



ABN 12 001 281 590

AHSA Medication & Testing Policy & Rules

INTRODUCTION

The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Limited desires to set standards relating to horses competing in AHSA Ltd events or in Arabian, Arabian Derivative or Arabian Performance Index events at Affiliate or other shows. For all events, no Prohibited or Restricted Substance is to be administered to the horse in such a time period before the event such that it, or any ingredient or metabolism of it, might be present in the horse, might be detectable in its blood, saliva and/or urine sample, or might have any effect on its performance at the time of the event.

All competitors, exhibitors and show organisers should be familiar with all sections of this document and it should be reviewed in conjunction with the Disciplinary Regulations and Table of Penalties document at the following references:

<https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/horses> & <https://www.equestrian.org.au/medication-control>

The Board of Directors
Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd



Peter Upton

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1.AHSA Drug Testing Policy

- This policy forms part of the Rule Book and Competition and Show Rules of the AHSA.
- Horses competing in an AHSA competition must not compete under the influence of prohibited medications. The FEI defines what a prohibited substance is in the FEI veterinary regulations. The AHSA agrees and uses the same definition. The AHSA Drug Testing Control System describes requirements for the drug testing of horses and ponies. Restricted Medications shall be subject to the same testing protocols as Prohibited Medications.
- A condition of entry into any AHSA or Affiliate event is the consent to submit any exhibit to testing for prohibited and restricted medications.
- A condition of entry into any AHSA or Affiliate event shall be to indemnify the Society and all personnel for any injury caused as a result of the Drug Testing Policy & Procedures.
- Responsible Person (RP) shall be deemed to be the person in charge of the horse at the event. Should the Responsible Person be unavailable at the time of sampling then the person appointed by that person for the purpose of supervising the process shall be deemed to be the Responsible Person for that process.
- Medication control sampling (swabbing) is compulsory at the following events/occasions:
 - Australian Arabian National Championships
 - All AA Graded Shows (at least three horses or three percent of the horses taking part, whichever is the greater)
- Medication control sampling (swabbing) is recommended/permitted at the following events:
 - AHSA A Graded event
 - Any other event conducted by an Affiliate

1.1 Nil Prohibited Substances

- 1.1.1 All horses competing in Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd (AHSA) events or in Arabian or Arabian Derivative events at Affiliate or other shows are subject to a No Prohibited Substance rule. This means that no Prohibited or Restricted Substance is to be administered to the horse in the time before an event such that it, or any ingredient or metabolism of it, might be present in the horse, might be detectable in its blood, saliva and/or urine samples, or might have any effect on its performance at the time of the event.
- 1.1.2 The AHSA or any of its Affiliates may, on their own volition or upon the request of the AHSA Board of Directors or an official of the organising Committee of an event and without notice, request the registered owner (referred to in this Policy as "the owner") and/or rider/handler/trainer of a horse entered in an AHSA event (including those events conducted by Affiliate organisations), to take the horse immediately to the location selected by the testing personnel. The owner and/or rider/handler/trainer must present the horse for collection of blood, saliva and/or urine samples, removing equipment from the horse, leaving it quietly in the stall and avoiding any distractions.
- 1.1.3 The horse must be left under the supervision of the testing personnel until all sample collections are completed or until it is released by the testing personnel. The owner and/or rider/handler/trainer must witness the collection process and sign the relevant documents as requested. Owners and/or rider/handlers/trainers or their representatives are required to exhibit a polite attitude and actions towards the testing personnel at all times.
- 1.1.4 Should any mare or filly presented for drug testing under this policy be pregnant, it is the responsibility of the registered owner and/or rider/handler/trainer of a horse to advise the drug testing personnel of the mare's condition and supply the name

of the stallion and the dates of service or insemination of such mare or filly. This information must be recorded on the drug testing documentation prior to the owner and/or rider/handler/trainer signing the documentation as a witness. In such case, the Society reserves the right to have a licensed Veterinarian pregnancy test the horse in question. Should the registered owner and/or rider/handler/trainer of a horse report false or misleading information in this regard, the member may be suspended at the discretion of the Board.

