



# HORSE AND CATTLE WELFARE TASK FORCE

---

# HORSE & CATTLE WELFARE TASK FORCE

---

Lindy Burch, Chair

Chris Benedict

Matt Gaines

Bruce Morine

Kenny Platt

Mary Ann Rapp

Bill Riddle

Bronc Willoughby

Tosten Peterson

Dr. Jerry Black, DVM

Dr. Janet Bowen, DVM

Dr. Charlie Buchanan, DVM

Dr. Jeff Foland, DVM

Dr. Scott Stanley, PhD

Dr. Maben Thompson, DVM

Executive Committee Representatives

Cara Brewer and Barnwell Ramsey

# Medication committee Sub committee of Horse & Cattle Task Force

---

- Dr. Jerry Black, DVM - Chair
- Lindy Burch - Vice Chair
- Dr. Travis Blackwelder, DVM
- Dr. Janet Bowen, DVM
- Dr. Charlie Buchanan, DVM
- Dr. Crystal DeWitt, DVM
- Dr. Lane Easter, DVM
- Dr. Jeff Foland, DVM
- Dr. Robert Meyer, DVM
- Dr. Scott Stanley, PhD
- Dr. Maben Thompson, DVM

## **Consultants**

- Dr. Dave Frisbie, DVM Colorado State
- Dr. Mike Martin, DVM Texas A & M
- Dr. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc Colorado State

Executive Committee Representative

Cara Brewer

# Medication Review Committee


---

- Dr. Jerry Black, DVM - Chairman
- Lindy Burch – Open Representative
- Steve Williams – Non-Pro Representative
- Dr. Dave Frisbie, DVM Colorado State – Medication Expert Consultant
- Dr. Mike Martin, DVM Texas A & M – Medication Expert Consultant
  
- Executive Committee Representative: John P Lavelle

# Why does NCHA test for drugs?

---

- Protecting the health and welfare of the horse is a top priority for the NCHA.
- Ensuring that whatever medications are used on our horses are therapeutic in nature and are always given with the best interest of the horse in mind.
- Avoiding any medications that may mask any lameness or unsoundness of a horse.



# What do the NCHA Medication Rules Seek to Avoid?

- Use of medications that could ultimately harm a horse, either short term or long term.
- Use of medications designed to change the horse's performance and give it an unnatural advantage.
- Use of any medications that threaten the integrity of the competition.

---

# What shows are being tested?

---

- All Divisions of the Futurity, Super Stakes, and Summer Show
- National Championships
- 2025 National Circuit Championships

# HOW ARE HORSES SELECTED FOR TESTING?

- 1<sup>ST</sup> & 2<sup>ND</sup> place in all two set finals
- 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, & 3<sup>RD</sup> place in all one set finals
- Slots randomly selected prior to the draw
- The NCHA Executive Director may also, in his sole discretion, have any horse tested.

(Note: Champion and Reserve Champion checks (plus ties) are held after the show at NCHA until a preliminary clearance of any prohibited medication is received from the testing lab.)



# How is the horse tested?

- All medication tests for NCHA events are blood tests performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- When the horse has finished its run, the veterinarian, their assistant or a staff liaison delivers the medication test form to the rider or representative instructing them to bring the horse to the testing stall.
- The horse must be brought for testing 15 minutes after receipt of the medication test form.
- Once the horse is presented and its testing form is completed, then the veterinarian will draw blood.
- If the horse is showing again later that day, the rider can possibly make arrangements with the veterinarian to test afterwards.

# What happens with the test samples?

---

- Two test samples are taken from each horse.
- The test samples go through a specified chain of custody from the veterinarian to the testing lab.
- The current testing lab is UC Davis.
- The testing lab performs the testing and sends results to the NCHA.
- The testing lab retains the second sample for 90 days to ensure a sample is available if the rider and/or owner want to have the sample retested at an alternate recognized lab approved by the NCHA.

---

# What happens if the test is positive?

---

- The Medication Review Committee reviews the test results and considers the discipline for the offense under the Rule 35A disciplinary guidelines.
- The committee sends a notice letter to the responsible party giving the option to accept the proposed discipline or have a hearing before the Medication Review Committee.

---

# Rights to a hearing and appeal?

---

- The notice letter includes instructions for a retest if desired and instructions to request a hearing with the Medication Review Committee.
- There is no fee for the initial hearing with the Medication Review Committee.
- If you feel you are not or should not be the responsible party, you can challenge and use the hearing process to show who should be the responsible party.
- Once the hearing has concluded and the committee determines the result and fines.
- If the outcome of the hearing is not in your favor, you can appeal the committee's decision.
- NCHA Rule 38 outlines the appeal process and associated requirements.

---

# Statistics

---

## For 2023

- 336 horses tested
- 5 Prohibited
- 7 Overage/Stacking
- Fines collected \$26,000
- Prohibited Medication Violations  
2017-2023 (29 horses)
  - 11 Guanabenz,
  - 13 Romifidine,
  - 3 Stanozolol and
  - 2 Bupivacaine/Lidocaine

# Most Common First Offenses and Disciplinary Action

- Permitted Medication Overage \$500
- Stacking 2 Permitted Non-Steroidal Medications \$1,000
- Prohibited (loss of awards, titles, possible probation/suspension plus) \$5,000

(Fines and penalties can increase as determined by the grievance of the level on concentration and other factors.)

# Where we are today

---

- In today's world with the social licensing scene and various animal rights groups who are striving to rewrite rules and parameters of how horses may be trained and shown, it is paramount we continue to have a strong medication policy for our sport to ensure its longevity.
- From 2008 to 2024, the NCHA has made many improvements to the medication policy, based on testing and research, to ensure the welfare of the horses and the equality of fair competition.

*The Medication Program is currently in good financial shape to cover its own cost.*

# Important Information to Know

- Before the show review Standing Rule 35 Zero Tolerance and 35A Medication.
- Dosages in the Guidelines are based on weight, most commonly 1000 lbs., adjust dosage accordingly.
- Nerve blocking agents cannot be used 24hrs before competition.
- To avoid stacking, withdraw the 2nd non-steroidal at least 72 hours in advance.
- Ace requires a medication report be filed at the show office.
- **Injectables** in Arena, Practice Areas, Alleys or any other public areas is strictly prohibited.
- Use caution is using a compounded medication and/or nutritional and herbal supplements and know the quantitative analysis to avoid a failed medication test.
- The emergency medication report form is available online under medication policy or at the show office. It must be acknowledged by show management and completed by a license veterinarian.
- Veterinarians need to have a “Veterinarian Authority to Treat on NCHA show grounds” on file at the NCHA office. Form available online.



# Who Can Answer Medication Questions



- Horse & Cattle Welfare Chair
  - Lindy Burch [lindy@lindyburch.com](mailto:lindy@lindyburch.com)
- Medication Committee Chair
  - Dr. Jerry Black, DVM [jerry.black@ttu.edu](mailto:jerry.black@ttu.edu)
- NCHA Staff Liaison
  - Julie Davis [jdavis@nchacutting.com](mailto:jdavis@nchacutting.com)