Presse Handout "CHIO Aachen Scientist Circle"

1. **Who is involved in the project?**
   - Birgit Rosenberg, Head of Sport, CHIO Aachen
   - Prof. Dr. Dirk Winter from the University for Economics and Environment in Nürtigen
   - Dr. med. vet. Miriam Baumgartner, expert for horse husbandry, horse behaviour, the animal and environmentally-compatible livestock management of horses – Swiss National Stud Avenches, Agroscope
   - PD Dr. med. vet. Dominik Burger, expert for performance physiology and sports medicine – Swiss Institute for Horse Medicine ISME of the Bern University in Avenches
   - Prof. Dr. med. vet. Konstanze Krueger-Farrouj, Professor for horse husbandry at the University for Economics and Environment in Nürtingen-Geislingen
   - Dr. rer. nat. Arne-Rasmus Dräger, expert for artificial intelligence and developer of AI-based camera systems for the monitoring of horses' health
   - Prof. Dr. Guy Chéron, Professor for neurophysiology and the biomechanics of movement, Brussels University, expert in the field of the recording of the brain waves of horses
   - Dr. Monica Venner, private lecturer at the University of Veterinary Medicine in Hannover, PhD, expert veterinarian for horses, Dipl. ECEIM, FEI Permitted Treating Veterinarian

2. **What are the concrete goals of the "Scientist Circle"?**
   - The initiative occupies itself with the welfare of sports horses and brings various horse experts and leading scientists from Germany, Belgium and Switzerland together.
   - The protection of the horses and the transparency and acceptance of the equestrian sport within society.
   - We would like to jointly address the topic of the wellbeing of sports horses at competitive events and what they precisely need to ensure that their wellbeing can be sustainably ensured.

3. **What will be tested in this project and how?**
   - The analysis of their movement, feeding, drinking and sleeping behaviour in the stable with the aid of an AI-based camera system of the company ACARIS. The stables of 5 selected horses will be equipped with cameras and the behaviour of the horses in the stable will be analysed using an AI-based software.
   - The glucocorticoid metabolites in the faeces of these 5 horses will also be analysed. Faecal samples will be collected regularly at the CHIO Aachen.
   - The brain waves of Isabell Werth's horse "Emilio" will be measured by the company Mammal Tech while the horse is training at the CHIO Aachen. The measurements are taken by sensors that are inserted into a mask.

- The results gathered at the CHIO Aachen will be compared with the data that was collected at the home stables of the participating horses prior to the show.

4. **Which horses are involved in the pilot project at the CHIO Aachen?**
    - Pirate Smile of Anna Siemer
    - Grandeur de Lully CH of Robin Godel
    - Toubleu de Rueire of Mélody Johner
    - Toblerone of Nadja Minder
    - Fifty Fifty of Patrick Rüegg
    - Emilio of Isabell Werth

5. **Were the Veterinary Inspection Office and the FEI informed about the survey?**
    - Yes. The Veterinary Inspection Office in Aachen is very positive about the pilot project at this year's CHIO Aachen and is interested in the results.
    - The Veterinary Committee of the FEI is also informed. There will be an exchange with the Veterinary Commission on-site.
    - The NRW State Agency for Nature, Environment and Consumer Protection (LANUV) was also informed. They also welcome the pilot project.

6. **Who can access the cameras at the CHIO Aachen?**
    - Experts & members of the "CHIO Aachen Scientist Circle"
    - Riders, grooms, chef d'equipes and veterinarians are allowed to view the results

7. **Will the survey be continued after the CHIO Aachen?**
    - The Scientist Circle is planned as a long-term project. A dynamic process has already developed. A high number of promising themes have already been discussed in the first months of the cooperation.
    - We are expecting to gather many cognitions from the first pilot project at the CHIO 2023 with the aim of being able to carry out tests on a larger scale at the CHIO 2024 already.