- 1.1.5 Under this Policy, the owner and/or rider/handler and/or trainer is held responsible and accountable for the condition of the horse and for compliance with this Policy. The owner shall ensure that any rider/handler/trainer is aware of the terms of this Policy and shall comply with any request made by the AHSA to the rider/handler/trainer in relation to this Policy.
- 1.1.6 In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is presumed that the sample of blood, saliva and/or urine tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the horse in question, its integrity is preserved and that all procedures for same, collection, preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample, are correct and accurate, and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the horse in question and correctly reflects the condition of the horse during the event in which it was entered.

1.2 Prohibited Substances

- 1.2.1 Any substance is a "prohibited substance" if it contains an ingredient that is a stimulant, depressant, tranquilliser, local anaesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behaviour altering) substance, or drug which might affect the performance of the horse and might interfere with the prohibited substance testing process.
- 1.2.2 The following substances are specified as prohibited substances:- refer to FEI prohibited substances list www.fei.org/fei/cleansport/horses
- 1.2.3 The use of so-called herbal and natural products in the horse could result in a positive prohibited substance test. The plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude it containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable prohibited substance. For the above reasons the AHSA cautions against the use of all so-called herbal and natural products to affect the performance of the horse.
- 1.2.4 The AHSA recommends that members contact a Veterinarian in relation to the time period a prohibited substance may remain in the horse's system and be detectable.
- 1.2.5 Samples taken from horses in pursuance of the powers of the Society shall be analysed only by an official testing laboratory.
- 1.2.6 For the purpose of this document, the term Prohibited Substances shall include Restricted Substances.

2.Event Planning Summary

Organisers of events at which medication control/sampling of horses is to take place must, in consultation with the AHSA, plan the following:

- 2.1 The presence at the event of appropriately qualified personnel, including a Veterinarian and a suitably informed/ trained Swabbing Steward.
- 2.2 Access to a "swabbing box" or similar facility in which samples can be collected at the event. This facility must have been thoroughly cleaned prior use with clean, unused bedding being added for the purpose of swabbing. Any soiled bedding must be completely removed from the stable before any subsequent horse is admitted for swabbing in order to ensure no cross contamination.
- 2.3 Availability of an adequate number of sample collection kits and equipment. Kits

- are to be arranged by the vet and bought to the event by the vet.
- 2.4 Secure storage of samples and distribution of samples to the testing laboratory. Samples should remain with the veterinarian and not with the show organiser or any other person.
 - 2.5 The method of selection of horses, unless left to the Vet of the day. The Swabbing Steward should not be involved in the selection of horses for drug testing
 - 2.6 Financial budgeting for the required sampling

3. Qualified Personnel

The show Organising committee must ensure an experienced swabbing vet is engaged and it is the responsibility of the committee to have at least one suitably instructed swabbing steward.

4. Supply of Sample Collection Kits & Procedures

- 4.1 Sample Collection kits will need to be ordered by the appointed veterinarian and brought to the event by the veterinarian.
- 4.2 Upon arrival, the Swabbing Steward or the vet, must check the kit(s) to ensure that the expiry dates are current. The ID number must also be checked. It is the duty of the Veterinarian to bring the kit(s) to the event.
- 4.3 Sample kits come in a security bag, which has a tamper evident seal at the end of the zipper. The security bag has been sealed with a uniquely numbered tamper evident seal. The seal is ONLY broken, and the bag opened, IMMEDIATELY prior to the collection of samples AT THE COMPETITION. The opening of the bag must occur in the presence of the sample collection officials (usually the veterinarian and the Swabbing Steward) overseeing the collection of samples and the Person Responsible for the horse to be swabbed. All kits, whether used or unused, must be returned to the laboratory.
- 4.4 Some laboratories also supply (usually on request) large disposable plastic cups and a holder with a handle for the collection of urine. The use of these is not mandatory, but a washed purpose-built urine catching receptacle is required. Should the receptacle not be disposable it must be thoroughly washed and dried before collection of another sample. The use of disposable receptacles is recommended.
- 4.5 The Veterinarian and any person handling the sample must wear disposable gloves when sampling occurs. A new, unused, pair of gloves must be used for each horse to be swabbed.

