



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

NOTICE TO TRAINERS - POSSIBILITY OF CONTAMINATION

Trainers should be aware of the possibility of contamination of stables and feed by certain drugs and drug treatment regimes. Contamination of the stable area is most likely to occur with the administration of granules, powders or liquids/pastes mixed into feed. Oral treatments are often long-term, may involve the use of larger amounts of drugs than with injectable treatments, can be subject to spillage when they are added and mixed with feed and are likely to contaminate other feeds if appropriate precautions are not taken during preparation.

Trainers are also advised that where possible a separate stable (preferably a dedicated medication stall) should be used for all treatments. Treated horses should be removed after the completion of treatment. All medications, particularly oral and topical, should be administered by a responsible person and then stored securely. Medicated feeds should be prepared separately to avoid the possibility of cross contamination or feed mix-ups. Disposable gloves should be worn when adding/mixing drugs into feed; and if the person mixing the feeds is using any personal topical medications. Topical medications such as gels, pastes or creams may have the potential to accumulate in the hair or on the skin and act as a reservoir of the substance. Horses may also lick the treated area and ingest the substance.

In addition, environmental contamination can also result from; 'messy' eaters and the urine and manure from horses undergoing treatment which can contain low levels of a drug.

Where potential contamination risks like those above are identified, trainers must implement stringent management practices and processes to remove risks. This includes:

- Ensuring all horse medications and remedies are appropriately identified and securely stored.
- Cleaning all working surfaces after use.



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- Making appropriate inquiries of all staff and/or volunteers to understand if their personal use of drugs or medications could potentially give rise to an adverse test result in a horse.
- Not storing or consuming any personal medications within active horse working areas
- Staff not consuming foods and drinks that can contain prohibited substances e.g., coffee, chocolate and energy drinks, in the feed areas or stables.

As a matter of basic hygiene and proper practice, trainer's must also ensure that neither they, nor their staff, urinate in stables, yards or other areas where horses are kept. This also mitigates against any prospect that human prescription medications or other prohibited substances are transferred to the environment where they may potentially be ingested by a horse.

Where a prohibited substance is detected in a sample, the possibility of 'recycling' or environmental contamination does not absolve the trainer from an offence under the Rules of Racing where penalties, including fines, suspensions or disqualifications may be applied particularly where the warnings contained within have not been heeded.

In accordance with the Rules, in addition to the penalty that may be imposed on a trainer, the disqualification of the horse involved which is found to have any prohibited substance present is mandatory regardless of the reasons for it entering the horse's system.