



USDA APHIS Horse Protection Blood Sampling Report 2012-2014

The United States Department Agriculture (USDA) Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Horse Protection Program collected blood samples on horses competing at horse shows, sales, auctions or any exhibition regulated under the Horse Protection Act (HPA) from 2012 through 2014. The HPA prohibits horses subjected to a cruel and abusive practice called “soring”, a method of horse training which is used to accentuate a horse’s gait. The HPA also prohibits the application or administration of foreign substances that can cause soring, mask the evidence of “soring” and/or enables stewarding of the horse so that it does not exhibit signs of being sore during the inspection process. Some of these foreign substances may be detected in blood samples. The purpose of blood sampling was to survey the horse population to determine the incidence of foreign substances administered as a method of soring or masking “soring” which can be detected in blood. Blood samples were taken randomly from horses after they showed regardless of their placing as well as some horses found in violation that did not show were sampled.

The blood samples were analyzed for forbidden substances and restricted substances (as defined by United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) regulations). Below are tables of the blood analysis from each show, the frequency and type of each substance found, the treatment indications of each substance and the classification of each substance under USEF and FEI with their associated penalty.

The use of all substances found can reasonably be used to mask or numb soring when administered to a horse and may be considered foreign substances under the HPA regulations.

Substances found may violate §11.21 (a) 4 of the HPA, “The DQP shall instruct the custodian of the horse to control it by holding the reins approximately 18 inches from the bit shank. **The DQP shall not be required to examine a horse if it is presented in a manner that might cause the horse not to react to a DQP's examination**, or if whips, cigarette smoke, or other actions or paraphernalia are used to distract a horse during examination. All such incidents shall be reported to the show management and the DQP licensing organization.” All substances can reasonably be used to steward the horse not to react to a DQP’s or Veterinary Medical Officer’s (VMO) examination.

The substance **Diclofenac** may also violate §11.2 (c) of the HPA, “Substances. All substances are prohibited on the extremities above the hoof of any Tennessee Walking Horse or racking horse while being shown, exhibited, or offered for sale at any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction, except lubricants such as glycerine, petrolatum, and mineral oil, or mixtures thereof...”, as the substance when applied topically can reasonably be assumed to be used on the front extremities of a horse as an agent to mask or numb soring.

**Currently the USDA is reviewing these results to make a determination if blood samples will be utilized for further HPA enforcement.*

Total Horses Sampled 2012-2014	Total Horses Positive †
366	36

† 4 Horses were positive for more than one substance



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2012 Results

Bluegrass Pleasure and Walking Horses Association – August 18, 2012 (1 day - 8 horses sampled, 1 positive)

2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

Tunica Fall Classic – November 8-10, 2012 (3 days - 30 horses sampled, 5 positive)

2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

diclofenac

firocoxib

fluphenazine

flunixin

phenylbutazone

Walking for the Angels – November 17, 2012 (1 day - 12 horses sampled, 1 positive)

Dexamethasone



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2013 Results

WHAT Trainers Show – March 14-15, 2013 (2 days - 32 horses sampled, 1 positive)

2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

75th TWH Celebration – August 23-24 and 30-31, 2013 (2 days - 43 horses sampled, 8 positive)

Diclofenac

Fluphenazine

Ketoprofen

Stanozolol

SC WHA Championship – October 25-26, 2013 (2 days - 21 horses sampled, 3 positive)

2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

Diclofenac

East TN Trainer's Association – November 1-2, 2013 (2 days - 17 horses sampled, 0 positive)

All Negative

Tunica Fall Classic – November 14-16, 2013 (3 days - 26 horses sampled, 1 positive)

Ketoprofen



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2014 Results

16th Annual Gulf Coast Charity Trainer's Show – April 24-25, 2014 (2 days - 24 horses sampled, 2 positive)

Fluphenazine

Ketoprofen

4th Annual Spring Show – May 22-24, 2014 (3 days - 19 horses sampled, 4 positive)

2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

Diclofenac

Diclofenac

Reserpine

City of Prestonburg Horse Show– July 18, 2014 (1 day - 5 horses sampled, 0 positive)

All Negative

Franklin County Fair Walking Horse Show – July 19, 2014 (1 day - 9 horses sampled, 2 positive)

Acepromazine, 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide

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PRTHA Horse Show– July 26, 2014 (1 day – 7 horses sampled, 0 positive)

All Negative

Wartrace Horse Show – August 2, 2014 (1 day – 10 horses sampled, 3 positive)

Diclofenac



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Dexamethasone

Diclofenac

Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration– August 21 - 30, 2014 (10 days – 103 horses sampled, 5 positive)

Diclofenac

Diclofenac

Prednisolone

Flunixin, Ketoprofen, Phenylbutazone

Diclofenac



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Frequency and type of drug found 2012-2014 inclusive.

