

POLICY – NZTR SWABBING INSTRUCTIONS

Effective 22 February 2023

The Board of New Zealand Thoroughbred Racing (NZTR) has approved the following procedure for the taking of urine samples and blood samples (not being pre-race blood samples) from horses pursuant to the NZTR Rules of Racing. In these regulations the term veterinary surgeon includes a swabbing technician.

Preliminary Procedure for Taking Urine and Blood Samples (other than pre-race blood samples) During a Race Meeting:

1. Where applicable the club and/or Racecourse Inspector shall appoint one or more persons to assist the Veterinary Surgeon (hereinafter called the "Club Official").
2. The Club Official, Veterinary Surgeon or Racecourse Inspector shall take possession of any horse from which a sample of urine or blood is to be taken.
3. The horse shall be hosed down and shall not eat or drink without the permission of the Racecourse Inspector, Club Official or Veterinary Surgeon, before the urine or blood sample has been obtained.
4. The Club Official, Veterinary Surgeon or Racecourse Inspector shall take the horse or direct the horse to be taken to the veterinary clinic or other specified area for the purpose of taking the urine or blood sample.
5. The Owner, the Trainer, or in their absence the person in charge or apparent control of the horse, shall be permitted to accompany the horse and be present during the taking of the sample, and complete the relevant portions of the Swabbing Card when required to do so.
6. The person(s) involved in taking the sample shall:
 - (a) thoroughly wash their hands
 - (b) ensure the saucepan in which the sample is to be collected is washed
 - (c) where practicable, wear gloves prior to collecting the sample.

Directions for Taking Samples of Urine – Option 1:

1. Four plastic bottles shall be provided, two for the urine samples and two for the control samples.
2. The Club Official and/or Veterinary Surgeon shall:
 - (a) Pour a quantity of water into the control sample bottles, replace the lids and rinse the bottles;

- (b) The water from the control sample bottles shall be poured into the saucepan and then into each of the remaining bottles and rinsed in a similar manner; Page 2 of 4
 - (c) Upon all bottles having been rinsed the water shall be poured into the saucepan to be used for the collecting of urine. Upon the saucepan being rinsed with the water, the water shall be returned evenly to the two control sample bottles.
3. The sample of urine from the horse shall be collected in the saucepan when the urine is voided naturally.
 4. Upon the urine sample being collected it shall be poured in equal quantity into the two remaining empty plastic bottles. In the case of a sample collected of minimal quantity, then approximately 50mls shall be poured into one bottle and the remainder into the other. If the sample is less than approximately 50mls, it shall be poured into one container only and the documentation noted accordingly.
 5. If at least approximately 50mls of urine is not voided within 1 hour, a horse shall not be released by the Veterinary Surgeon until the situation has been reported to the Stipendiary Steward or Racecourse Inspector. They shall then consider this and determine whether or not blood or other samples are to be taken, or whether an examination is to be undertaken.

Directions for Taking Samples of Urine – Option 2:

1. Four RIB approved polycarbonate bottles, each with a lid in place, shall be provided - two for securing the urine samples and two for the control samples.
2. The Swabbing Official, Veterinary Surgeon or Racing Investigator shall:
 - a. Unscrew the (white coloured) lids from two polycarbonate bottles (to be used as control samples);
 - b. Pour approximately 100mls of clean water into each of the two control sample polycarbonate bottles, replace lid and shake to rinse;
 - c. Remove the lid (and discard) and pour the water from the two control sample polycarbonate bottles into the swab saucepan to be used for the collection of urine and swirl around, then return an even amount to each of the control sample bottles, thereby creating a split-sample;
 - d. Seal the two polycarbonate control sample bottles with new lids (coloured red and wrapped in pairs).
3. The sample of urine shall be collected in the saucepan when the urine is voided naturally.
4. Upon the urine sample being collected it shall be poured into the two polycarbonate sample bottles with the lids (coloured white) having been removed and discarded.
5. Pour approximately 100mls of urine into each polycarbonate sample bottle. In the case of a sample collected of minimal quantity, approximately 50mls shall be poured into one polycarbonate bottle and the remainder into the other. If the sample is less than 50mls, it shall be poured into one polycarbonate sample bottle and the documentation noted accordingly.
6. Seal the two polycarbonate urine sample bottles with new lids (coloured red and wrapped in pairs).
7. If at least approximately 50mls of urine is not voided within 1 hour, a horse shall not be released by the Veterinary Surgeon until the situation has been reported to the Stipendiary Steward or

Racing Investigator. They shall determine whether or not blood or other samples are to be taken, and / or whether an examination is to be undertaken.