5. On-site Facilities

- 5.1 It is preferable to have a separate stable dedicated to the collection of samples. This "swabbing box" should be in a quiet and private area, be clean and have a supply of fresh straw/sawdust in it. There should be chairs for Person Responsible, veterinarian and steward(s) and a table on which the sampling kits can be processed.
- 5.2 Soiled bedding must be completely removed before the next horse to be swabbed is admitted to the swabbing box.
- 5.3 In the absence of a dedicated facility, the sampling can be done in other areas, preferably in an area with which the person responsible and sampling personnel are comfortable. This area must be isolated and quiet, and safe for the horse and

handlers and must be clean. Should such an area be used, the owner/trainer of the horse must confirm acceptance of any test result, even if such result may be subject to contamination from the surrounding area.

6. The Selection of Horses to be sampled

- 6.1 Normally, as the analysis of samples is expensive, the organising committee determines the number of samples that are to be taken.
- 6.2 The AHSA maintains a Drug Testing Control Program System that ensures that drug testing (swabbing) is carried out in conformance with requirements listed below.
- 6.3 There are many methods for selecting horses to be swabbed at AHSA events and competitions. Only horses where the Person or Persons Responsible is an AHSA member can be selected for swabbing except that where Medication control takes place at an Affiliate competition, Affiliate members may also be included.
- 6.4 The Show Committee may delegate the responsibility to the veterinarian to decide upon the method of selection. The selection processes available to the veterinarian /Event Organising Committee include any of the following:
 - a) Horses may be chosen specifically because their behaviour raises suspicion, in other words, they appear drugged or under the effect of medication (deemed a “spot test”)
 - b) Horses may be chosen at random from all competitors entered, or chosen at random from a group of winners or place getters (deemed a random selection)
 - c) Horses may be chosen because they are winners or place getters (deemed a “required selection”)
 - d) Horses may be chosen at a judge’s request (deemed a “spot test”)
 - e) The Show Committee may delegate the responsibility to the Veterinarian, the Chief Steward (not the Swabbing Steward) or the Ringmaster to decide upon the method of selection or select the horse(s)

7. Reporting of Results

- 7.1 The reporting of the sample results will only be made to the Secretary of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia.
- 7.2 The show committee will only be informed of the sample results at the discretion of the AHSA Board. This would not usually occur until after an enquiry (if deemed necessary) or after the Person Responsible and the owner/lessee of the horse has been informed.

8. List of approved Laboratories

Laboratories approved by the Australian Racing Board and the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory shall be deemed to be approved laboratories. Initial testing shall be performed by the Australian Racing Forensic Laboratory who will forward the B Sample to a laboratory of their choice for further analysis upon request.

9. Other Contact Detail

Secretary
The Arabian Horse Society of Australia Ltd.
Post Office Box 415,
Richmond NSW 2753
Email: secretary@ahsa.asn.au
Phone: +61(0)245775366

