

# Horse Medication Policy

In accordance with Pony Club® values of integrity and horse welfare, the use of medications that may affect the performance of horses is prohibited. This policy provides information for riders about banned substances, the mechanism to seek approval for use of essential medications and disciplinary procedures for breaches of the policy.

## Medications banned in competition

PCA recognises and applies the FEI list of prohibited substances.

<http://prohibitedsubstancesdatabase.feicleansport.org/>

## Event entries

The following should be included in event schedules.

*This event is being run under the PCA Integrity Framework including the PCA Horse Welfare Policy and Horse Medication Policy. A Therapeutic Use Exemption and veterinary certificate must be supplied for any horse that has been administered a prohibited substance. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected from horses competing in this event to check for prohibited substances. Samples will be collected by a registered Veterinary Surgeon and submitted to a NATA accredited laboratory.*



## Responsibility of the rider

It is the rider's responsibility to read and understand the rules.

The rider is responsible for presenting the horse to compete free of prohibited substances, or providing a declaration of treatment for therapeutic reasons (TUE).

All medications have a withholding period, which indicates the time following administration during which the drug will be detectable. It is the responsibility of the rider to seek advice from their treating veterinarian in relation to withholding periods for competition.

The rider is responsible in all cases, whether or not the rider was aware of the horse's treatment history.

Every rider should keep a horse health record that has the horse's treatment history – what was administered and on what date.

If the rider is under 18 years, it is the parent's responsibility to comply with this policy.



## Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)

Pony Club promotes, and provides opportunities to participate in, diverse horse activities. Not all of these are high level, and not all are competitive. The comfort and wellbeing of the horse is a priority, and there may be a need for ongoing treatment of horses with chronic conditions, such as Cushings Disease.

In these cases, the rider can apply for a TUE.

A TUE will be granted if, and only if, the horse's veterinarian confirms, in a Veterinary Certificate, that the medication

- Is needed to treat a diagnosed condition
- Will not produce additional performance benefits beyond the treatment of the diagnosed condition
- Is an indicated treatment for the diagnosed condition and there is no reasonable, permitted alternative treatment
- Is not being used to mask lameness or injury, and to enable an unfit horse to compete

AND

- The declaration is made prior to the competition
- The TD or Veterinary Official for the event approves the horse's entry into the competition. Approval should not be withheld if the veterinary certificate is current and satisfies the criteria above.

Note

- Sedatives and tranquillisers must not be used at any time.
- Competitions must be a level playing field and performance enhancing drugs are not permitted.
- Do not expect that if you submit a TUE, it will be automatically accepted.

[Click here for TUE application form](#)

This is automatically submitted to your state office and the event organiser email address.

## Sampling of horses

A horse may be tested at random or at the discretion of the attending veterinarian. For example a horse with abnormal behaviour suggesting sedation.

Horses may be tested at any club, zone, state or national event.

Horses may be tested at any time during the competition.

Sampling kits will be provided by the attending veterinarian.

Sample collection will be urine in the first instance. If the attending veterinarian is unable to collect a urine sample then a blood sample will be taken. Urine samples will be collected in the dedicated veterinary stall or specified area on site at the discretion of the attending veterinarian.

Duplicate samples will be collected in all instances.



## Analysis of samples

Samples must be securely handled, stored and transported to an accredited testing laboratory. The attending veterinarian will be familiar with laboratories and submission protocols in their state.

These include:

Victoria - Racing Analytical Services Ltd

NSW - Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory

Not all racing laboratories will accept samples from non-racing horses. There is no need to use the FEI-accredited laboratory for PCA samples, as RASL has the same capability.

The veterinarian collecting the sample will arrange submission. The cost of analysis will be met by the event organiser.

## Results

It can take two or three weeks to receive the result.

If a horse is found to have had a prohibited substance administered to it through the return of a positive swab, the rider of that horse will receive a notification stating that their horse has tested positive to a prohibited substance.

The rider will be given 7 days from notification to show cause why they should not be subject to action under the Pony Club Australia Integrity Framework.

The PCA Conduct and Disciplinary Policy applies to any Alleged Breach (as defined in the Conduct and Disciplinary Policy) of the mandatory clauses of the PCA Horse Medication Policy. Disciplinary penalties may be imposed for breaches of this policy.



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