

PRACTICAL ADVICE REGARDING THE 2004 EQUINE DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS RULE

INTRODUCTION

The NOTICE OF PENALTY section of *Equestrian Magazine* seldom escapes the attention of readers of the US Equestrian's official publication. It is regrettable and true that many violations of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rule result from the failure of exhibitors, owners, trainers, and their veterinarians to understand compliance with it. This article is written to help you avoid inadvertent violations.

The text that follows is advice about understanding the Equine Drugs and Medications Rule and applying it in practical situations. Its purpose is to help accommodate legitimate therapy in compliance with the requirements of the rules. This practical advice in no way takes precedence over the wording of the Equine Drugs and Medications Rule itself, which is printed in its entirety in the US Equestrian Rule Book and posted on its website at www.equestrian.org, and which is **MUST READING** for trainers, owners, exhibitors, and their veterinarians.

DIFFERENT RULES FOR DIFFERENT GROUPS

Most breeds and disciplines that compete under US Equestrian Rules are subject to the Therapeutic Substance Provisions (Articles 410-412). The Endurance Discipline is subject to the No Foreign Substance Provisions (Article 409). Other breeds and disciplines may choose this option, if they wish.

FEI recognized events are subject to the FEI Veterinary Regulations. This is a no foreign substance rule, which includes reporting requirements for the treatment of illness and injury. Selection trials for FEI recognized international events and other events may be subject to a no foreign substance rule as specified in the Selection Procedures.

THE THERAPEUTIC SUBSTANCE PROVISIONS

TREATMENT OF ILLNESS OR INJURY WITH A FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCE

Any product is forbidden if it contains an ingredient that is a forbidden substance, or is a drug which might affect the performance of a horse and/or pony as a stimulant, depressant, tranquilizer, local anesthetic, psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance, or might interfere with drug testing procedures.

EXAMPLES OF FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES ARE LISTED BELOW. THESE ARE ONLY EXAMPLES. NOTE THAT THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES:

acepromazine	bromperidol	comfrey
acetophenazine	bumetanide	cyclobenzaprine
acetylpromazine	bupivacaine	cyproheptadine
albuterol	buprenorphine	dantrolene
alfentanil	bupirone	demethylpyrilamine
alprazolam	butorphanol	detomidine
aminophylline	caffeine	devil's claw
amitriptyline	camphor	dextromethorphan
amphetamines	capsaicin	dextromoramide
antihistamines	carfentanil	dezocine
apomorphine	carprofen	diazepam
arsenic	chamomile	digoxin
atropine	chloral hydrate	diphenhydramine
azaperone	chlorbutanol	dipremorphine
barbiturates	chlorpheniramine	dipyron
belladonna	chlorpromazine	doxapram
benperidol	chlorprothixene	doxepin
benzocaine	clenbuterol	droperidol
benzodiazepines	clozapine	dyphylline
beta blockers	cocaine	ephedrine
bethanechol chloride	codeine	epinephrine