10. Notification and Supervision

- 10.1 The Swabbing Steward or a trained assistant seeks out the selected rider/horse combinations without significantly interfering with their competition or preparation. Horses may be sampled at any time during competition. Horses may be sampled more than once.
- 10.2 The riders/drivers/handlers (responsible person's) are notified and swabbed immediately after they have finished competing or have taken part in the presentation of prizes or within 30 minutes of the announcement of the competition results. Where a horse is suspected of being affected by an irritant to enhance tail carriage the Ring marshal can request that the swabbing steward escort the horse for a swab prior to the class. The class must be held to allow the return of the horse. Responsible Persons may be notified up to 30 minutes after the finish of competition.
- 10.3 The handler/rider or owner or their designated representative (hereafter termed the Responsible Person or RP) must stay with the horse from the point of notification until the sampling procedure is completed. When the RP is not an adult (18 years old or over), they must be accompanied by a guardian.
- 10.4 The horse must always be accompanied by the Swabbing Steward after notification. The Swabbing Steward should supervise the selected horse from the moment the RP is notified and until the swabbing process has been completed. The horse must not be allowed to eat or drink or be administered any medication, until after sampling is complete. The horse may be hosed down, may have its tack removed and may be presented quickly for photographs before making its way to the sampling box/area. However, after notification the RP must present the horse at the swabbing area as soon as possible for sample collection.
- 10.5 A refusal or willful obstruction by any person to submit a horse for sampling or unnecessarily delay sampling must be reported immediately to the Event Organising Committee. If the Committee decides there are no grounds for such a refusal or obstruction, and the Responsible Person persists, the horse must be disqualified from the entire event. The matter must be reported in writing to the Secretary of the AHSA.
- 10.6 Once at the swab box/area, the identity of the horse should be confirmed in the best way possible. The veterinarian must identify the horse against AHSA or relevant breed registration papers or if they are absent, confirm the exhibitor number and catalogue details with the RP or write a description on the identification forms provided by the Veterinarian.

11. The Sampling Process

- 11.1 The veterinarian/steward must open the swab kits in the presence of the RP, conduct the wash-through procedure and sample the horse, waiting for urination for no more than one (1) hour. Detailed procedures for the use of sampling kits may vary from kit to kit, lab to lab. Please consult the appropriate laboratory resource material provided with the sample kits.
- 11.2 The length of wait for urine must not exceed 1 hour but may be shortened if the sampling officials are of the opinion that an expedited collection of urine is not probable. If the horse becomes dangerous then the sampling procedure may be curtailed or abandoned by the approval of the sampling officials. A disposable container or a container that has been thoroughly washed and cleaned must be used for each exhibit.
- 11.3 The Veterinarian must wear disposable gloves when sampling or handling the exhibit and these must be disposed of after sampling and a new clean pair used for each exhibit.

12. AHSA Swabbing Stewards Personal Kit

All Swabbing Stewards should obtain a personal kit, which should contain the following:

- 1) Identity badge (provided by the Show Committee)
- 2) Swabbing sample kit(s) – these should be provided by the Veterinarian
- 3) Scissors
- 4) Stapler
- 5) Collection pan/urine collector
- 6) File/notebook
- 7) Pens
- 8) Plastic Gloves
- 9) Sunscreen lotion
- 10) Sun hat or cap
- 11) Swabbing Procedures and list advising of sampling selection
- 12) Spare coded seals to close the sample kit
- 13) Where available, the Laboratory's Sample Collection Procedures Booklet (It is advisable to read this booklet thoroughly and carry it with you on swabbing days.)
- 14) Notification Forms
- 15) Blank Horse Identification Forms as supplied by the Veterinarian
- 16) Express Post Envelopes for paperwork return to the AHSA Ltd National Office
- 17) Express Post secure bags for the posting of samples to the Laboratory (if needed). All samples must remain in the custody of the Veterinarian until posted to the laboratory.

Upon arrival at grounds, check that the following are available:

- 1) Swabbing Area/Stable is available/clean/ready
- 2) Competitor List/Event program (the ground jury/event organiser, must supply the swabbing team with an event program and competitor listing upon request)
- 3) The Swabbing Steward, a member of the ground jury or event coordinator and veterinarian must meet to discuss procedures for the day

13. After Sampling Completion

- 13.1 As soon as possible after a sample is taken and sealed, it needs to be kept chilled or frozen in a suitable secure (locked) cooler container or refrigerator. This is to ensure the biological integrity of the sample
- 13.2 Used and unused sample kits are to remain in the custody of the Veterinarian.
- 13.3 Arrangements for delivery/sending of the samples on the first working day after the competition/event are essential and must be arranged by the Veterinarian.
- 13.4 When swabbing samples are sent from a distance, then they should be express registered posted or courier freighted back to the approved laboratory

14. Risk Management Measures

To ensure that RP is confident that the correct processes have been followed and need not be challenged, the following measures should be observed:

