

Updated notice to horse trainers and veterinarians - altrenogest containing products.

1st January 2024.

Following recent reports arising from some States concerning the detection of trenbolone and/or trendione arising possibly as a result of the use of altrenogest, trainers are reminded of the risks associated with the use of this substance.

Commercial products containing altrenogest used for oestrus suppression in fillies and mares may contain low level traces of trenbolone and/or trendione.

Trenbolone and trendione are androgenic anabolic steroids and are classed as permanently banned substances under the rules of racing.

Where these androgenic anabolic steroids are detected in a race day sample, the filly or mare may not be permitted to start in a race, trial or jump out for a 12-month period from the date of the collected sample regardless of how or why they came to be present. The trainer may also be liable to offences and penalties under the rules relating to anabolic steroids.

Therefore, trainers are strongly warned that the use of altrenogest products in racing fillies and mares has the potential to result in a race day sample that is positive to trenbolone and/or trendione.

RWWA therefore recommends that products containing altrenogest not be used during training or racing.

As an alternative form of oestrus control, trainers should consult with their veterinarian on the use of injectable progesterone in their fillies or mares. Please note that the suggested use of progesterone only applies to the progesterone injection; it does not include long acting synthetic progestins. This should be administered in accordance with your veterinarian's and the manufacturer's guidelines and otherwise in compliance with the 'one clear day' rule i.e., if a filly or mare is racing on a Saturday, progesterone must not be injected at any time on the Friday or the day of the race.

Should you elect to use altrenogest products in racing fillies and mares, you do so at your own risk and should seek advice from your veterinarian accordingly. It is strongly recommended to avoid using any injectable products containing altrenogest or compounded oral altrenogest products.

Trainers are also reminded of the requirement for all treatments to be recorded in their medication records by midnight on the day on which the treatment was given.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please contact RWWA's Veterinary Department at vets@rwwa.com.au