

From: Klaus Koch [mailto:ontrack@telia.com]  
Sent: September 5, 2008 10:07 AM  
To: Rier, Rick (ORC)  
Subject: SV: follow-up

Hi Rick!

This very moment I am watching races from Norway on one of the racing channels over here. Horses are good in Norway (except for the cold bloods, who are much slower, mostly bad gated and pulling like idiots!!!), but it is not nice to look at. The whip must remain in the barn while racing, which causes other methods of encouraging the horses. Driver tear tails, knock with their fists on the hawks, tear the bid back and forth in the horses mouth. These activities aren't allowed either, but the judges seem to keep their eyes closed. It is disgusting to look at. Don't you ever dare to ban the whip in Canada! If a horse needs firm correction, the Norwegian drives don't have a chance.

The Norwegian ban of the whip within standardbred racing is government dictated, and astonishing enough, the whip is allowed within thoroughbred racing!!!

Within harness racing the whip is only allowed during training. There was an opening a couple of years ago, that it should be allowed in races for 2 and 3 year old horses, but the initiative faded out.

I hope that this information will help you. If you need more, let me know. I know most of the various countries by heart, it's only difficult to retrieve official documents, specially in English language.

Klaus