

AVMA



American Veterinary Medical Association

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December 17, 2009

Mr. David O'Connor
President
United States Equestrian Federation
4047 Iron Works Parkway
Lexington, KY 40511

Dear Mr. O'Connor:

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) supports the rule change recommended by the Equine Drugs and Medications Committee of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) that would permit only one of seven currently permitted NSAIDs to be used at any one time in horses competing in USEF events.

The AVMA recognizes this rule change would more closely align the USEF with the American Quarter Horse Association and other governing bodies with respect to equine drug and medication rules as well as be consistent with the AVMA-endorsed American Association of Equine Practitioner's policy on "Therapeutic Medications in Non-Racing Performance Horses." Most importantly, this change will help to minimize the well-documented adverse effects associated with simultaneous use of multiple NSAIDs, including gastrointestinal ulceration and renal damage, and thereby be a positive step toward improving the health and welfare of the competitive equine athlete.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on and offer our support for your recommended rule change.

Sincerely,

W. Ron DeHaven, DVM, MBA
Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer

cc: Stephen A. Schumacher, DVM

AWC/GCG