epoetin alfa	meclizine	procaine
erythropoetin	medetomidine	procaine penicillin
etamiphylline	meperidine	procatamol
ethacrynic acid	mepenzolate bromide	prochlorperazine
ethchlorvynol	mephentermine	procyclidine
ethyl alcohol	mepivacaine	promazine
etidocaine	mepylcaine	promethazine
etodolac	methadone	propentofylline
etomidate	methamphetamine	propiomazine
etorphine	methaqualone	propionylpromazine
eugenol	methyl dopa	propoxyphene
fenfluramine	methylphenidate	propranolol
fenspiride	metomidate	pseudoephedrine
fentanyl	milenperone	pyrilamine
fentiazac	molindone	rauwolfia
fluanisone	moperone	red poppy
fluoxetine	morphine	reserpine
fluphenazine	nalbuphine	risperidone
furosemide	nalmeferone	romifidine
glycerol guaiacolate	naloxone	salmeterol
glycopyrrolate	nefopam	scopolamine
guaifenesin	night shade	sertraline
guanabenz acetate	nikethamide	skullcap
haloperidol	nitrazepam	sodium cacodylate
homatropine	nitroglycerin	spiperone
hops	opiates	strychnine
hydrochlorothiazide	orphenadrine citrate	sufentanil
hydrocodone	oxybutynin	sumatriptan
hydromorphone	oxymetazoline	terbutaline sulfate
hydroxyzine	oxymorphone	terfenadine
imipramine	paroxetine	tetracaine
ipratropium	passion flower	THC
kava kava	pentazocine	theobromine
ketamine	pentoxifylline	theophylline
ketorolac	pergolide mesylate	tolmetin
laurel	phencyclidine	tramadol
lavender	phenobarbital	trazodone
lemon balm	phentermine	trifluoperidol
levallorphan	phenylephrine	trihexyphenidyl
levorphanol	phenylpropanolamine	tripelennamine
leopard's bane	phenytoin	tropicamide
lidocaine	piperacetazine	valerian
lithium	pirenperone	vervain
lorazepam	pramoxine	xylazine
LSD	prazepam	xylocaine
mabuterol	prethcamide	zolpidem
mazindol	prilocaine	

TRAINERS, OWNERS, EXHIBITORS, AND THEIR VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, POWDERS, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THOSE USED TOPICALLY, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS THEY MIGHT CONTAIN A FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THOSE CONTAINING PLANT INGREDIENTS.

After a horse or pony has been administered any product containing a forbidden substance, and before the animal is returned to competition, the following requirements must be met:

1. The product must be used for a therapeutic purpose only. The rule accommodates the use of a forbidden substance for the diagnosis or treatment of illness or injury only. If a forbidden substance is administered for any other purpose, e.g., clipping, shipping, training, the animal must be kept out of competition until the forbidden substance is no longer detectable in the animal's blood or urine sample. This can be a long time (see **HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE** below).

2. After a horse or pony has been administered for a therapeutic purpose any product containing a forbidden substance, the animal must be withdrawn from competition for at least 24 hours. This is a uniform requirement for all therapeutic forbidden substances, and there are no exceptions.
3. A written medication report must be filed documenting the therapeutic use of a forbidden substance. A medication report form should be obtained from the steward or technical delegate, filled out completely, and turned in to the steward or technical delegate within the time required. All this must be done within one hour of the earliest opportunity.

How long after treatment of any illness or injury is it necessary to file a written medication report? It is necessary for as long as the drug might remain detectable in a horse's or pony's blood or urine (see **HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE** below).

CAUTION AGAINST THE USE OF HERBAL/NATURAL PRODUCTS

Persons administering a so-called herbal or natural product to a horse or pony to affect its performance, having been comforted by claims that the plant origin of its ingredients cause it to be permitted by the rules as well as undetectable by drug tests, might have been misled.

The use of so-called herbal and natural products in a horse or pony might result in a positive drug test, i.e., a finding of a forbidden substance, contrary to claims by those who manufacture and/or market such products for profit. The plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude its containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable forbidden substance, e. g., cocaine, heroin and marijuana all come from plants.

Although the use of some of these products may not have resulted in positive drug tests in the past, this may change as the US Equestrian Equine Drug Testing and Research Laboratory incorporates new methods into its battery of screening tests, a deliberate and ongoing process.

For the above reasons, US Equestrian cautions most strongly against the use of so-called herbal and natural products, the ingredients and properties of which are not known. In this regard trainers should be most skeptical about any claims by manufacturers or others that their preparation is "legal" or permissible for use at competitions recognized by the Federation or the FEI. Trainers should be aware that ingredients labeling for such preparations is often not complete or accurate. Especially suspect are preparations that are claimed to calm or relax while at the same time being said to contain no forbidden or prohibited substances. Just some of the examples of the hundreds and perhaps thousands of examples of herbal/natural or plant ingredients that would cause a product to be classified as forbidden are valerian, kava kava, passionflower, skullcap, chamomile, vervain, lemon balm, leopard's bane, night shade, capsaicin, comfrey, devil's claw, hops, laurel, lavender, red poppy, and rawuolfia.

