

United States Equestrian Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program

**Stephen A. Schumacher, DVM
Chief Administrator
Equine Drugs and Medications Program**



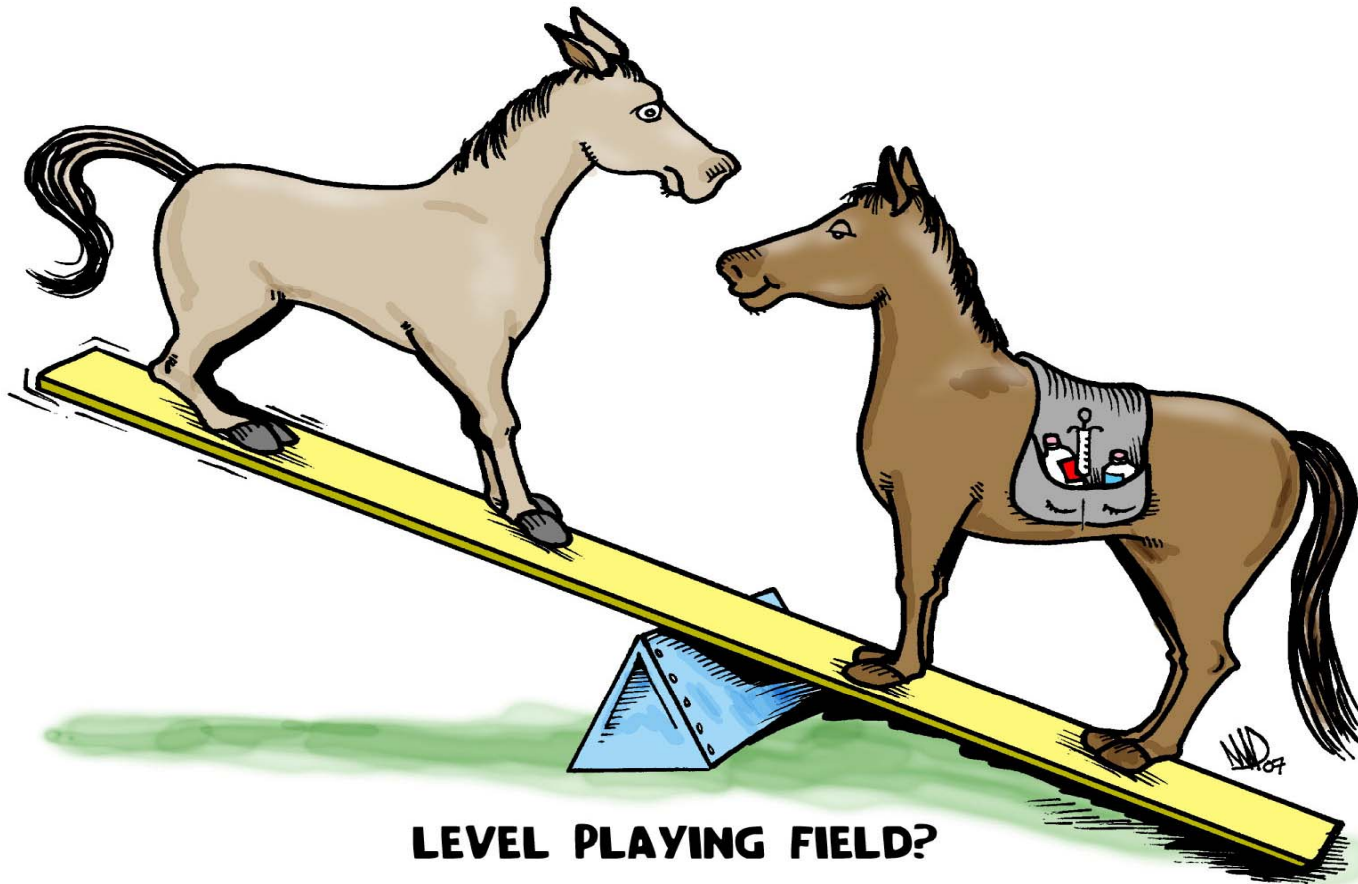
Goals of the USEF Drugs and Medications Program

❑ Horse Welfare

- Appropriate treatment when needed.
- Discourage inappropriate and indiscriminate use of commonly used medications.
- Discourage attempts to mask conditions limiting performance by using drugs.
- Mandate withdrawal from competition if horse is **NOT FIT TO COMPETE.**



