

Equine Drug Testing Programme

A Guide to Equine Drug
Testing In Jamaica



Questions & Answers

ABOUT THE BOOKLET

This Question and Answer booklet has been produced by the Jamaica Racing Commission (JRC) the agency that regulates horse racing in Jamaica. In keeping with the JRC's mandate of protecting the racing public against fraudulent practices, the Commission operates an Equine Drug Testing Programme. One aim of this programme is to help contribute to the positive image of horse racing by preventing the uncontrolled use of prohibited substances (drugs and medicines) in racehorses.

The questions and answers contained in this booklet provide information that will assist owners, trainers, grooms, veterinarians, and others involved in preparing a horse to race, in complying with Jamaica Racing Commission Racing Rules 1977 as they pertain to prohibited substances. The most frequently asked questions about how the Commission's Equine Drug Testing Programme works are also answered. Inside, you will find explanations of common terms used in the field of equine drug testing and answers to questions about how and why samples are collected.

NOVEMBER 2006

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SPEAKING A COMMON LANGUAGE

1. What are prohibited substances?

Most drugs and medicines (with the exception of vitamins and some anti-parasitic and anti-microbial agents) are prohibited in horses at race time. The Jamaica Racing Commission Racing Rules 1977 and the Sixth Schedule, in particular, available from the Commission's Offices, contain detailed definitions of prohibited substances. Jamaica Racing Commission's Veterinarians can also provide further information.

2. What is an official sample?

An official sample is a pre or post race urine or blood or other sample collected from a horse at the racetrack under the supervision of the Commission's Veterinarian.

3. Who is authorized to collect the official sample?

Under JRC regulations the official urine sample is collected by the horse's groom or any officer designated by the Commission's Veterinarians. Blood samples are collected by the Commission's Veterinarian.

4. What happens to an official sample after collection?

The official sample collected is taken by the horse's groom to the Processing Room where it is split into two equal portions each of which is sealed in the presence of the groom and stored in separate containers at 0 degrees centigrade until testing.

5. Why is it necessary to split the official sample?

Splitting the official sample conforms with the Commission's Split Sample Rule which provides the connections of the horse with a second or split portion of the sample that can be tested for verification of the primary test.

6. What is a positive test?

(a)

A positive finding occurs when the presence of a prohibited substance is detected in the primary sample and confirmed in the split sample by a Racing Chemist. This is observed and verified by the Referee Chemist.

(b)

In the case of drugs where thresholds are allowed a positive finding occurs when excessive quantity is detected. These findings must be confirmed in the split sample.

7. Who is the Racing Chemist?

The Racing Chemist is a chemist appointed by the Commission to analyse all official samples.

8. Who is the Referee Chemist?

The Referee Chemist is an independent chemist designated by the Commission to observe the testing of all split (or B) samples where the primary (A) sample has returned a positive.

9. What is the role of the Referee Chemist?

The Referee Chemist's role is to verify that proper methods and processes of testing have been applied and to report to the Commission whether a positive finding was confirmed.

10. Who is a Control Clerk?

A Control Clerk is an employee of the Jamaica Racing Commission assigned to the Sample Collection Barn (Testing Barn) to supervise the collection of the official samples and monitor the movement of horses and grooms.

11. What do the terms qualitative analysis and quantitative analysis mean?

Qualitative analysis is the analysing of the official samples to establish the presence of a prohibited substance. Quantitative analysis is the analysis of the official sample to determine the quantity of a prohibited substance present.

COLLECTION OF SAMPLES

12. Why are pre or post race samples collected from racehorses?

Samples are collected from racehorses to test for the presence of prohibited substances, thereby fulfilling the Commission's mandate to protect the racing public from fraudulent practices.

13. How is a horse selected for testing?

Horses finishing first and second in each race and the first four in cup/feature race(s) are tested. Additionally the Stewards may select other horses randomly for testing. This is commonly referred to as spot-testing.

14. When and where are samples collected?

Immediately after a race, the horse is taken to the "Testing Barn" (detention area), where it is cooled-out and placed in a secured stall until such time as a urine and/or blood sample is/are obtained.

15. Are both urine and blood samples always collected?

No. In the event that a horse does not produce a urine sample within a period of up to one hour after the last race of the day, a blood sample is collected in the testing barn. Blood samples are also taken from horses that were entered/raced on Lasix/Salix.

16. Why are urine samples preferred over blood samples?

Urine is a better medium for drug testing, as a wider variety of drugs can be detected in urine, and it can be collected in larger volumes through a non-invasive procedure.