TRAINERS, OWNERS, EXHIBITORS, AND THEIR VETERINARIANS ARE CAUTIONED AGAINST THE USE OF MEDICINAL PREPARATIONS, TONICS, PASTES, POWDERS, AND PRODUCTS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING THOSE USED TOPICALLY, THE INGREDIENTS AND QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS OF WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY KNOWN, AS THEY MIGHT CONTAIN A FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCE. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF THOSE CONTAINING PLANT INGREDIENTS.

"APPROVED" OR "ENDORSED" PRODUCTS

It is the longstanding policy of US Equestrian that it does not approve, endorse, or sanction herbal, natural, or medicinal products of any kind. Trainers, owners, and exhibitors are advised to disregard and not rely upon any such representations, statements or testimonials made by the manufacturer. Any individual who becomes aware of a product, the label of which contains a statement that it is "US Equestrian Approved" or "US Equestrian Endorsed," etc., should forward a copy of the label to the office of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program.

GUIDELINES FOR THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF DEXAMETHASONE AND OTHER CORTICOSTEROIDS

US Equestrian Rules provide for the use of corticosteroids such as dexamethasone in horses only for a therapeutic purpose, i.e., for the treatment of existing inflammatory conditions related to illness or injury. The rules do not permit the use of corticosteroids for a non-therapeutic purpose, i.e., to affect the mood or enhance the performance of the horse.

The rules establish a quantitative restriction for dexamethasone, i.e., a maximum permitted plasma concentration (fluid portion in blood) of 3.0 nanograms per milliliter at the time of competition. In order to help trainers, owners, and their veterinarians achieve compliance with this rule in connection with the therapeutic use of dexamethasone, it should be administered in accordance with the guidelines below. These guidelines include several alternative scenarios for dose, time, and route of administration. Whenever dexamethasone is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal.

Alternative Number 1.

(2.0 mg or less per 100 pounds IV or IM at 12 or MORE hours before competition)

Each 24 hours, not more than 2.0 milligrams of dexamethasone injectable solution per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered intravenously or intramuscularly, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily intravenous or intramuscular dose of dexamethasone injectable solution is 20.0 milligrams, which equals 5.0 milliliters of the injectable solution (4.0 milligrams per milliliter). No part of this dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five successive days.

Alternative Number 2.

(0.5 mg or less per 100 pounds IV at 6 or more hours before competition)

Each 24 hours, not more than 0.5 milligrams of dexamethasone injectable solution per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered intravenously, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily intravenous dose of dexamethasone injectable solution is 5.0 milligrams, which equals 1.25 milliliters of the injectable solution (4.0 milligrams per milliliter). No part of this dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five successive days.

Alternative Number 3.

(1.0 mg or less per 100 pounds orally at 6 or more hours before competition)

Each 24 hours, not more than 1.0 milligrams of dexamethasone powder per 100 pounds of body weight should be administered orally, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily oral dose of dexamethasone powder is 10.0 milligrams, which equals one packet of dexamethasone powder (10.0 milligrams per packet.) No part of this dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed should be either consumed or removed at least 6 hours prior to competing. Dexamethasone should not be administered for more than five successive days.

Corticosteroids other than dexamethasone, e.g., prednisone, prednisolone, Solu-Delta-Cortef[®], and others, are classified as forbidden substances, and use of these drugs is subject to the requirements of Article 411. This means these drugs are to be used only for a therapeutic purpose, i.e., for the treatment of existing inflammatory conditions related to illness or injury; they are to be administered at a time not closer than 24 hours prior to competing; and a written medication report must be filed in a timely fashion in connection with any administration performed by any route during the seven days prior to competing.