Goals of the USEF Drugs and Medications Program



Methods Used for Enforcement

- Randomly collect and analyze blood and urine samples from USEF and FEI competitions in the U.S.
- Educate trainers/veterinarians/competitors regarding the Drugs and Medications Rules
- Deter the use of forbidden medications by the presence of Testing Teams
- Public Relations



Program Statistics

- Established in 1970 by the AHSA
- Have operated our own laboratory since 1995
- Currently utilize 100-120 veterinarians
- In 2007, tested over 1,000 days of competition and collected & analyzed nearly 17,000 equine blood and urine samples
- Contract with the AQHA to implement their Drugs and Medications Program



Program Statistics (con't.)

- Adjudication process for USEF positives handled by the USEF Hearing Committee and Regulations Compliance Department
- AQHA processes their own positives
- Drugs and Medications Committee and Veterinary Committee
- Chair of both committees is Dr. Kent Allen



USEF GR302.4

Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse

4. The following acts are included under the words **Cruelty and Abuse** but are not limited thereto:

- a. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, before or during a competition, by any person. Except in emergency situations, any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) with the whip shall be deemed excessive.
- b. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement.
- c. Use of any substance to induce temporary heat.
- d. Manual poling with any object other than a bamboo pole.



USEF GR302.4

Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse

4. The following acts are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited

- e. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump.
- f. Use of electric device in schooling or showing.
- g. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be construed as rubber or elastic exercising devices).
- h. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns or legs.
- i. Use of any explosive (e.g., fire crackers, torpedoes, fire extinguishers except in case of fire, etc.) or laser beam devices anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in class specifications.



USEF GR302.4

Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse

4. The following acts are included under the words **Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited**

- j. Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods.
- k. Letting blood from a horse for other than diagnostic purposes.
- l. Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.



FEI Rules: Veterinary Regulations

- **Article 1024 DESENSITISED AND HYPERSENSITISED LIMBS**

1. Horses are not eligible to compete at any time when any limb or part of a limb has been temporarily or permanently desensitised or hypersensitised by any means.
2. In verifying a possible desensitisation, the FEI Veterinary Delegate is entitled to examine the limb closely. This includes the use of imaging equipment such as thermographic assessment.



FEI Rules: Veterinary Regulations

- **Article 1024 DESENSITISED AND HYPERSENSITISED LIMBS**

3. Periodic or random bandage checks will be carried out at events to evaluate the presence of any abnormal skin sensitivity of the limbs, or the use of materials that may cause abnormal sensitivity (Annex XI of the Veterinary Regulations applies). The degree of skin sensitivity will be judged on clinical grounds by the Veterinary Commission/Delegate.
4. Examination for increased skin sensitivity may also involve the swabbing of a limb to collect samples, or the collection of bandages or other material to be analyzed by an approved laboratory for the presence of Prohibited Substances using appropriate methods (see Annex XI of the Veterinary Regulations).



FEI Rules: Veterinary Regulations

- **Article 1024 DESENSITISED AND HYPERSENSITISED LIMBS**

5. The Person Responsible for any horse found to have a limb or part of a limb desensitised or hypersensitised by any means will be referred to the Ground Jury for investigation.



Measures of D&M Success

- Variety of statistics:
 - Number of show tested
 - Number of horses tested; samples collected
 - Number of findings and associated violations
 - Percentage of positive findings to negative tests
 - Severity of medications found
 - **Member Perception** is probably most important



Ingredients for Success

- Desire to protect the **Welfare** of our equine partners
- Desire for balance of competition from members and competitors
- Federation represents a variety of breeds and disciplines
- Hearing Committee members from diverse backgrounds
- Random nature of testing and selection
- EDUCATION!!! Published Recommendations and Guidelines along with USEF's Drug Rule
- Qualitative and Quantitative Drug Rules
- There is a Stigma associated with a positive



Ingredients for Success (con't.)

- The United States Equestrian Federation takes rule violations very seriously
- Enforcement of suspensions is an important focus of the Federation's Regulations Department



Success?

- Will never truly know how well our program is working to control the use of drugs and medications in competition unless we know definitively what is being used and how many people are using it...



“ Rules without enforcement are worse than meaningless, they are hypocrisy”

-John Lengel, DVM
Administrator
Drugs and Medications Program
1978-2006

