

Notice to Trainers – Harness Racing

Intra-articular Injection of Corticosteroids

Trainers are advised of a recent inquiry held by Racing NSW stewards involving the detection of triamcinolone acetonide in a race day blood sample following the intra-articular injection of triamcinolone acetonide (in the preparation *Kenacort*) into the stifle joint just outside the “8 clear day period” prescribed under the Thoroughbred Rules of Racing (AR.64M).

While it is recognised that the Australian Harness Racing Rules do not prescribe an equivalent stand down period following intra-articular injection, trainers are advised that:

- The stand down period described in the Thoroughbred rules for intra-articular injections of corticosteroids must not be construed as a recommended “withdrawal time”.
- The withdrawal period for a prohibited substance is calculated to ensure a horse is presented free of the prohibited substance when sampled. In the case of intra-articular injections, the withdrawal period will depend on the corticosteroid used as well as the joint/s injected.
- In certain situations, specifically for longer acting corticosteroid preparations such as methylprednisolone and/or for injections into joints other than the carpal (knee) and fetlock joints, the recommended withdrawal period may be much longer than the minimum stand down time prescribed in the Thoroughbred rules.
- It is essential that trainers consult carefully with their veterinarians in deciding upon the appropriate timing of intra-articular injections in each particular case to ensure that horses are treated appropriately and presented free of prohibited substances.