- 1) The Swabbing Steward should not be involved in the selection of horse to be swabbed
- 2) The RP must have a clear view of all procedures and be given an explanation about each step of the process
- 3) Only a Veterinarian is to take blood; either the veterinarian or the Swabbing Steward may take the urine samples
- 4) Stewards should be well versed with regulations, procedures and equipment required
- 5) The Swabbing Steward is ultimately responsible for the swabbing conducted, and will be scrutinised more than the competitor
- 6) Identification of the horse should be through a suitable I.D. like the horse's registration papers or confirming the catalogue/program details and exhibit number with the RP.
- 7) Stewards need to be consistent with their procedures
- 8) The Swabbing Steward should ensure the veterinary surgeon has disposed of sharps into a sharps container
- 9) Security for the completed kits/chain of custody

15. Disciplinary Action

- 15.1 In the event that a horse returns a positive swab, the matter is to be referred to the AHSA Board of Directors for enquiry.
- 15.2 Provided the Board is satisfied as to the integrity of the drug testing procedures adopted by the Show organizer, any AHSA registered horse and its owner and/or trainer and/or rider and/or handler and/or RP and/or lessee shall be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to the AHSA Constitution, Disciplinary Regulations & Table of Penalties. The RP, rider, handler, owner/lessee and trainer can be disciplined with respect to a positive swab result.
- 15.3 In determining the appropriate penalties to be imposed the following factors shall be taken into consideration, together with any other relevant factors:
 - a) Whether the action or omission resulted in an unfair advantage to the member, exhibit or exhibitor
 - b) Whether the action or omission resulted in disadvantaging another member, exhibit or exhibitor
 - c) Whether the action or omission involved the mistreatment of horses
 - d) Whether the action or omission was deemed to be deliberate
- 15.4 The finding on analysis of a Prohibited Substance, as defined by reference to <https://inside.fei.org/fei/cleansport/horses> is presumed to be a deliberate attempt of the Person Responsible to affect the performance of the horse
- 15.5 An owner who has received notice under the rules of the AHSA Drug Policy Regulations may request that the second (B) sample held be tested at his/her expense. Such request must be made within seven (7) days of the notice and if not made, the right to request a

- second test shall lapse and the remaining samples will be destroyed. If the second test shall prove negative, the AHSA shall reimburse the owner the amount paid by the owner for the testing and veterinary fees paid. Should the second test prove positive or should no second test be requested then the owner shall be responsible for all laboratory and veterinary fees incurred in obtaining and testing the initial (A) sample.
- 15.6 The amount of the penalty imposed shall be determined by the Disciplinary Committee of the Society and imposed by the Board of Directors but shall be subject to appeal by the member to the Board of Directors upon application.
- 15.7 All fines shall be payable within twenty-eight (28) days of issuance by the Society. Should such fines not be paid within the agreed time period then the membership of the owner from AHSA and all Affiliates shall be suspended until such time as the fines have been paid to the Society.
- 15.8 Any awards which are required to be returned to the Society shall be done so in a manner that ensures that they are received by the Society in 'as new' condition within twenty-eight (28) days. Should such awards not be returned in the required condition within the agreed time frame then a fine shall be issued to the replacement value of the awards. Should such fines not be paid within twenty-eight (28) days then the membership of the owner from AHSA and all Affiliates shall be suspended until such time as the fines have been paid to the Society.
- 15.9 Suspension is a state imposed by the Society in which all rights, privileges and transactions are held in abeyance until the suspension period has lapsed and fines are paid in full. Suspension shall apply to the AHSA and all Affiliates.
- 15.10 If a horse, suspended from competition in AHSA and AHSA Affiliate events changes ownership, the change of ownership will not dissolve or shorten the term of the suspension. The Society reserves the right to publish the names of horses affected by a suspension on the Society website and in the Australian Arabian Horse News.
- 15.11 The Disciplinary Committee and/or the Board of Directors of the AHSA Ltd reserve the right to consider waiving or reducing Penalties listed should special circumstances warrant.