17. How are blood samples dealt with in the barn?

Blood samples are processed to yield plasma or serum which is then split and stored similarly to urine samples.

18. What happens to the samples at the end of the race day?

Samples are placed in separate containers, that are dated and secured at the end of collection for a day. One set of samples (Primary or A) is taken to the laboratory for testing. The other set of samples (Split or B) is placed in storage.

19. Raceday Sample Kits

- (a) What comprises a sample kit?
- (b) How are these sample kits labelled?
- (c) Who selects the sample kit used?

The sample kit is made up of four (4) plastic bags and a bar-coded sample card. This card and two (2) of the four (4) plastic bags bear previously affixed identical bar-codes. The entire kit is then placed in a sealed envelope. Several of these envelopes containing sample kits are sent to the Testing Barn on a raceday for random selection by grooms or Trainers' representative and subsequent use in sample storage and sample information recording and storage.

ANALYSIS OF OFFICIAL SAMPLES

20. What happens to a Primary Sample after it reaches the Lab?

The numerical tracking of the sample continues at the lab and is maintained throughout the testing process, which lasts several days. Testing personnel are not provided with the names of the horses being tested.

Analysis of official samples is designed to cover as broad as possible a range of prohibited substances. Analytic methods include "TLC" (thin-layer chromatography), and GC/MS Gas Chromatography Mass Spectrometry.)

21. What do screening and confirmation of the primary Sample mean?

Screening is the initial phase of testing conducted by a chemist to detect the presence of prohibited substances in an official sample.

Confirmation is the next phase of testing in which a chemist conducts further tests to confirm the presence of the prohibited substance that was detected in the screening phase.

22. How long after a sample is collected are test results reported?

Test results are normally reported to the Jamaica Racing Commission within ten working days of the race date.

23. Who receives the report of a positive test?

A Certificate of positive finding is sent to the Jamaica Racing Commission. The certificate states the ID number of the sample, the name of the prohibited substance, and other relevant information pertaining to the drug. The certificate does not state the name of the horse or trainer, because the lab does not have that information.

24. What happens after a positive test is reported?

- (1) The appointed Trainers' Association representative is contacted to observe the opening of the sample information package for the raceday in question and the subsequent decoding to establish the identity of the horse by the custodian of the cards (who is a Jamaica Racing Commission employee)

- (2) The trainer, groom and owner of the horse that produced the positive test sample are then notified of the positive finding and the substance involved.
- (3) The trainer is advised that the split sample will be tested in 48 hours and that he has the privilege of having an observer present when this is done. A list of 6 observers approved for entry to the Commission's laboratory is available from which trainers may make a selection.
- (4) The Split sample is tested and the result, confirming or denying the presence of a prohibited substance is forwarded to the Commission.
- (5) In the case of a confirmed positive test a tribunal investigation is held to ascertain how the prohibited substance/s came to be in the sample, whether any person or persons was responsible and if so to determine the appropriate penalty.

25. **How does the Commission know the name of the horse and the trainer?**

Upon de-coding the following information becomes known:

While the official sample is being split by the Control Clerk the sample card from the sample kit, randomly selected by the groom, is completed with the:

- (i) Name of the horse;
- (ii) Tattoo Number of the horse;
- (iii) Race Date

- (iv) Race Number
- (v) Time of Sampling
- (vi) Groom's Name
- (vii) Groom's Identification Number and other details relevant to the horse and the processing of the sample.
- (viii) Signatures (relevant)

26. Where is the split sample analysis conducted?

A split sample analysis is conducted in the presence of a Referee Chemist at the Commission's Lab.

27. How does an owner/trainer request split sample testing?

The owner/trainer requests a split sample test by writing to the Jamaica Racing Commission. It is important to note that a time limit applies. Contact the Jamaica Racing Commission for details.

28. Are there costs associated with split sample analysis?

Yes. The owner/trainer pays costs associated with the split sample analysis as advised by the Commission.

29. What happens if the lab does not confirm the positive result obtained from the primary test, after the split sample test?

No positive finding will be called. However the Commission reserves the right to call the connections of the horse to discuss the matter.

DRUG, MEDICATIONS, AND YOUR HORSE

30. Who determines which substances are prohibited?

The Commission determines which substances are prohibited. (Prohibited substances are listed in the First Schedule of the Jamaica Racing Commission Racing Rules 1977.)

31. How does an owner/trainer determine whether a medicine contains a prohibited substance?

An owner/trainer may determine if a medicine contains a prohibited substance in the following ways:

- by contacting a Veterinarian
- by carefully reading the product label,
- by consulting the Schedule of Drugs booklet.

