

**Racing and Wagering Western Australia  
Official Thoroughbred Policy  
VETERINARY / HORSE WELFARE 2.10**

**TREATMENT OF HORSES AT RACECOURSES AND PUBLIC TRAINING FACILITIES**

Horses are not permitted to be treated with medications or physical therapies at any time whilst located at a racecourse or public training facility for the purpose of racing, trialling or track working.

There are racing integrity, public perception, workplace health and safety and public liability risks arising from the practice of horses being administered medications whilst at racecourses and public training facilities. The workplace health, safety and public liability risks particularly associated with inappropriate handling and disposal of syringes and needles is significant.

This policy applies to:-

- i) Medication: The practice of administering any medication or product to a horse is prohibited including, but not limited to, by the routes detailed below;
- a) injection
  - b) stomach tube
  - c) orally
  - d) inhalation (e.g. nebuliser or metered dose inhaler)
  - e) topical application of products containing prohibited substances
  - f) the application of Vicks Vaporub® or equivalent aromatic product to any part of the body

The only exception being where such medication is administered by a registered Veterinarian, for the purpose of emergency treatment, or for diagnostic purposes with the prior permission of Stewards.

- ii) Physical treatments: that are not permitted to be used at any time before racing on the day of a race or whilst a horse is at a public training facility include;
- a) shockwave treatment
  - b) acupuncture
  - c) laser and infra-red treatments
  - d) chiropractic manipulations
  - e) magnetic field therapy
  - f) transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS) and any other form of electrical stimulation

- iii) Ice treatments: Whilst located at a racecourse or public training facility prior to racing, trialling or track working, it is not permissible to stand a horse in buckets of ice or iced water, nor is it permissible to use a bag, ice boots or bandages filled with ice so that any part of the lower leg is numbed. The use of ice packs, bandages soaked in ice filled buckets etc., after a race, trial or trackwork is permitted as a good form of therapy after exercise.