Substance Found	Positive Frequency	Drug Type
Acepromazine , 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide	8	Sedative [‡]
Dexamethasone	2	Corticosteroid
Diclofenac	15	NSAID*
Firocoxib	2	NSAID*
Flunixin	2	NSAID*
Fluphenazine	6	Antipsychotic [‡]
Ketoprofen	3	NSAID*
Phenylbutazone	2	NSAID*
Prednisolone	1	Corticosteroid
Reserpine	1	Tranquilizer [‡]
Stanozolol	1	Anabolic steroid

*Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug

[‡]Psychotropic (mood and/or behavior altering) substance



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Foreign Substance				Penalty			
Name of Drug	Type	USEF Forbidden Substance	FEI Prohibited Substance	USEF	FEI 1 st Violation	FEI 2 nd Violation	FEI 3 rd or 4 th Violation
Fluphenazine	Antipsychotic	FORBIDDEN	BANNED	CENSURE and/or SUSPENSION OF SUCH PERSON SUSPENSION FOR ANY PERIOD OF THE HORSE OR HORSES SUSPENSION FOR ANY PERIOD OF ANY VOLUNTEER OR ANY EMPLOYED PERSON and/or EXPULSION and FORFEITURE and/or FINE	INELIGIBILITY AND FINE for Presence, Use or Attempted Use or Possession of Banned Substances and Banned Methods First violation - 2 years ineligibility, fine of CHF 15,000 (~ \$16,056 dollars) plus legal costs	Second Violation – ineligible for a minimum of 8 years to lifetime	Third Violation – lifetime period of Ineligibility
Reserpine	Tranquilizer						
Stanozolol	Anabolic Steroid						
Acepromazine, 2-(1-hydroxyethyl) promazine sulfoxide	Sedative	FORBIDDEN	CONTROLLED	EXPULSION and FORFEITURE and/or FINE	INELIGIBILITY AND FINE for Presence, Use or Attempted Use or Possession of Controlled Medication Substances and Controlled Medication Methods First violation – 6 months ineligibility, fine of up to CHF 15,000 (~ \$16,056 dollars) plus legal costs	Second Violation – ineligible for up to and including 3 years of ineligibility	Third Violation – up to 4 years of ineligibility Fourth Violation or more – up to a lifetime period of ineligibility
Diclofenac	NSAID*						
Dexamethasone	Corticosteroid						
Firocoxib	NSAID*						
Flunixin	NSAID*						
Ketoprofen	NSAID*						
Prednisolone	Corticosteroid	FORBIDDEN (Quantitatively Restricted)					
Phenylbutazone	NSAID*						

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Substance Found	Definition	Available Products	Drug Information	HPA Regulation Violation
ACEPROMAZINE, 2-(1-HYDROXYETHYL) PROMAZINE SULFOXIDE	Sedative	Injectable Acepromazine.	It is used as an aid in controlling fractious horses. It is also used as a pre-anesthetic agent to help control behavior. ¹	§11.21 (a) 4
DEXAMETHASONE	Corticosteroid	Injectable, oral or ophthalmic dexamethasone products.	It is used to treat many inflammatory and auto-immune conditions. ²	§11.21 (a) 4
DICLOFENAC	NSAID*	Equine topical cream (Surpass [®]).	Labeled for the control of pain associated from osteoarthritis for up to 10 days. ¹ It is used in the treatment of rheumatoid osteoarthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, acute gout, and following some surgical procedures. ²	§11.2 (c) and §11.21 (a) 4
FIROCOXIB	NSAID*	Canine Tablets (Previcox [®]) and Equine oral paste (Equioxx [®])	It is used for the treatment of pain and inflammation. ^{1,2}	§11.21 (a) 4
		Injectable, oral paste, oral granules	Approved for use in horses alleviation of inflammation and pain. ¹ It is used for the treatment of joint diseases, pain in muscles and colic pain. ²	§11.21 (a) 4

*Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug

¹ From *Plumb's Veterinary Drug Handbook*

² From *FEI Clean Sport*



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FLUNIXIN	NSAID*	(<i>Banamine</i> [®]).		
FLUPHENAZINE	Antipsychotic	<u>Not approved for horses.</u> human injectable product.	It is used for the treatment of mental or mood disorders, as well as schizophrenia. ² Used to decrease anxiety and modify behavior (calming).	§11.21 (a) 4
KETOPROFEN	NSAID*	Injectable product (<i>Ketofen</i> [®]).	It is has antipyretic and analgesic properties and is used in horses as a painkiller after surgery. ²	§11.21 (a) 4
PHENYLBUTAZONE	NSAID*	Oral and injectable products.	For the relief of inflammatory conditions associated with the musculoskeletal system. ¹ It is used for the treatment of acute rheumatic disorders and chronic pain. ²	§11.21 (a) 4
PREDNISOLONE	Corticosteroid	Oral and injectable products.	Used for the treatment of COPD. ¹ It is used for the treatment of auto-immune disorders, and as an inflammatory and immunosuppressive medication. ²	§11.21 (a) 4
RESERPINE	Tranquilizer	Oral and injectable products.	An alkaloid used for long term sedation in horses. ²	§11.21 (a) 4
STANOZOLOL	Anabolic steroid	Injectable product (<i>Winstrol</i> [®])	It has been used to illicitly attempt to improve performance, mainly due to their effect of promoting muscular development. ²	§11.21 (a) 4

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