32. What precautions can an owner/trainer take to avoid a positive test from his or her horse?

Drugs and medications may enter a horse's system through skin absorption as well as by mouth. Liniments, leg rubs, herbal remedies, and feed supplements are potential sources of prohibited substances. Therefore, care should be taken when using these products on or around a horse scheduled to race.

For more information on potential sources of prohibited substances, contact a Veterinarian.

33. What is the Salix (Lasix) programme?

The Salix (Lasix) programme is an optional, user-pay programme that allows the medicine, Furosemide, to be administered to a horse at least four hours before it is scheduled to race. Furosemide, which alleviates the symptoms of EIPH (Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage), can only be administered to a horse that is diagnosed with EIPH by the Commission's Veterinarian and has been placed on the Bleeders' List maintained by the Jamaica Racing Commission.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

34. What measures are in place to protect owners/trainers interests in regard to equine drug testing?

Measures that are in place include prohibiting unauthorized personnel from entering the Testing Barn, allowing the trainer to witness sample collection and labelling, and ensuring that samples are handled and analysed in a uniformed manner at labs ("blind analysis" and blind storage.)

35. What are the responsibilities of an owner/trainer when his or her horse is selected for testing?

The owner/trainer is responsible for bringing the horse to the testing barn directly from the track, or for directing a licensed representative to do so. A trainer/representative may witness the collection, labelling, sealing and packaging of the sample, and sign the accompanying documents. When requested by the Commission's Veterinarian, the groom must collect the official sample, under supervision.

THRESHOLDS

36. What is a threshold?

A threshold is a measurable level or concentration of a substance which represents the highest legal amount of the substance allowed to be found in a sample.

37. Are there medications which can be legally administered on race day?

Currently Furosemide (Lasix) is the only medication which can legally be administered on a race day.

38. Are there medications for which there are thresholds in Jamaica?

Yes. The JRC has 6 non-raceday medications for which thresholds apply. These are: DMSO, Dipyrone, Flunixin (Banamine), Ketoprofen, Phenylbutazone and Salicylic Acid.

39. How does the idea of a threshold work in practical terms?

The practice of observing thresholds will facilitate the administration of a medication within a timeframe so as to ensure that the official sample does not include a concentrate higher than permitted.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the Jamaica Racing Commission Equine Drug Testing Programme, or to obtain any of the Jamaica Racing Commission's publication listed in this booklet, please contact the Commission's Veterinarians or the Stewards.

WITHDRAWAL TIMES AND REPORTING LEVELS

DRUG	ARCI CLASS	DOSE/ ROUTE	WITHDRAWAL TIME	REPORTING LEVELS (PLASMA)	REPORTING LEVELS (URINE)
DIMETHYLSULFORIDE (DMSO)	5	19.8g, IV	48 hrs	1.0 ug/ml	15.0ug/ml
FLUNIXIN	4	500 mg, IV	48 hrs	500ng/ml	40ng/ml
KETOPROFEN	4	1.2g, IV	48 hrs	100ng/ml	100ng/ml
PHENYLBUTAZONE	4	3g, IV	96 hrs	5000ng/ml	165ug/ml
SALICYLATE	4	1g, oral	36 hrs	6500ng/ml	750ug/ml
DIPYRONE	4	7.5g, IV	36 hrs	1000ng/ml	500ng/ml
OXYPHENBUTAZONE	4	4g, oral	96 hrs	5000ng/ml	165ug/ml

The withdrawal times given indicate the approximate length of time that the medication can be detected in the blood and urine of horses.

It is stressed that these withdrawal times are guidelines only and should not be interpreted as absolute for every horse to which these medications are administered

Drug absorption and elimination are influenced by many factors including:

- o The horse - its age, sex, weight etc.
- o Its environment - diet, training etc.
- o The medication - dosage, mixture etc.

You should be aware that the dosage of the medication may vary with different preparations and manufacturers.

N.B.

- Be sure to read the label of the product before use
- Taking all factors into consideration, individual horses may have longer or shorter periods of elimination.
- You should consult with your veterinarian for advice and guidance in the administration of any medication to your horse.
- These withdrawal times are intended as information only and do not in any way, supersede or relieve responsibility for compliance with the Jamaica Racing Commission Racing Rules. If you are not already aware/familiar you should become familiar with these rules.
- The Jamaica Racing Commission assumes no liability for positive tests which occur as a result of medication administered within quantity and time frames set out in this schedule.