voice.
- Let amateurs drive ideas and educational priorities.
- Focus areas:
 - Broader educational content and a more accessible rulebook
 - Mentor program

- Health/wellness initiatives
- Meetings with USETA professionals
- Show concierge program

Drugs & Medications Group

- Establishing practical, sensible protocols.
- Building a searchable, user-friendly, comprehensive database.
- Proposing 3–5 independent veterinarians to review positive drug tests for performance-enhancing determination.
- Setting environmental threshold levels (e.g., caffeine, CBD).
- Trainer notification requirement — trainers notified when their horse is drug tested.

Show Standards Committee (USETA + Show Managers)

- Examining what shows can do better for trainers/exhibitors, and what trainers/exhibitors can do to make show managers' jobs easier — framed as a two-way street.

Professional Standards

- Trainer accreditation program.
- Digital "rider's passport" for easily accessible online credentials.
- Educational judging videos — judges score a course they're not officiating and show their scorecards for feedback purposes.

Grassroots / Local Shows

- Support for schooling and non-rated shows (e.g., helping them obtain jumps, get organized) as a way of giving back.

Q&A

Q: What was the genesis/catalyst for forming USETA?

- **A: 600 members gained in 7 months. Goal is to send unified membership suggestions to USHJA/USEF to drive change.**

Horse Show Trainer Liaison proposal

- A neutral point of contact for exhibitor/trainer concerns, able to problem-solve without being combative.
- Vote: 72% For, 17% Undecided, 11% Against

Additional topics raised:

- Zyrtec flagged as a horse welfare issue — push toward common sense and good horsemanship. USEF adapted Cetirizine rule change as of today 7/27/26
- Importance of staying current on rule changes (e.g., FEI's recent ban on earplugs).

- Last fall's uptick in Robaxin overages — a spreadsheet was compiled for USEF showing a direct correlation between gastric medication and oral methocarbamol absorption; no overages occurred with the injectable form.
- Plans to run surveys so USETA can provide USEF with tangible, data-backed numbers on specific issues.
- Purina horse management and nutrition clinic noted.

Key Takeaway

Growing membership is essential so USETA can carry a stronger, more influential voice.