Trainers, owners, and their veterinarians are cautioned against the use of dexamethasone isonicotinate injectable solution, because administration studies have shown it is not eliminated from the plasma as quickly as dexamethasone injectable solution. Therefore, the use of dexamethasone isonicotinate injectable might result in an inadvertent overage, i.e., a plasma concentration of dexamethasone in excess of the maximum permitted plasma concentration of 3.0 nanograms per milliliter at the time of competition.

Whenever dexamethasone injectable solution or dexamethasone oral powder is administered in a manner that might cause the plasma concentration to exceed the maximum permitted by the rule, the trainer and owner should withdraw the animal from competition for a sufficient amount of time such that the plasma concentration of dexamethasone returns to within acceptable limits prior to competition.

Products or preparations that contain dexamethasone or another corticosteroid as an active ingredient (e.g. a Naquasone[®] bolus contains 5.0 milligrams of dexamethasone), should be used in accordance with the guidelines above, taking into account the actual weight of the animal.

GUIDELINES FOR THE THERAPEUTIC USE OF A NONSTEROIDAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY DRUG (NSAID) AND METHOCARBAMOL

Article 410 of US Equestrian Rules permits the use in horses and ponies of not more than two nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) at a time (of those permitted to be used), imposes quantitative restrictions on those

permitted, and forbids the use of any other NSAID. The information in this article will help owners, trainers, and their veterinarians stay in compliance with these rules, as they treat their horses and ponies with NSAIDs.

NSAIDs are to be administered to a horse or pony only for a therapeutic purpose. The following are permitted to be used (these are the generic names, not brand names): phenylbutazone, flunixin meglumine, ketoprofen, meclofenamic acid, naproxen, and eltenac (upon its approval by the FDA). Phenylbutazone and flunixin are not permitted to be present together in the animal's blood or urine sample. When administered, the NSAIDs above should be administered in accordance with the guidelines below, and no other NSAIDs are to be administered.

1. Whenever phenylbutazone is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 24 hours, not more than 2.0 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily dose is 2.0 grams, which equals two 1.0 gram tablets, or two 1.0 gram units of paste, or 10.0 cc of the injectable (200 milligrams per milliliter). Neither a total daily dose nor part of an injectable dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. In the event the phenylbutazone is administered orally, half of the maximum daily dose (1.0 grams per 1000 lbs.) can be administered each 12 hours during a five day treatment program. Phenylbutazone should not be administered for more than five successive days. Whenever phenylbutazone is administered, flunixin meglumine should not have been administered during the seven preceding days.
2. Whenever flunixin meglumine is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 24 hours, not more than 0.5 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily dose is 500 milligrams, which equals two 250 milligram packets of granules, or one 500 milligram packet of granules or 500 milligrams of the oral paste (available in 1500 milligram dose syringes), or 10.0 cc of the injectable (50 milligrams per milliliter). No part of a dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed must be consumed and/or removed at least 12 hours prior to competing. Flunixin meglumine should not be administered for more than five successive days. Whenever flunixin meglumine is administered, phenylbutazone should not have been administered during the seven preceding days.
3. Whenever ketoprofen is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 24 hours, not more than 1.0 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily dose is 1.0 grams, which equals 10.0 cc of the injectable (100 milligrams per milliliter). No part of a dose should be administered during the 4 hours prior to competing. Ketoprofen should not be administered for more than five successive days.
4. Whenever meclofenamic acid is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 12 hours, not more than 0.5 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum 12 hour dose is 0.5 grams, which equals one 500 milligram packet of granules. Meclofenamic acid should not be administered for more than five successive days.
5. Whenever naproxen is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 24 hours, not more than 4.0 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily dose is 4.0 grams, which equals eight 500 milligram tablets. No part of a dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed should be consumed and/or removed at least 12 hours prior to competing. Naproxen should not be administered for more than five successive days.
6. Upon the approval of eltenac by the FDA, the therapeutic use of eltenac in horses and ponies is permitted by US Equestrian Rules. Whenever eltenac is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the animal. Each 24 hours, not more than 0.25 milligrams per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum daily dose is 250 milligrams, which equals 5.0 cc of the injectable (50 milligrams per milliliter). No part of a dose should be administered during the 12 hours prior to competing. Eltenac should not be used for more than five successive days.
7. Whenever two permitted NSAIDs are administered, any additional NSAIDs should not have been administered during the seven days prior to competing.
8. Whenever any NSAID is administered that is not permitted to be used, it should not have been administered during the seven days prior to competing.

