



Protocols For Applications For The Collection Of Blood Samples On The Day Prior To Racing

New AR178AB (effective 1st October 2015) bars all injections and the insertion of a hypodermic needle to a horse within the One-Clear-Day before racing without the prior approval of Stewards. AR178AB(1) provides a discretion for Stewards to approve the taking of blood samples for health and fitness assessment purposes from an acceptor on the day prior to racing. Reasons for an application to collect a blood sample for such purposes the day before a race might include:

- There is evidence or suspicion of a clinical condition that may affect the health and/or performance of the horse, or a concern in a recent blood result and a further clinical blood sample test is recommended by a veterinarian.
- There is a Sunday or public holiday occurring 2 days before the race, which precludes the collection and analysis of the blood sample that day.

To assist trainers and veterinarians in making application for such dispensation, the following protocols will apply:

- The trainer must make written application to the Stewards/Official Veterinarian to collect a blood sample the day before a race and provide the Stewards/Official Veterinarian the pathology results pertaining to any prior test upon which the trainer/veterinarian bases a request for a further blood test.
- The trainer must make application to collect such sample to the Stewards/Official Veterinarian no later than 4pm two days prior to competition, (for example, on the Thursday afternoon before the Saturday), unless otherwise agreed by the Stewards.
- If approval is granted, the sample collection procedure must be performed no later than 9:00am (or otherwise as agreed by the Stewards) on the day prior to competition.
- The sample must be collected using a Vacutainer-type system with a 20 G or smaller needle.
- The sample collection procedure must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a RNSW licensed veterinarian.
- The sample collection procedure must be immediately recorded in the horse's stable treatment records, and the veterinarian who performed or supervised the procedure must sign the record.
- The blood sample results and the veterinary and clinical laboratory accounts and records must be made available for inspection and auditing immediately upon request by the Stewards.
- The Steward and/or Official Veterinarian approving any such request for blood collection on the morning of the day before the race must notify the Chairman and Deputy Chairmen of Stewards, the Chief Steward of the meeting concerned, and the RNSW Investigations and Surveillance Unit.

Applications should be directed via email to the Racing NSW Senior Official Veterinarian on csuann@racingnsw.com.au and copied to the Chairman of Stewards on rmurrihy@racingnsw.com.au.

R P Murrihy
Chairman of Stewards
6th October 2015