

A List of Questions that are Frequently Asked by Visiting International Trainers

- 1. Why does the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) place so much emphasis on the declaration of the administration of anabolic steroids, hormones and long acting corticosteroids on the medication declaration forms?**

The vast majority of medication problems in international racing are caused by long acting preparations of these types of medications. Their clearance times are prolonged and extremely difficult to predict with any degree of certainty.

The HKJC Racing Laboratory tests rigorously for these substances and there is a significant risk that a horse treated with these substances may test positive months after the last administration.

- 2. Why do I have to declare the medications administered to my horse to the HKJC prior to travelling to Hong Kong?**

The purpose of the medication declaration system is to identify medical treatments that the horse has received in the past that may have a risk of causing a positive detection of a prohibited substance in an official sample collected from a horse on race day. The declaration will be made available only to the appropriate HKJC officials and will be treated as strictly confidential.

- 3. Why does the HKJC insist that an elective urine sample must be sent to the HKJC Racing Laboratory for analysis when it is cheaper and easier for me to get a sample analysed by the local Racing Laboratory?**

Racing Laboratories have differing capabilities, policies and priorities for the analysis of prohibited substances in official samples collected from racehorses. A sample that is declared negative for a prohibited substance by one Racing Laboratory may be called positive to that substance by another Racing Laboratory.

The race will be conducted under the HKJC Rules of Racing and any official samples collected from a racehorse will be analysed by the HKJC Racing Laboratory. Therefore only the HKJC Racing Laboratory can provide you with any meaningful advice on the prohibited substance status of your horse for racing in Hong Kong.

- 4. Why do I have to show the medications and supplements I have bought with the horse to the HKJC veterinary surgeon on arrival at the HKJC quarantine stables?**

Supplements that you may use freely in your home country may contain an active ingredient that is classified as a prohibited substance by the HKJC. Also supplements may contain unlabelled constituents and/or contaminants that may cause a positive test result to a prohibited substances in a sample collected from a horse receiving the supplement, especially if the supplement is administered close to the time of racing.

Most supplements supplied by the HKJC have been subjected to administration trials and laboratory testing which reduces, but does not eliminate, the possibility of a racehorse fed a HKJC tested supplement returning a positive test on race day to an unlabelled constituent or contaminant.

5. **I often treat my horse with mucolytic drugs, for example Bromhexine ("Bromotrimidine") or Dembrexine ("Sputolysin"/"Sputolosin") that may be administered without restriction in my home country. Do I have to declare them on the HKJC Medication Declaration Forms and can I continue to use these medications in Hong Kong?**

Mucolytics are considered to be prohibited substances under the HKJC rules of racing and must be declared on the medication declaration forms. Please contact the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services for advice on the Recommended Withdrawal Periods used for these medications in Hong Kong.

6. **I often treat my horses with anti-ulcer medication, for example Cimetidine, Ranetidine or Omeprazole, with a "not on race day" administration restriction in my home country. Do I have to declare them on the HKJC medication declaration form and can I continue to use these medications in Hong Kong?**

Anti ulcer drugs are classified as prohibited substances under the HKJC rules of racing and must be declared on the medication declaration form. Cimetidine and Ranetidine have quite prolonged clearance times and you are strongly recommended to seek the advice of the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services on the Recommended Withdrawal Periods used in Hong Kong for omeprazole.

7. **I often treat my horses "SA Injection" or "Hydroxy P", "Hydroxy E", "Depolutine" or other depot products containing 17-hydroxyprogesterone hexonate that can be administered without restriction in my home country. Do I have to declare the treatment on the HKJC medication declaration form and can I use continue to use the medications in Hong Kong?**

17-hydroxyprogesterone hexonate is considered to be a prohibited substance under the HKJC rules of racing and must be declared on the medication declaration form. It may not be used in Hong Kong and the clearance time may be prolonged and unpredictable, especially if the horse has been treated on multiple occasions. It is important to note that the substance and some other medications may only be detected on blood tests, so that a clear urine test result does not guarantee a clear blood test result on arrival in Hong Kong (All international racehorses are required to provide both blood and urine samples on arrival in Hong Kong).

8. **Can my horse race on "Bute" (phenylbutazone) and/or Lasix (furosemide) in Hong Kong?**

No. Any horse shall be free of any prohibited substance on the day on which it has been declared to race (i.e. race day), until such time as the Stewards release such horse after it has raced.