Whenever any NSAID is administered to a horse or pony in a manner that might cause the plasma concentration to exceed the quantitative restrictions of the rule (in the case of those permitted to be used), or might cause more than two NSAIDs to be detected at any concentrations in the animal's blood or urine sample, or might cause phenylbutazone and flunixin both to be detected at any concentration in the animal's blood or urine sample, or might cause the NSAID to be detected at any concentration in the animal's blood or urine sample (in the case of those not permitted to be used), the trainer and owner should withdraw the horse or pony from competition, and the animal should be withheld from competition until the plasma concentration of any permitted NSAID returns to acceptable concentrations and/or until any NSAID forbidden at any concentration is no longer present in the animal's blood or urine sample .

Regarding methocarbamol:

1. Whenever methocarbamol is administered, the dose should be accurately calculated according to the actual weight of the horse or pony. Each 12 hours, not more than 5.0 mg per pound of body weight should be administered, preferably less. For a 1000 pound animal, the maximum dose each 12 hours is 5.0 grams, which equals ten 500 milligram tablets or 50 cc of the injectable (100 milligrams per milliliter). No dose should be administered during the 12 hours immediately following the prior dose.
2. No part of a dose should be administered during the 6 hours prior to competing. Any medicated feed must be consumed and/or removed at least 6 hours prior to competing.

In any instance methocarbamol has been administered to a horse or pony in a manner that might cause the plasma concentration to exceed the quantitative restriction of the rule, the trainer and owner should withdraw the horse or pony from competition, and the animal should be withheld from competition until the plasma concentration returns to acceptable levels.

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS FOR PARTICULAR CLASSES/DIVISIONS

In the Arabian, Half-Arabian, and Anglo Arabian Division, any anabolic steroid is forbidden in the breeding/halter classes for three year olds and under. This means that no anabolic steroids should be administered and/or any surgical implants should be removed sufficiently in advance of competing such that these substances are not present in the blood or urine in the blood or urine at the time of competition (see HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE below), and they should not be used thereafter.

THE NO FOREIGN SUBSTANCE PROVISIONS AND THE FEI VETERINARY REGULATIONS

Horses and ponies competing under these rules and regulations are subject to a No Foreign Substance Rule. This means that , with a few therapeutic exceptions, no drug, medication, or product is to be administered to a horse or pony in the time before competition such that it, or any ingredient or metabolite of it, might be present in the animal, might be detectable in its blood or urine sample, or might have any effect on its performance at the time of competition (SEE HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE BELOW). The therapeutic exceptions that are permitted are anti-infectious substances and the anti-ulcer medications ranitidine and omeprazole. These anti-ulcer medications are forbidden in the Endurance Riding Division.

CAUTION AGAINST THE USE OF HERBAL/NATURAL PRODUCTS

Persons administering a so-called herbal or natural product to a horse or pony to affect its performance, having been comforted by claims that the plant origin of its ingredients cause it to be permitted by the rules as well as undetectable by drug tests, might have been misled.

The use of so-called herbal and natural products in a horse or pony might result in a positive drug test, i.e., a finding of a forbidden substance, contrary to claims by those who manufacture and/or market such products for profit. The plant origin of any ingredient does not preclude its containing a pharmacologically potent and readily detectable forbidden substance, e. g., cocaine, heroin and marijuana all come from plants.

Although the use of some of these products may not have resulted in positive drug tests in the past, this may change as the US Equestrian Equine Drug Testing and Research Laboratory incorporates new methods into its battery of screening tests, a deliberate and ongoing process.

