

FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

MAKING THE VISION & MISSION COME TO LIFE

RESPONSIVENESS

We live in a world that is extremely fast paced and all about instant solutions. Instant messaging has become the order of the day. Everyone expects instant results in nearly all facets of the daily experiences.

In the business world its nothing different in that instant responses are required by consumers because that's the norm in so many other aspects of their lives, be it technology, social networks, etc. It is therefore incumbent on our staff to be extremely responsive. We strive to act with urgency in all matters no matter how small and seemingly insignificant. By reacting swiftly and promptly it allows us the time to deal with the extra loads that come our way. Creating a sense of urgency in the organization is vital for an improvement in service delivery and ultimately working towards

delivering peak performance consistently. That's how we will get ahead of the pack! We will act with urgency every day even in dealing with potentially devastating crises. Responsiveness is not a periodic state of mind but rather a permanent asset of a well-managed Organisation. This must not be confused with action only for action's sake - its not being frenetic but rather being productive in a short space of time to make a huge impact on the recipient. Responsiveness, acting with urgency, is a marathon, but its a marathon in that people get up every day, and even if they're too busy with their normal routine, they find some way to get on the old marathon track and do something.

There are big opportunities out there for us to resolve and we should not allow ourselves to be complacent. Let's act with urgency... responsiveness! By Lyndon Barends



BIRTHDAYS

Believe in the hope that a new day is dawning!
Believe that your dreams will come true...
Believe in the promise of brighter tomorrow's...
BEGIN BY BELIEVING IN YOU!!!

The National Horseracing Authority would like to wish all our Stakeholders born in November a very happy birthday.

NHA EQUINE WELFARE & VETERINARY

Prevention is better than cure!

This article serves to highlight the basic guidelines of African Horse Sickness and Equine Influenza vaccinations. Please refer to the most recent publication of the rule book, the website or speak to your NHA veterinarian for details.

AFRICAN HORSE SICKNESS

All foals shall be vaccinated against African Horse Sickness twice (2 sets of both AHS I and AHS II) between the ages of 6 and 18 months. The second set of vaccine is not to be less than 30 days following the first. Thereafter vaccinations are to be done annually between 1 June and 31 October. Horses within the AHS Free and Surveillance Zones are to be vaccinated in accordance with provisions of the local state veterinary departments. The vaccine is to be supplied and administered by a veterinarian and the use of State Vets is not permitted, as they are unable to supply the vaccine.

EQUINE INFLUENZA

Of major concern are the number of horses incorrectly vaccinated against Equine Influenza. Vaccination of foals can commence from the age of 6 months. The basic vaccination course (primary and booster) consists of 2 vaccinations no less than 4 weeks (28 days) and no more than 6 weeks (42 days) apart. The primary course shall be given before 31 July of the year following a foal's birth. A third vaccination 5 to 6 months after the primary course is essential to

completing the primary vaccination and ensuring a good immune response. Some breeders incorrectly tend to use a 3 week interval for the primary and booster vaccines. This does not allow for a sufficient immune response and may lead to vaccine failure. Both the primary and booster vaccine must be from the same manufacturer. Subsequent vaccinations for horses on spelling farms and training stables are done at intervals of 6 months. For example: If the previous vaccine was administered on 1 Feb then the following vaccine is due on or before 1 August. Broodmares and stallions are vaccinated at 12 month intervals.

All vaccination labels must indicate an expiry date or it should be clearly written by the person administering the vaccine. Remember to note the vaccinations in the VTR.

Currently the NHA allows for breeders to vaccinate their own horses against Equine Influenza until such time they enter a training establishment. Thereafter, a registered veterinarian must supply and administer all vaccines. It is of particular importance for breeders to adhere to these compulsory vaccination schedules. This will avoid fines or restrictions imposed on a horse entering its track career. Keep in mind that a contravention of vaccination rules by 1 day remains a contravention and is liable for a fine. These rules and regulations are in place for good reason, as we do not want a repeat of the 2003 'Flu outbreak. Any person that wishes to apply to postpone a

vaccination (maximum of 21 days), such as a runner the following day or a horse being transported, must contact a veterinarian from the NHA for permission prior to the date in question. We are there to assist you wherever possible. The correct vaccination of horses remains the mainstay of primary preventative health care of horses against many diseases. However, regular monitoring of your horses' health remains important in combating these devastating diseases.



FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

NEWS FROM THE NHA LABORATORY

LABORATORY CONSTANTLY DEVELOPING NEW METHODOLOGIES

Most conventional medication contain drug substances which are small chemical molecules. Many of these can affect the horse and hundreds of these are routinely screened for by the NHA Laboratory. Many of these newer generation substances which are prohibited and which are of concern are however peptide and proteins similar to those found naturally in the horse. These are highly similar to and pretend to be the natural peptide and proteins which are active and have an effect within the horse.

This Laboratory is actively involved in a program to extend the screening of racing and out of competition specimens for an increasing number of such peptide and protein drugs which can beneficially and unfairly affect the performance of the horse. These are certainly part of a range of future drugs of concern and not to be underestimated.

It must be noted that most of these substances are classified as Class 1, Forbidden Substances within the Rules of the NHA (and similarly internationally) and are required to be screened as sensitively as possible and prosecuted for as long as possible after administration to the horse.

While the functions and performance enhancing actions of many of these substances are difficult to explain, the more well know proteins erythropoietin, growth hormone and ACTH are hereby discussed.

ERYTHROPOIETIN (EPO)

This protein hormone has the function to increase red blood cell production in the horse. Natural EPO can be supplemented by the administration of several different forms of human EPO to the horse. At the NHA Laboratory the screening of human EPO in horse specimens is being undertaken employing a sophisticated immuno-detection screening methodology which is widely reported as the most accurate and sensitive currently available to the racing industry. A highly attractive aspect about this is the wide range of EPO types which are covered, as has been confirmed by EPO administration and research studies at racing laboratories. Included in the effective coverage of the screen is conventional EPO forms such as Epogen, Eprex, Epoetin-alpha, Epoetin-beta and Procrit and even longer acting EPO types called

darbepoetin alfa (Aranesp, DPO) and CERA (PEG Epoetin-beta, MirCERA).

GROWTH HORMONE (GH)

This natural protein is anabolic and has the effect to enhance cell growth and cell recovery. In addition to this natural occurring equine GH there are a range of synthetic GH's from several animal species which are active in the horse. These include a modified form of equine GH, bovine (cattle) GH and porcine (pig) GH. The NHA Laboratory employs a sensitive immune-detection screening approach which was shown effective in detecting the use of these hormones by means of the measurement of the amount of the messenger protein "IGF-1". The screening methodology measures the IGF-1 concentration against the level which is normal in the horse and can also detect the use of some IGF-1 analogues and synthetic IGF-1 forms. The NHA Laboratory was a few years ago, in partnership with a few other countries, instrumental in conducting important research into suitable screening methodologies and validating these screening approaches.

ADRENOCORTICOTROPIC HORMONE (ACTH)

This protein is naturally produced in the horse with the function to stimulate and also regulate levels of the steroid hormone cortisol (also called hydrocortisone, a naturally found corticosteroid with anti-inflammatory and several other effects).

Commercially available ACTH is a synthetically produced peptide hormone which is highly similar in structure to ACTH produced naturally. As a prohibited substance in horseracing the use of synthetic ACTH is most commonly monitored and prosecuted by the increase which is observed the level of naturally produced hydrocortisone. As the hydrocortisone level increases beyond the international threshold, this is prosecuted as a prohibited substance offence. There are also other approaches to detect the use of synthetic ACTH. One of these is based on the fact that synthetic ACTH corresponds to the structure of human ACTH. It can therefore be detected in the horse as the structure of this protein is somewhat different to naturally produced ACTH in the horse.

Our Laboratory is one of a few racing laboratories which have been active in the research of new approaches for the detection for synthetic administered ACTH in the race horse. During recent years ACTH administration trials were conducted on horses as part of such research at our Laboratory. This research was formally presented at an international conference for horse racing chemists and veterinarians.

It must be noted that at least one web based sales company is selling a product which purports to contain the biochemically active molecule of ACTH. Several racing laboratories have already analysed this preparation. Such analysis however indicated that the active peptide ACTH is either not contained or is only contained in a

very low concentration, certainly too low to affect the horse.

