

Important Notice to Trainers and all other racing participants regarding the use of IBUPROFEN in racehorses

Ibuprofen is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug and therefore a prohibited substance according to the Australian Rules of Racing. *Ibuprofen* is available in numerous human preparations for oral and topical use. *Ibuprofen* is not present in any registered veterinary product for use in horses, and there is only limited information available on the excretion of *ibuprofen* following its administration to horses.

There are therefore risks involved in the administration of *ibuprofen* to horses, including but not limited to oral and topical routes.

Trainers are warned that it is difficult to make any reliable predictions about the clearance of *ibuprofen* from horses based on the information currently available. This is especially so, if multiple doses or exposures to the drug have occurred. There is also a high risk of contamination in racing stables arising from the use of *ibuprofen* in other horses in a stable.

It is generally noted that –

- (i) Large doses of *ibuprofen* may result in more prolonged clearance times than smaller doses.
- (ii) Multiple doses or exposures to *ibuprofen* may result in more prolonged clearance times than a single dose or exposure.
- (iii) Different pharmaceutical preparations of *ibuprofen* may have different bioavailabilities of the drug which may result in different clearance times.
- (iv) Environmental contamination with *ibuprofen* may result in horses being contaminated with the drug and cause a positive detection in urine collected from a horse.
- (v) Topical administration of a gel formulation of *ibuprofen* may result in a prolonged clearance of the drug, probably because the gel persists on the hair which acts as a slow release reservoir.

TRSA therefore warns trainers not to administer *ibuprofen* to racehorses at any time or allow *ibuprofen* in racing stables. Further, trainers should enquire whether *ibuprofen* is being used at any spelling/recuperation facility from which they are receiving a horse.