

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD



Memorandum

Date : September 7, 2007

To : All Trainers

From : Rick M. Arthur, DVM
Equine Medical Director

Subject : **WATER ONLY ON RACE DAY**

Three horses were scratched from stakes races at the Del Mar meet because of the observed administration of drugs or other substances on race day by security personnel. This suggests there is considerable misunderstanding as to what is permitted under the rules and what is not.

The applicable Rule is 1843.5: **Medication, Drugs and Other Substances Permitted After Entry in a Race.** The text of 1843.5 is on the back of this page.

To be clear, this rule prohibits the administration of any drugs or other substances except as provided in the rule. There are few exceptions. Only water may be administered on race day to wash a horse's mouth. Throat flushes, no matter how innocuous their ingredients, are not excepted. This includes old-time remedies containing menthol, oil of wintergreen, oil of eucalyptus, camphor or any similar products, "natural" or otherwise including peppermint.

The rule is simple: **WATER ONLY.** Mixing prohibited products with water does not make them permitted. If this is observed, the horse will be scratched.

Another issue which has also caused confusion is the use of products such as Vick's. Rule 1843.5(c) (1) and 1843.5 (h) allow topical medications, (such as antiseptics, ointments, salves, leg rubs, leg paints, hoof dressings, liniments and antiphlogistics) which do not contain anesthetics or other prohibited drugs. A liberal interpretation of this rule could allow the use of Vick's or similar products on the nostrils up until race time, provided they don't contain anesthetics or other prohibited drugs. An equally valid interpretation could be made to prohibit the practice, but Vick's and similar products on the nostrils has not been a problem and as long as it doesn't become a problem we will continue to allow such use. If you have any questions contact your Official Veterinarian.

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1843.5 Medication, Drugs and Other Substances Permitted After Entry in a Race.

- (a) In this rule a horse is deemed "entered" in a race 48 hours before post time of the running of the race.
- (b) Water and feed, including hay, grain, and feed supplements that do not contain prohibited drugs may be provided to the horse up until post time.
- (c) Drugs, medications or any other substances shall not be administered by any means to a horse within 48 hours of the post time of the race in which the horse is entered except:**
- (1) Topical medications, (such as antiseptics, ointments, salves, leg rubs, leg paints, hoof dressings, liniments and antiphlogistics) which do not contain anesthetics or other prohibited drugs.**
- (d) Any drug, medication or any other substance found in a test sample taken from a horse which is not authorized under this rule shall be deemed a prohibited drug substance.
- (e) Any of the following substances may be administered by injection until 24 hours of the post time of the race in which the horse is entered:
- (1) Injectable Vitamins;
 - (2) Electrolyte Solutions;
 - (3) Amino Acid Solutions;
 - (4) Tetanus Antitoxin or Tetanus Toxoid, if the horse has sustained a wound.
- (f) Approved anti-ulcer medications may be administered until 24 hours before the post time of the race in which the horse is entered. A list of approved anti-ulcer medications, and route of administration, shall be posted at each racetrack in the office of the official veterinarian.
- (g) One of the following non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medications may be administered until 24 hours before the post time of the race in which the horse is entered under Rule 1844 of this division:
- (1) Phenylbutazone;
 - (2) Flunixin;
 - (3) Ketoprofen.
- (h) In addition to the substances named in subsection (c)(1) , any of the following substances may be administered under Rule 1845 of this division within 24 hours of the post time of the race in which the horse is entered:**
- (1) Furosemide;**
 - (2) Other Authorized Bleeder Medication.**
- (i) Drugs, medications or any other substances may not be administered to a horse by injection, via nasogastric tube (stomach tubing) or any other means after the horse is entered to race, except under these regulations.