Directions for Taking Samples of Blood

1. The Veterinary Surgeon taking the blood samples shall have available eight (8) EDTA or pre-heparinised vacutainer tubes and an unused sterile vacutainer needle;
2. The Veterinary Surgeon shall enter the swab card number on each of the vacutainer tubes;
3. The Veterinary Surgeon may cleanse the skin of the horse from where the blood sample is to be obtained from;
4. The Veterinary Surgeon shall then draw blood samples from the horse into the eight (8) EDTA or pre-heparinised vacutainer tubes;

Completed Urine or Blood Samples:

1. The control sample from urine testing shall be placed in the pocket of a four-pocket security bag. The urine sample(s) or blood samples shall be placed in the remaining pockets of the security bag.
2. The relevant portion of the swabbing card for the owner, trainer or their authorised representative shall, where practicable, be handed to the person accompanying the horse.
3. The remaining portions of the swabbing card shall be handed to the Racecourse Inspector or Stipendiary Steward.
4. All samples shall be placed in an outer security bag and sealed for later dispatching to an approved Laboratory for analysis.

Notification of Analysis from Samples:

1. NZTR shall advise the Owner and Trainer of a horse of any analysis which indicates that a prohibited substance may have been administered to a horse.
2. Once the Owner and Trainer has been so advised the Owner, or his authorised representative, or the Trainer has until 4.00pm on the third working day after notification to request the reserve sample (if one is available) and reserve control sample be analysed at a laboratory approved by NZTR.
3. Once that request is given, the sample shall be forwarded under the direction of NZTR's Chief Executive to the approved laboratory for analysis. Such analysis will be for prohibited Page 3 of 4 substance(s) identified in the original analysis. The results of such analysis shall be returned to the person who requested the analysis and NZTR simultaneously.
4. The Owner or Trainer or their authorised representatives shall have the opportunity to observe the identification of the sample and control sample at the premises of the Laboratory at which the samples are held and their packaging and dispatch to the approved laboratory.
5. It shall not be a defence to any proceedings brought as a result of any tests taken under these directions that not sufficient urine or blood was available for the reserve sample.
6. It shall not be a defence to any proceedings brought as a result of any tests taken under these directions that the reserve sample was lost or damaged prior to or during analysis by the approved laboratory.

DIRECTIONS FOR TAKING PRE-RACE BLOOD SAMPLES

Effective 1 May 2014

The Board has approved the following procedure for the taking of pre-race blood samples from horses for TCO₂ analysis.

Preliminary Procedure to Taking Samples:

1. Where applicable the club and/or Racecourse Inspector shall appoint one or more persons to assist the Veterinary Surgeon (hereinafter called the "Club Official").
2. At the request of the Racecourse Inspector or Stipendiary Steward, the Owner, Trainer or other person in charge or apparent control of any horse which has been entered for a race shall immediately take such horse to the Veterinary Clinic or other specified area for the purpose of the taking of such blood samples as may be required.
3. The Owner, Trainer, or other person in charge or apparent control of the horse shall accompany the horse and be present during the taking of the blood sample(s).

Directions for Taking Blood Samples Pre-race:

1. The Veterinary Surgeon shall have available for each horse to be sampled, at least two unused lithium heparin vacutainer tubes with a minimum capacity of four millilitres and a sterile vacutainer needle.
2. An identifying number shall be entered on each vacutainer tube.
3. The Veterinary Surgeon shall:
 - (a) together with the Owner, Trainer or other person in charge or apparent control, identify the horse against the identification number recorded in accordance with clause 2;
 - (b) draw blood samples from the horse into each vacutainer tube; (c) place the vacutainer tubes into a container.
4. The Racecourse Inspector or Club Official shall keep written record of each horse from which blood sample(s) are taken.
5. The Owner, Trainer or other person in charge or apparent control of the horse shall sign, where practicable, an acknowledgment that the blood sample(s) were taken by a veterinarian into a vacutainer tube(s) bearing the said horse's identification number.
6. Samples taken shall be delivered as soon as practicable to a laboratory approved by NZTR, where analysis shall be undertaken to determine:
 - (a) The level of total CO₂ in the blood; and/or
 - (b) The presence of any other prohibited substance(s).
7. The results of analysis shall be advised to the Racecourse Inspector, with a report to the General Manager of NZTR.

GENERAL AS TO FREEZE BANDS:

Where the brand of a horse cannot be clearly identified, the Racecourse Inspector on duty at the meeting shall be called to the veterinary clinic to make an inspection of the horse to note brands and markings.