



Warning to Owners and Trainers Regarding the Use of IBUPROFEN in Racehorses

Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and therefore a prohibited substance according to the Australian Rules of Racing. Ibuprofen is available in numerous human preparations for oral and topical use. Ibuprofen is not present in any registered veterinary product for use in horses, and there is only limited information available on the excretion of ibuprofen following its administration to horses.

There are therefore risks involved in the administration of ibuprofen to horses, including but not limited to oral and topical routes.

Trainers are warned that it is difficult to make any reliable predictions about the clearance of ibuprofen from horses based on the information currently available. This is especially so, if multiple doses or exposures to the drug have occurred. There is also a high risk of contamination in racing stables arising from the use of ibuprofen in other horses in a stable.

It is generally noted that:

- (i) Large doses of ibuprofen may result in more prolonged clearance times than smaller doses.
- (ii) Multiple doses or exposures to ibuprofen may result in more prolonged clearance times than a single dose or exposure.
- (iii) Different pharmaceutical preparations of ibuprofen may have different bioavailabilities of the drug which may result in different clearance times.
- (iv) Environmental contamination with ibuprofen may result in horses being contaminated with the drug and cause a positive detection in urine collected from a horse.
- (v) Topical administration of a gel formulation of ibuprofen may result in a prolonged clearance of the drug, probably because the gel persists on the hair which acts as a slow release reservoir.

Racing NSW therefore warns trainers not to administer ibuprofen to racehorses at any time or allow ibuprofen in racing stables. Further, trainers should enquire whether ibuprofen is being used at any spelling/recuperation facility from which they are receiving a horse.

Trainers are advised that an elective non-race-day test should be obtained from any horse known to have been treated with ibuprofen at any time whilst spelling or pre-training and particularly, prior to racing. Accordingly, trainers should contact the Stewards to arrange such testing.

R P Murrehy
Chairman of Stewards
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