

USEF EQUINE

DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS FAQ

Ensuring the Fairness and Safety of
competition and the Well-Being of Horses



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Am I allowed to stay and watch? How can I be sure the sample was collected properly and labeled correctly?

Yes, you may stay and observe the entire process, or you may ask a friend to do so. You may ask the testing veterinarian and technicians any questions you have, or ask them to explain the procedures you observe. Note: Testing personnel are required to wear gloves. Please report any instance where gloves are not used in the collection of a sample.

What if my horse needs to go into another class or must remain at the ring for further performance in a class or to jog/be present for awards? What if the horse is done showing and needs to be untacked and cooled out?

If you discuss these needs with the testing veterinarian and technician, they will do their job so as not to interrupt the showing schedule or horse's normal care, provided the collection of the samples is not unnecessarily delayed.

What protects the samples from having something put into them after collection or from being opened after they are collected?

Only new sample collection equipment is used, meaning blood tubes, needles, and urine sample containers. Also, all equipment and samples are kept either in the possession of the testing veterinarian and technician, or under lock and key. Each sample is sealed with evidence tape, and placed in a plastic security bag. This is done while you watch. They are then locked up and kept secure. Any tampering of the sample would be evident if a seal or security bag were not intact.

What prevents a drug from getting into the urine container when the lid is off?

The lid is screwed onto the container tightly as soon as the sample is collected. If something accidentally touches the inside of the lid or container, for example, dirt or wood shavings, that container will not be used. The technician will replace the container with a new one before the sample is collected.

What is furosemide (Lasix®) used for?

Furosemide is a diuretic and is helpful in obtaining a urine sample. It is given by injection after the blood sample has been drawn and usually will provide a urine sample in 15-20 minutes. The dose given is 1/5 of the normal therapeutic dose given to race horses. The use of furosemide is voluntary and is offered to expedite the collection of urine samples for the convenience of the exhibitor/trainer.

What prevents my horse's samples from being mixed up with another horse's samples?

As soon as each sample is collected, it is sealed and labeled with a unique number that is assigned only to your horse's samples, and which remains attached to those samples from that time on.

If they ask to test my horse, how can I be sure they are from USEF?

Each testing veterinarian has USEF documents specifying the competition to be tested, and a photo ID matching the documents, which they will present to you at your request.

Who selects the horses for testing and who tests them?

The testing veterinarian selects the horse. Testing veterinarians are representatives of the USEF and will not be working for any clients at the same competition. USEF appoints its veterinarians to attend specific shows and events, and they are accompanied by a team of several technicians who collect samples.

Why is a particular horse selected?

The testing veterinarian selects horses randomly for testing. However, higher placings may be selected for testing more frequently.

Where are the samples collected?

Most often, at the horse's own stall. Sometimes, a sample collection or "testing" stall is used.

What kinds of samples are collected and how much?

The testing veterinarian will collect a blood sample from each horse, and the technician will attempt to collect a urine sample. Several tubes of blood are taken, some are labeled A, and some are labeled B. The technician will collect as much urine as the horse will provide. The urine sample will be divided into two containers, as well, labeled A and B. Some drugs are measured or detected only in blood, and others are found only in urine. Some drugs are found in both.

What is the exhibitor, trainer, or owner responsible for?

Please be courteous and make your horse or pony available promptly. You will be asked to provide accurate information to testing personnel and have an English speaking adult available to provide information about the horse/pony, the exhibitor, and the trainer. Please make sure you have an individual capable of safely holding the horse or pony for blood sample collection. Also, have an adult available to sign as a witness to the collection and sealing of all samples.

Who is responsible in the event of an alleged violation of the rules?

The person who signs the entry form as the trainer of record will be responsible; however, additional persons responsible may be identified who have made a relevant decision about the horse and/or pony.

What about FEI competitions?

FEI competition testing is conducted in accordance with FEI regulations.

What happens to the samples after the competition or event?

They are shipped to the USEF Laboratory in Kentucky as soon as possible for testing. Upon arrival, each sample is inspected carefully and logged in.

The integrity of each sample and its identity is verified. The samples labeled A are tested, and the samples labeled B are stored securely.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do the chemists know the name of the horse, owner, and trainer for each sample?

No, they only know the unique number assigned to the sample, the date it was collected, and the name of the competition or event. The document that identifies the horse, owner, and trainer is kept at the Program's office in Ohio.

What kinds of tests are performed on the sample?

A broad range of screening tests are conducted. If any drugs are found, state-of-the-art confirmatory tests identify the chemical identity of the drug or medication. No finding of a prohibited substance is reported unless the test result is certain.

Is there a way I can find out the status of my horses' test?

Yes, please go to the Federation website usef.org/barcodelookup approximately four to six weeks following the sample collection. Type in your horse's Sample ID number. The sample will either be listed as "Cleared" or "Pending".

What happens if nothing prohibited is detected in the sample?

The sample will be listed as "Cleared" when the Sample ID is entered on the USEF website.

What happens if something is detected in sample A?

The B sample is available for confirmatory analysis, in the event the trainer or owner wants it tested.

How long do they have to decide whether to test sample B?

The request must be made within 15 business days following notification of positive by the Federation. Also, the testing must be done at a mutually agreed upon Federation approved laboratory.

What assurance do I have that I will not wrongly be accused of violating the rules because of faulty evidence?

The entire process of the selection of horses for testing, the collection, labeling, and sealing of samples, the security under which they are kept and shipped to the laboratory, then inspected and tested, and the results verified and re-verified if necessary, has been designed to ensure the integrity and fairness of the process.

How is the equine drug program funded?

It is paid for by the \$15 per entry drug testing fee with no additional cost to the competitor.

CHECKLIST

Please complete and return.

The testing veterinarian and technician identified themselves to me and told me that my horse had been selected for testing Yes No

The testing veterinarian gave me this brochure explaining the testing program..... Yes No

The testing veterinarian explained the testing procedures and identified the personnel collecting the blood and urine samples Yes No

The testing veterinarian or technician obtained the required USEF information from me..... Yes No

The testing veterinarian and technician answered any questions I had..... Yes No

The testing veterinarian and technician followed the procedures included in this brochure Yes No

Did the veterinarian and testing technician wear gloves when collecting the samples Yes No

Location of Competition

Name of Competition

Competition Number

Owner/Rider/Trainer Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Name of Horse

Date Tested

Testing Veterinarian

Technician

PROTECTING OUR MOST VALUED PARTNER

In keeping with United States Equestrian Federation's vision, the purpose of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program is to promote safe competition, protect the fairness of competition and protect our most valued partner...the horse. USEF testing veterinarians and technicians travel all over the country, testing hundreds of competitions each year and thousands of horses. Because the testing staff can attend any USEF competition, trainers, owners, and exhibitors are encouraged to comply with the rules at all USEF shows and events. In addition to pursuing excellence and promoting sportsmanship, we know you share our goal of ensuring the safety and well-being of horses, regardless of value or competitive level, through the enforcement of fair and equitable rules and procedures.

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have a question about the Drug Testing Program that is not satisfied by the testing veterinarian or competition official:

800.633.2472,

medequestrian@aol.com, or write:

United States Equestrian Federation®
Equine Drugs and Medications Program
956 King Avenue
Columbus, OH 43212-2655
usef.org

Please direct all inquires to:
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