For the above reasons, US Equestrian cautions most strongly against the use of so-called herbal and natural products, the ingredients and properties of which are not known. In this regard trainers should be most skeptical about any claims by manufacturers or others that their preparation is "legal" or permissible for use at competitions recognized by the Federation or the FEI. Trainers should be aware that ingredients labeling for such preparations is often not complete or accurate. Especially suspect are preparations that are claimed to calm or relax while at the same time being said to contain no forbidden or prohibited substances. Just some of the examples of the hundreds and perhaps thousands of examples of herbal/natural or plant ingredients that would cause a product to be classified as forbidden are valerian, kava kava, passionflower, skullcap, chamomile, vervain, lemon balm, leopard's bane, night shade, capsaicin, comfrey, devil's claw, hops, laurel, lavender, red poppy, and rawuolfia.

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It is the longstanding policy of US Equestrian that it does not approve, endorse, or sanction herbal, natural, or medicinal products of any kind. Trainers, owners, and exhibitors are advised to disregard and not rely upon any such representations, statements or testimonials made by the manufacturer. Any individual who becomes aware of a product, the label of which contains a statement that it is "US Equestrian Approved" or "US Equestrian Endorsed," etc., should forward a copy of the label to the office of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program.

HOW LONG DRUGS REMAIN DETECTABLE

The following general guidelines are applicable for horses and ponies competing in the United States. They are not applicable for any animal competing outside the United States or under any drug testing program using a laboratory other than the US Equestrian Equine Drug Testing and Research Laboratory.

The following general guidelines are current at the time of this writing. However, US Equestrian systematically refines existing drug tests to make them more sensitive, and it develops new tests. Improved testing procedures are routinely implemented at any time without prior notice. Therefore, the time guidelines below might become obsolete as new and more sensitive procedures are implemented. Reliance upon the following guidelines will not serve as a defense to a charge of violation of the rule in the event of a positive drug test.

The following general guidelines are applicable to most horses and ponies. Nevertheless, reliance upon them does not guarantee compliance with the rules, since the response of individual horses and ponies will vary. Exhibitors, owners, and trainers should consult the drug manufacturer and knowledgeable veterinarians for up-to-date information and more specific advice concerning the therapeutic use of a drug or medication for a particular horse or pony.

The following general guidelines are made with the assumption that all drugs and medications are used only for a therapeutic purpose, i.e., the diagnosis and/or treatment of illness or injury, and that any dose administered is a conservative, therapeutic dose, consistent with the manufacturer's recommendations. The following guidelines are not part of the rules.

It is strongly recommended that no fluphenazine, no reserpine, no anabolics (e.g. boldenone, nandrolone, and stanozolol) and no hormones (e.g. altrenogest, estrone, methylprogesterone, and testosterone) be administered to a horse or pony for at least 45 days prior to competing. Furthermore, it is strongly recommended that no procaine (e.g., procaine penicillin) and no dipyron be administered to a horse or pony for at least 14 days prior to competing. Finally, it is strongly recommended that no other drugs or medications be administered to a horse or pony for at least 7 days prior to competing. This includes, but is not limited to, any and all other stimulants, depressants, tranquilizers, local anesthetics, and psychotropic substances.

THE ABOVE RECOMMENDATIONS, IF FOLLOWED, WILL MINIMIZE THE CHANCES OF POSITIVES FOR FORBIDDEN SUBSTANCES; HOWEVER, ALL TRAINERS, OWNERS, AND EXHIBITORS ARE CAUTIONED THAT THE FOREGOING ARE ONLY GENERAL GUIDELINES, AND IT IS THE TRAINER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT CONDITIONS PREVAIL FOR FULL COMPLIANCE WITH ALL US EQUESTRIAN RULES.

THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT, OBSERVE, COOPERATE, AND ASSIST

Article 402 requires trainers, owners, and their representatives to submit their horses and ponies to the collection of both blood and urine samples, at the discretion of the testing veterinarian appointed by US Equestrian. The animal is to be left in the charge of the testing personnel until all sample collections are completed, or until, in the exclusive discretion of the testing personnel, the animal is released.

In accordance with Article 402, trainers are urged to accompany the testing personnel and the animal during the time that samples are collected, labeled, and sealed, and to serve as witness to these procedures. In the event he or she is unwilling or unable to do so, the trainer is urged to appoint an agent to serve as witness to these procedures. Failure to witness these procedures, and/or failure to appoint an agent to do so, precludes a trainer from subsequently challenging the identity of the horse or pony from which samples were collected, or the procedures employed in collecting, labeling, or sealing the samples.

Article 403 requires trainers, owners, and their agents to cooperate with the testing personnel, to take the horse or pony immediately to the location selected by the testing personnel for sample collections, to present the animal for sample collections, to cooperate in the prompt procurement of samples with no unnecessary delays, and to exhibit polite attitude and actions to the testing personnel at all times.

Failure to comply with all of the requirements of Article 402 and 403 is a potentially serious violation of the rules that can result in the issuance of charges of rule violation by the Federation. Those found to have violated these rules can be subject to suspensions, fines, and the revocation of winnings, at the discretion of the Federation's Hearing Committee.

THE VETERINARIAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES

When dealing with illness or injury in a horse or pony competing at a US Equestrian recognized show or event, the veterinarian should prescribe or administer whatever is indicated for therapeutic purposes. Whenever prescribing or administering a substance forbidden or restricted by the rules, the veterinarian should advise the exhibitor, trainer, and owner how to comply with US Equestrian Rules. However, if the veterinarian (1) fails to give them proper advice, or (2) gives them improper advice about compliance with the rules, or (3) if the trainer, owner, or exhibitor fail to heed the proper advice of the veterinarian, then the trainer and owner may be subject to appropriate penalties under Federation Rules.

No veterinarian should be party to the administration of a drug or medication to a horse or pony for the non-therapeutic purpose of affecting its performance. This is unethical, and it encourages unethical conduct among trainers, owners, and exhibitors. Such conduct is contrary to US Equestrian Rules, is professionally unethical, and undermines the fairness of competition at horse shows and events.

THE TRAINER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under US Equestrian Rules, the trainer is held responsible and accountable for the condition of the horse or pony and for compliance with the rules. The trainer is defined as any adult or adults who has or shares the responsibility for the care, training, custody, condition or performance of the horse or pony. This could be one person or several individuals. Trainers, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, are responsible and accountable under the penalty provisions of these rules, whether or not they have signed an entry blank. They are also responsible for guarding each horse at, and sufficiently prior to a recognized competition, such as to prevent the administration by anyone of or its exposure to any forbidden substance, and to know all the provisions of this rule and all other rules and regulations of the Federation and the penalty provisions of said rules.

For the purposes of this rule substantial evidence means affirmative evidence of such a clear and definite nature as to establish that the trainer or any employee or agent of the trainer was, in fact, not responsible or accountable for the condition of the horse and/or pony.

Understanding the US Equestrian Equine Drugs and Medications Rule will help avoid inadvertent violations and will help keep your name out of the **NOTICE OF PENALTY** section of *US Equestrian Magazine*. All questions about the rule should be directed to the office of the US Equestrian Equine Drugs and Medications Program, 3760 Ridge Mill Drive, Hilliard, Ohio 43026, toll-free (800) 633-2472.

CONCLUSION

One consistent theme which runs through the drug rules of all the private groups is the constant reevaluation of their positions and the changes made in the rules to accommodate the best thinking of the trainers, owners and veterinarians. As new drugs are developed to treat horses therapeutically and as other drugs are discovered which allow the unscrupulous trainers and veterinarians to take unfair advantage by administering drugs for which there are no effective tests, each association amends its rules to ensure the fairest competition possible for all participants.