

NEWS RELEASE

Embargoed till 10.30am, Wednesday 23rd May 2007

Jockey Frankie Dettori congratulates local school kids for staying healthy with horses

More than 150 school children have learnt how to keep themselves fit and healthy with horses in Leyton today (Wednesday 23rd May).

They joined VIPs at a free interactive event at the Lee Valley riding centre, teaching them about correctly caring for horses. The emphasis was on the importance of correct nutrition and exercise for horses – valuable skills they can use to improve their own lives.

Legendary jockey **Frankie Dettori** sent a message of support.

He said: "Unfortunately I am unexpectedly unable to attend today, but I'm delighted to know so many children learned so much about horses.

"It's great to know the next generation of youngsters are being introduced to horses and given opportunities to learn and ride at such a young age. Who knows, maybe one child will be inspired by the event and go on to be a famous jockey in the future".

The event was also to help launch a major national **Equine Health and Welfare Strategy**.

The strategy is a unique document jointly put together by more than 20 organisations from the equine industry and key government departments. They are aiming to achieve a single vision for horse health and welfare in Great Britain.

Lee Valley riding centre was chosen as the launch venue because of its commitment to quality, and making horses accessible to the entire community.

The strategy can be seen at www.equinehealthandwelfarestrategy.co.uk

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NOTES TO EDITORS

- For further information, call press liaison Paul Green on 07936 712007, or email press@publicityheaven.com
- Photos are available for download from <http://www.equinehealthandwelfarestrategy.co.uk/media> You are welcome to publish these images in relation to this story
- More information is online at www.equinehealthandwelfarestrategy.co.uk and www.leevalleypark.org.uk



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ABOUT NEWC:

The National Equine Welfare Council is made up of 58 equine welfare organisations including Animal Health Trust, British Horse Society, Blue Cross, Donkey Sanctuary, The Horse Trust, International League for the Protection of Horses, National Pony Society, Redwings Horse Sanctuary & RSPCA.