



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

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*(Please note this supersedes all previous advices on ibuprofen)*

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, but is contained in a compounded paste preparation that has been given to horses as part of a rehabilitation program under veterinary supervision for the treatment of tendon injuries.

There is only limited information available on the excretion of ibuprofen following its administration to horses, especially after its long term administration in tendon rehabilitation programs. There are therefore risks involved in the administration of ibuprofen to horses, especially its long term use.

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 over a prolonged period 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, especially if that horse has been the subject of a rehabilitation program following a tendon injury.

Trainers are advised to contact the Racing NSW Stewards if it is known that a horse in their care has been treated with ibuprofen, especially if the horse has been the subject of prolonged treatment as part of a rehabilitation program following a tendon injury. The Stewards will work with trainers to facilitate an elective testing program for these affected horses, but ultimately it remains the responsibility of a trainer to ensure they are satisfied that their horse is free of ibuprofen when it is presented to race.

**R P Murrphy**  
**Chairman of Stewards**  
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