9. **I often treat my horse with injections of pentosan polysulphate, Adequan (PSGAG) and/or intravenous hyaluronic acid in the week prior to racing? Can my horse be treated with these medications while in Hong Kong?**

Yes, but racehorses must not receive any treatment by injection on race day.

10. I use a special herbal medicine that claims to stop my horse from suffering EIPHS (bleeding) during racing. Can I use this product in Hong Kong?

Supplements or patent medicines that claim to have a pharmacological (drug like) effect are either not permitted in Hong Kong or are subject to a three clear day ban on administration prior to racing. Consult with the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services for more information.

11. I use an inhalant medication administered by nebulizer to treat my horse's chronic inflammatory airway condition. Can I use the nebulizer and medication while the horse is in Hong Kong?

A horse may not receive any type of inhalant or nebulizer therapy on raceday. Consult with the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services for advice on the Recommended Withdrawal Periods used in Hong Kong for specific medications.

12. Can I inject and stomach tube my own horse while I am in Hong Kong?

No. Injections and nasogastric intubation may only be performed by a HKJC veterinary surgeon and cannot be performed on race day.

13. What is the restriction time prior to racing for the administration of vitamins and / or an intravenous drip to my horse in Hong Kong?

Horses may receive intravenous drips and vitamin injections in Hong Kong however no horse may receive any injection on race day.

14. I want to bring my own veterinary surgeon/farrier and/or physical therapist to work on my horse in Hong Kong. How can I arrange this?

The HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services provides a full range of veterinary medical, surgical and farriery services for visiting racehorses in Hong Kong.

If you wish to have your veterinary surgeon accompany you to Hong Kong to act as an advisor you need only apply to the Department of Veterinary Regulation and International Liaison for approval and instructions on the procedures that must be complied with by visiting veterinary surgeons.

If for some reason you need your veterinary surgeon to administer treatments or perform surgical procedures whilst in Hong Kong you will need to seek the approval of the DRV&IL and ensure that the veterinary surgeon is registered to practise in Hong Kong by the Hong Kong Veterinary Surgeons Board. The registration process takes about five weeks and details can be obtained from the Board's official website:

www.vsbhk.org.hk.eng.guide_to_app.htm

You may request permission for your farrier or physical therapist to provide services for your horse while in Hong Kong by contacting the Department of Veterinary Regulation and International Liaison.

15. Can I use the Recommended Withdrawal Periods prior to racing for medications that I am used to using in my home country for racing in Hong Kong?

No!!! Recommended Withdrawal Periods may differ from country to country because of differing Racing Laboratory capabilities and policies. Consult with the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services for advice on the Recommended Withdrawal Periods used by the Club's veterinary surgeons for medications routinely used in Hong Kong.

16. Why does the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services only provide Recommended Withdrawal Periods for medications routinely used in Hong Kong and not for all medications?

Recommended Withdrawal Periods are "guesstimates" at the best of times and there are many factors that influence the time that a particular medication may take to clear from a horse's system. HKJC veterinary surgeons can only reasonably provide advice on the medications they are familiar with using and then only for the doses, routes of administration and particular formulations that they routinely use.

17. Can the Recommended Withdrawal Periods recommended by the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services for a particular medication be regarded as a guarantee that my horse will not test positive to the medication on race day if I follow the recommendation?

Any Recommended Withdrawal Periods supplied by the HKJC Department of Veterinary Clinical Services is provided in good faith and has proven reliable for the standard preparation types, doses, sites of injection and routes of administration used by the HKJC veterinary surgeons over the years.

However simply complying with a recommended withdrawal period can never be regarded as a guarantee that an individual horse will test negative to a particular medication on race day.

There are many, many factors that influence the time that a particular medication will take to clear an individual horse's system. Some of these factors include the total dose that is administered to the horse, the cumulative effects of multiple doses, the route of administration, the site of the injection, the horse's diet, the individual horse's health and metabolism, environmental contamination with the medication, the formulation of the medication and many other factors.

The circumstances associated with the treatment of an individual horse that must be taken into account when formulating a Recommended Withdrawal Period for that treatment can only be known by the trainer of that horse and the veterinary surgeon administering the treatment.

Therefore it is the trainer's responsibility to take all reasonable steps to check the circumstances and consequences of any treatments administered to a horse under his charge and to present the horse to race free of prohibited substances.

If you have any doubts about whether your horse will be clear of prohibited substances on race day, you are strongly advised to submit a urine sample for elective testing by the HKJC Racing Laboratory for the particular medication administered to the horse.