



RACING AND WAGERING WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## **Notice to Veterinarians**

A trainer recently appeared before RWWA Stewards after a 'positive' finding of two Prohibited Substances - testosterone and ketoprofen - in a horse's urine sample. The horse was routinely administered both these substances before each race.

**This case is an example of the dangers of the repeated, prophylactic use of combinations of drugs close to racing.**

The Racing Calendar (Racing Ahead WA) states that certain factors can affect the rate of excretion of drugs. They include:

- Repeated dosages; and
- The use of combinations of drugs.

In addition the calendar states that:

- The administration of testosterone should be avoided. There is no reliable information on how long testosterone persists after administration; and
- The urine and manure of horses treated by any route of administration can contain low levels of drug; hence stalls can be contaminated and drugs recycled through the horse.

All horse vary in their metabolism and hence their ability to excrete drugs. Factors here include:

- Liver function;
- Kidney function;
- Volume of fluid drunk;
- Urine volume and pH; and other factors.

Veterinarians are urged to be conservative with any recommendations on excretion periods for Prohibited Substances.

For further information regarding Prohibited Substances or detection periods please contact the RWWA Veterinary Department on 9277 0759.

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RWVA Racing Industry Veterinarians  
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