

ARSENIC - Notice to Horse Trainers

Trainers and industry participants are reminded that *Arsenic* is a prohibited substance under both the Harness and Thoroughbred Australian Rules of Racing, when found at a level above the threshold value of 0.30 milligrams per litre in urine.

Arsenic is a chemical element which occurs in many minerals and trace amounts may be present commonly in feeds and in groundwater in the environment.

Registered veterinary products that contain *Arsenic*-based compounds include:

Arcyl Solution for Injection

Ferrocyl injection

Troy Invigorate Injection

Jurocyl Injection.

Horse trainers are therefore reminded to avoid using these preparations close to racing, and a useful guideline is not to administer them following a single dose within a 5 clear day period before racing. Multiple administrations will prolong this period, so extreme caution must be exercised if administering them on consecutive days. The administration of any of these preparations must be recorded as treatment in a trainer's medication log book.

A recent Australian study concluded that it is possible that *Arsenic* levels in horse urine may be elevated following the ingestion by a horse of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) treated pine timber, a common component of horse stables and paddock fencing.

Consequently, RWAA Stewards advise that it would be prudent for trainers and industry participants to conduct an environmental audit of their facilities to ensure they eliminate access of the racehorses in their care to CCA treated pine timber products, or any other product that may present a similar risk of an elevated *Arsenic* level in any race day sample.

RWAA Stewards recently concluded several inquiries into matters relating to the presentation of horses by trainers with *Arsenic* levels above the threshold. In those matters a conviction without penalty was recorded and the horses concerned were disqualified. RWAA provides notice to trainers and industry participants that future action taken by RWAA Stewards, in matters relating to the presentation of horses with *Arsenic* levels which exceed the threshold, may result in penalties being imposed, regardless of any evidence relating to ingestion of CCA treated timber products or any other source.

Queries can be directed to your Veterinarian or the RWAA Veterinary Department on (08) 9445 5459.

22 February, 2018.