

DIRECTIVE: RACE DAY TREATMENT OF RACEHORSES

Introduction

A fundamental principle of New Zealand racing is that horses must race free of the pharmacological (or toxicological) effect of drugs or other substances.

To assist in maintaining this principle, it is not permissible to administer any treatment to a horse on race day prior to it running in a race. The restrictions are listed in Rule 804(5).

The following advice is provided to assist trainers and veterinary surgeons in interpreting some of the potential 'grey areas' associated with the definition of a race day treatment.

What is a medication?

As a general principle, it may be assumed that any substance administered with the intent or hope of achieving a pharmacological effect / therapeutic effect will be defined as treatment / medication under the Rules.

Routes of Administration

Any substance administered by injection, by stomach tube, by paste, by dose syringe, by topical application or by inhalation will be considered to be a treatment.

Only approved normal feeding that can be achieved by the horse voluntarily eating or drinking the feedstuff can be considered to be acceptable on the day of racing

Products that claim to provide Pharmacological Effects and to be Undetectable

There are numerous products, often herbal or homeopathic preparations, that claim to provide significant pharmacological effects such as a diuretic action, analgesia, anti-inflammatory action or bronchodilator action and also

claim to be undetectable by laboratory testing.

These types of products are specifically prohibited by the Fourth Appendix

If the product claims a therapeutic effect, it will be assumed that the product was administered to the horse with the intent of achieving that effect and it is a treatment, regardless of whether it is claimed to be safe, non-detectable and 'all natural'.

Current non-detectability of the active ingredient of herbal or other product does not mean that the substance is legal.

Testing for the active ingredient of such products may be introduced without warning and it may be defined as a prohibited substance under Rule 804 (1)

The Application of Vaseline to the nasal region.

The application of Vaseline to the nostrils is permitted provided the product does not contain menthol.

Shampoos

Routine, non-medicated shampoos are permitted.

Horses drinking

There is no prohibition on horses drinking water following a race where that horse has been selected to be sampled. However, this must be from a container belonging to the trainer. Molasses is permitted to be added to drinking water.

Topical Applications

While topical applications are considered to be treatments, circumstances may arise when a horse may suffer a minor injury that does not affect its suitability to race but would benefit from the

prophylactic application of a topical antibiotic or antiseptic treatment. In such circumstances. A trainer may apply to the Stewards for permission to apply the treatment.

The application of a poultice is not permitted.

Horses having received such permission for the application of a topical medication must be inspected by an official veterinary surgeon on arrival at the racecourse.

Physical Therapy as Treatment

The RIU considers that certain physical and complementary therapies to be treatments which should not be administered on the day of racing.

Treatments prohibited on race day include Acupuncture (including Laser treatment), Chiropractic manipulations, Magnetic Field Therapy, Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation (TENS) and any other form of electrical stimulation.

Vibratory massage systems and magnetic boots may be used in the stable on the morning of the raceday but are not permitted on the racecourse.

The Application of Ice / Cold Water to Musculoskeletal Structures

The application of ice or chilled water, whirlpool boots or systems such as "Game Ready", to musculoskeletal structures on the morning of the race day are not permitted and are not permitted prior to a horse running in a race. The application of ice or chilled water may be used on a horse after it has run in a race, provided that the Stewards are advised.